

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, January 16, 2018 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair
Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada
Thomas Corbett, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario
Kathy McDonald, Trustee
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter (19:10)
Fauzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel

Member absent: (apologies received)

Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch

Also present:

Shamim Ali, Peel Elementary Occasional Teachers

Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services
Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Shirley-Ann Teal, Acting Superintendent of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

SE-09, moved by Barbara Byers, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

2. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, December 19, 2017

Referring to the Superintendent's Report, Item 5 of the minutes of the December 19, 2017 SEAC meeting, a member asked for the list of secondary schools in which the Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champion pilot project is being initiated under the Mental Health Strategy. Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, advised that a handout containing this information will be circulated during the meeting.

Trustee Lawton thanked members who, in her absence at the last meeting, voted her in as Vice-Chair of SEAC for 2018. Chair Foster welcomed Kathy McDonald as the new trustee representative on SEAC.

SE-10, moved by Ann Smith, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 19, 2017, be approved.

..... carried

4. Superintendent's Report

The report was circulated. Superintendent Byers reported on draft Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 161 sent to Directors of Education in October 2017 on supporting students with prevalent medical conditions, namely anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy, and advised that copies of PPM 161 will be distributed at a future meeting. He stated that the Board's existing comprehensive procedures and guidelines will be reviewed for compliance with PPM 161, and a single procedure will be created. A detailed report will be brought to SEAC in the coming months. Superintendent Byers stated that training on how to support students with an anaphylactic reaction and asthma is imparted to staff at the beginning of each school year through videos and presentations. In regard to diabetes, Ted Byers advised that, currently, there is no additional training for staff beyond the distribution of the comprehensive response protocol. However, staff are made aware of the needs of specific students.

Highlighting Peel's Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champion initiative in partnership with Dufferin-Peel CDSB and Peel Health, Ted Byers reported on the training sessions held to build awareness and share resources for implementation of the program in schools. He stated that a video created by one of the participating schools will be shared at a future SEAC meeting. The 13 participating schools are: Bramalea, Brampton Centennial, Castlebrooke, David Suzuki, Humberview, Judith Nyman, Louise Arbour, North Park, Port Credit, Rick Hansen, Streetsville, T.L. Kennedy, and Turner Fenton Secondary Schools.

Superintendent Byers expressed appreciation for the significant input from SEAC on development of criteria to measure student growth. He stated that, following further discussion with Director's Office regarding implementation strategy and process, a report outlining future direction will be brought to the Committee.

4. Superintendent's Report (Continued)

SE-11, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

..... carried

5. Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List

Superintendent Byers circulated a brochure which included the contact details of parent associations, representatives, and trustee members. Some revisions and suggestions were noted.

The SEAC Member List was reviewed and corrections noted.

SE-12, moved by Carol Oitment, that the Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List, be received.

..... carried

6. Special Education Budget Report

Superintendent Byers introduced Controller of Finance Support Services, Tania Alatishe-Charles, Budget Manager, Shirley Chan-Ng, and Senior Manager of Finance Support Services, Kauthar Garda-Sahib. A copy of the presentation was circulated.

Reviewing information contained in the Grants for Student Needs: 2017-2018 Estimates, Shirley Chan-Ng, provided an overview of the budget process. Details were provided regarding enrolment as the key driver for funding, types of GSN grants namely pupil foundation, school foundation, special purpose, and special education. She outlined the stakeholders involved in the budget process, the work of the Budget Development Committee, timelines and budget approval.

Shirley Chan-Ng reviewed statistical information on the special education funding shortfall over the course of five years since 2013-2014, and provided comparative data in relation to 2016-2017 actuals and 2017-2018 estimates with respect to the Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA), Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA), formerly the High Needs Amount, Special Equipment Amount (SEA), Special Incidence Portion (SIP), Section 23, and Behavioural Expertise Amount (BEA). She noted that additional funding was received for local priorities and deferred SEA. Responding to a trustee's question about spending flexibility, Controller Alatishe-Charles advised that depending on enrolment changes, and infrastructure needs, there may be flexibility to use resources elsewhere.

6. Special Education Budget Report (Continued)

Members questions of clarification were responded to, including: calculation of the per pupil grant; smaller class sizes in Kindergarten dictate higher costs in terms of providing supports; clarifications about enveloped grants and restrictions on flexibility; Section 23 funds are operated by the Board, sometimes in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services; local priority funds for staff support were received as a result of bargaining units' negotiations with the government. It was explained that DSENA has increased with the Ministry's new funding formula, and the Measures of Variability (MOV) use six categories of data to reflect the differences in special needs for various school boards. A minimum level of base funding of \$450,000 is provided to every school board to explore collaborative and integrative approaches to support students with special needs. It was noted that funding is primarily based on 2006 census data, and 2011 census data is used if found reliable and accurate. A response will be brought back to a future SEAC meeting on the percentage of 2006 data used. Superintendent Byers reported on the steady growth of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities, and he commented on significant underfunding if 2006 census data is being used. Controller Alatishe-Charles advised that timely and accurate data is routinely submitted as per Ministry requirement, and she highlighted an increase in special education funding as a result of the Fix the Formula campaign.

Responding to questions about the current busing issues faced in Peel, Vice-Chair Lawton referred to information from the transportation update report brought to the Regular Meeting of the Board on January 9, 2018, and she advised that a copy of the report can be forwarded to members to provide clarity on the busing situation. She stated that the framework for a Transportation Campaign is being developed, and once finalized will be brought to SEAC for its support. To a comment about an online Ministry survey on transportation, Director of Education, Peter Joshua, clarified that feedback on the Ministry discussion paper will determine the process for conducting consultations. Superintendent Byers thanked staff from the Finance department for their informative presentation to SEAC. He stated that special education business cases will be presented at the end of March 2018, which will allow members to discuss budget priorities and business cases during SEAC meetings in February and March.

SE-13, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Special Education Budget Report, be received.

..... carried

7. Professional Development – Parkholme, Applewood, T.L. Kennedy Secondary Schools

Superintendent Byers welcomed special education support staff, Coordinating Principal of Special Programs, Meghan Echlin, Special Program Consultants, Karina Aveiro and Beth Kavanagh, and Ontario Autism Program Transition Itinerant, Andrea Dowell.

7. Professional Development – Parkholme, Applewood, T.L. Kennedy Secondary Schools (Continued)

With a PowerPoint presentation, Andrea Dowell provided an overview of the training provided to staff working in inclusive placements and special class placements to support students with Developmental Disabilities in the elementary and secondary panels. She reported that the training programs centered around transition planning, instructional strategies, profile development, job embedded learning, and nurturing independence. Andrea Dowell spoke about collaborative efforts with various stakeholders to enable students in their transition out of the school system. She noted that work is also being done to engage respite and community services for students and their parents. Andrea Dowell highlighted the Board's Circles Program designed to build social skills and understand social boundaries in a prescribed environment. Responding to a member's question, Superintendent Byers advised that the Board offers a transition program for students 19 to 21 years of age.

A copy of the presentation will be circulated to Committee members.

SE-14, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Professional Development – Parkholme, Applewood, and T.L. Kennedy Secondary Schools, be received.

..... carried

8. Question Period

Dorothy Peddie requested that the Transportation Issue be included on a SEAC meeting agenda so that a unified approach can be adopted to address the challenges being faced by the community. Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, Poleen Grewal, suggested bringing the report that was presented at the Regular Meeting of the Board on January 9, 2018, to the next SEAC meeting. The framework of the strategy to address transportation challenges can be presented at the Committee's meeting in March 2018.

9. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

10. Adjournment

SE-15, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the meeting adjourn (21:00 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary