

## **PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Minutes of a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Peel District School Board, held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Nicole Buckett, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
Zeshan Khan, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Sue Lawton, Trustee  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Michelle Lewis, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
John Marchant, Trustee  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel

### Also present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada (Alternate)  
Shireen Gul, Peel Elementary Occasional Teachers  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (Alternate)  
Laura Oris-Naidenova, Student Trustee South  
Sinthusha Panchalingam, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch (Alternate)

### Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years (Executive Back-up Member)  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education  
Renée Lucas, Senior Internal Auditor  
  
Marina Amin, Board Reporter

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order.

SE-01, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the agenda be approved.

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**2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Superintendent Moynihan noted that this is the first SEAC meeting since the Organizational and Second Meetings of the Board, and he called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Barbara Cyr nominated Shelley Foster

There were no further nominations. After observing the standard one minute silence, Superintendent Moynihan declared that Shelley Foster is acclaimed as Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for 2018 - 2019.

Shelley Foster assumed the Chair and she called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carol Oitment nominated Sue Lawton.

There were no further nominations. After having observed the standard one minute silence, Chair Foster announced that Sue Lawton is acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for 2018 - 2019.

Chair Foster requested members to introduce themselves and the associations they represent. She acknowledged the presence of Laura Oris-Naidenova, Student Trustee South, at the meeting.

**3. Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, November 20, 2018**

SE-02, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 20, 2018, be approved.

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## 5. Superintendent's Report

Handouts were circulated, including information regarding SEAC Terms of Reference, SEAC collective priorities, Special Education K-12, Learning for All, special education funding, acronyms, confidential contact information, resources from PAAC on SEAC, and copies of the Ontario Human Rights Commission Code. Superintendent Moynihan welcomed Craig Cooper, newly appointed Coordinating Principal for Equity and Inclusion, to the meeting.

In response to a request for an advocacy letter to the Ministry, Superintendent Moynihan asked members to review the draft letter to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, which outlines concerns about the reduction in the Special Incidence Portion maximum claim amount. He indicated that a copy of the letter will be sent to all Special Education Advisory Committees in the province. A trustee suggested also copying the letter to all trustees of the Board.

Regarding the student census conducted in November 2018, Shawn Moynihan indicated that some barriers to full participation were noted, and he stated that an update report will be brought to the Committee in February 2019 on plans for improvement for the next census.

SE-03, moved by Ann Smith, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

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## 6. Data Reporting 2018

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Tracy Bardell, Special Education Coordinator, and Nora Green, Special Programs Coordinator, reviewed historical data regarding, identified and non-identified special needs students supported in Peel, by exceptionality and gender. In response to queries about the significant number of non-identified students, staff explained the complex steps and procedures involved in the identification process, and efforts to manage the high volume of assessments. Members were assured that, nonetheless, all non-identified students are provided with the supports and services they need. Classroom teachers complete a Special Needs Assessment Form (SNAF) for students requiring the support of Teaching Assistants (TA), and it was clarified that TA support is not dependent on an Identification Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) recommendation. Responding to a trustee's query about the disparity around gifted identification, Superintendent Moynihan explained that the Board's Focus on Poverty Action Plan addresses systemic barriers, equitable allocation of human and material resources, and equal participation in programs. He stated that staff will take a closer look at the information relating to deciles, and its impact, and a response will be brought to SEAC in February when the Focus on Poverty Action Plan is presented. Director of Education, Peter Joshua, suggested also bringing back the Poverty Indicators Report to the meeting in February, as part of the Focus on Poverty Action Plan is to review avenues for re-evaluation.

**6. Data Reporting 2018 (Continued)**

Further questions of clarification were responded to, including: Ministry requires reporting of students by identification; access to more specific and detailed information by exceptionality will be available when the new information management system is in place; funding provided under the Ontario Autism Program, which allowed a small portion to be used to hire additional staff to manage the high volume of assessments, has been discontinued; resources exist for early identification of student exceptionalities; whether accurate number of students being served in Peel can be provided to the Ministry of Education; additional information is available that will support the review of gifted girls through an equity lens, and a review of giftedness at the secondary level; supports and resources are available to take care of evidenced and obvious mild intellectual disabilities.

SE-04, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the report re Data Reporting 2018, be received.

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**7. Supports and Resources: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Update**

Archie Kwan, Senior Psychologist, advised that this presentation is the second part of a three-part series, and he noted opportunity for SEAC members to provide feedback. He recalled his presentation to the Committee last month, when he outlined the factors that led to problem solving and determining gaps in the system to support children with FASD. He reviewed the five core goals for FASD collaboration resulting from feedback from parents, schools and community partners. Highlighting the need to build collaborative relationships with community partners, Archie Kwan described the work being done in the community in partnership with the FASD Worker at Erinoak Kids to bring awareness of the resources and supports that are available, to consider ways in which the FASD worker can provide professional development to staff in Peel, and share information with the school about potential cases of FASD. He also spoke about the work being done by the FASD Clinical Team in Peel, and the Collaborative Network, and plans to expand FASD knowledge and supports. Archie Kwan described the complex nature of developing an FASD profile due to the many factors that need to be considered to determine when there is alcohol exposure prenatally, including alcohol timing, frequency and impact. He indicated that Understanding the Learning Profile placemat was developed after a review of various resources and trials in several student case conferences. Archie Kwan stated that feedback has been positive and the placemat will be presented to a number of school teams. He clarified information presented in the placemat, and its link to the Individual Student Profile Form, noting that the two tools are consistent with the neurodevelopmental domains identified in the new FASD diagnostic guidelines of the Canadian Medical Association, 2015. Archie Kwan advised that information regarding implementation and other components of the process, including developing an IPRC, will be presented at the next SEAC meeting. Members speaking expressed appreciation for the placemat, noting that it can be used to support teachers in determining other behavioural issues. They thanked Archie Kwan for his significant work in promoting an understanding of FASD.

**7. Supports and Resources: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – Update  
(Continued)**

The administration responded to members' questions of clarification, including: promoting awareness and education about FASD; creating capacity by providing learning and resources for staff.

SE-05, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the report re Supports and Resources: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Update, be received.

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**8. Updated Membership List**

SE-06, moved by John Marchant, that the updated Membership List, be received.

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**9. Communications**

SE-07, moved by Carol Oitment, that the following communications, be received:

1. Letter from Windsor-Essex Catholic DSB to Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson
2. Letter from Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB to Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson
3. The Learning Disabilities Association of Halton 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Solutions for Learning Conference – Breakthrough to Excellence

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**10. Question Period**

Trustee McDonald expressed appreciation for the work presented by Nora Green, Tracy Bardell and Archie Kwan, and the work of staff in Special Education Support Services.

Barbara Cyr asked about the process for appointing members to the Parent Involvement Committee, and qualifications required. \*\*

Barbara Cyr asked for information, by exceptionality, regarding gifted students in Peel. Trustee McDonald asked whether that information can be provided by gender, as well.\*\*

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\*\* Notes: At the January 15, 2019 SEAC meeting, Barbara Cyr noted that she had asked about the process for appointing, and qualification of, members to the Identification Placement and Referral Committee. With regard to gifted students, she had asked for information by grade or division, broken down for exceptional students in OnSIS reports.

**11. Public Question Period**

Student Trustee Oris-Naidenova asked about funding cuts made by the new government, and what information can be disseminated to students that could impact them in the future. Director Joshua responded.

Catherine Sople stated that, at a meeting of Peel Regional Council, all levels of local government, including school boards, signed the Peel Youth Charter, confirming commitment to the core values of safety, health, and future jobs for youth. She indicated that this aligns with the Ontario Human Rights Code, and that the Board, and SEAC can be confident that all levels of local government support this document.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Foster wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

SE-08, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (21:00 hours).

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