

## 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 17, 2017 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
David Green, Trustee  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter  
Fauzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

### Members absent: (apologies received marked \*)

Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch\*  
Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada\*  
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair\*  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair\*

### Also present:

Andrew Cruikshank, Peel Elementary Teachers' Local  
Karen Del Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel  
Patricia Morgan, Peel Elementary Teachers' Local  
Daniele Roch, Peel Elementary Teachers' Local  
Jeff Schust, Peel Association of Secondary School Principals

### Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Marina Amin, Board Reporter

### 1. **Approval of Agenda**

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, advised that the Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC have conveyed their inability to attend the meeting, and it will be necessary to elect a temporary chair for this meeting. He reviewed the Board's by-law regarding process for election of a temporary chair, and called for nominations. As there were no nominations forthcoming, Trustee Green offered to chair the meeting, and, with the consent of members, assumed the Chair.

**1. Approval of Agenda (Continued)**

SE-08, moved by Barbara Cyr, 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, 2016**

Referring to Item 9, Question Period of the Minutes of December 19, 2016, Barbara Cyr clarified that she had referred to the Board's IPRC brochures.

SE-09, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 19, 2016, be approved.

..... carried

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Byers recalled information presented to SEAC members at an earlier meeting on the priority goals identified in the Board's Mental Health Strategy, and the work being done to support those goals. He stated that the next phase of the initiative includes the establishment of a Mental Health Advisory Committee with broader representation from the community. Maureen Mackay, Coordinator of Student Well Being, indicated the need for views and opinions of internal as well as external stakeholders, including trustees, superintendents, school administrators, education resource facilitators, social workers, speech and language pathologists, members of SEAC, parents, and students. She noted that community partners will be approached, such as Children's Aid, ErinoakKids, Mental Health and Addiction Centres, Ontario's Provincial Police, racialized groups, families living with mental illness, members of the LGBTQ community, faith leaders, and people living in poverty. Feedback from this cross section of stakeholders will inform the next phase of the Board's Mental Health Strategy. It was suggested that input also be sought from university academia and the Peel Aboriginal Network.

Superintendent Byers acknowledged the valuable work being done by the Inspire Hope Committee in welcoming Syrian refugees into Peel. He noted that 914 refugees have entered Peel since January 2016, and staff have been monitoring their needs with respect to mental health, trauma, emotional support, etc.

SE-10, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the Superintendent's Report (oral), be received.

..... carried

**5. Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List**

SE-11, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List, be received.

..... carried

**6. October Report Data – Additional Information**

Stating that demographic data of the October Report was presented at the last SEAC meeting, Superintendent Byers provided the breakdown of 2016 data by exceptionality, In-School Enhanced Learning Program (ISELP) numbers, non-identified and identified students in elementary and secondary streams, and exceptionality by gender. He explained that the total of 2030 identified and non-identified ISEL P students includes a small number of gifted students. Responding to a member's query, Ted Byers advised that staff are in the process of reviewing the data and determining reasons for the change in numbers of students in this program as compared to the previous year, and the 40% difference between the number of identified gifted girls and boys. Tracy Bardell provided details about training opportunities and professional development offered to special education staff, plans for a K-12 special education support model, sharing of knowledge and teaching practices between elementary and secondary teaching staff. Regarding identification and supports to students in kindergarten, Superintendent Byers spoke of the challenges that early identification poses, as some special needs like learning disabilities, which require psychological assessments, emerge in later grades. However, children entering the system in kindergarten or Grade 1 with a clear identification such as autism, will move to the IPRC stage earlier. He also explained the process of identification for other developmental disabilities and giftedness, noting that supports and services are provided to students, regardless of an identification.

SE-12, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the additional information re October Report Data, be received.

..... carried

**7. Special Education Plan Development – Section C: Service Delivery Models by Exceptionality – Communication: Autism**

Superintendent Byers indicated that the report provides information on the identification process and services offered to children with Autism at the elementary and secondary level. Coordinating Principal, Therese Fitzpatrick, and Coordinator of Special Programs, Nora Green, reviewed the process of assessment for special needs and the varying levels of support provided upon entry or diagnosis in Peel. Members' questions of clarification were responded to by staff, including that, students who enter the system with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) identification will have recourse to itinerant support, and students displaying behavioural needs, but do not have an ASD diagnosis will continue to receive special needs support, while PSSP staff work with the school team to determine the disability. At all times, with or without a diagnosis, all students entering Peel are provided with the level of support they require.

**7. Special Education Plan Development – Section C: Service Delivery Models by Exceptionality – Communication: Autism (Continued)**

SE-13, moved by Mary Wright, that the report re Special Education Plan Development - Section C: Service Delivery Models by Exceptionality – Communication: Autism, be received.

..... carried

**8. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Funding Priorities**

Superintendent Byers, reported that, on March 29, 2016, the Ministry for Child and Youth Services announced changes in funding for Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programs to enable improvement in services to support the changing world of autism. He noted that, at the time, no funding announcements were made; however, as of June last year, it was learned that an additional \$400,000 annually is forthcoming to Peel for two years. Ted Byers reviewed the allocation of funding priorities for the 2016 – 2017 school year, and Nora Green and Therese Fitzpatrick provided details about the utilization of these funds that will include staff training, additional resources for students, and supports for transitioning students from ErinoakKids into Peel. The After School Program Proposal for students, followed by parent coaching sessions, was described and it was noted that the pilot project will include two classes of six students each, to be conducted on Saturdays. Staff are following up with ErinoakKids to bring awareness of this program to parents whose children are being demitted from the IBI program. Members were advised that the Board has purchased 151 licenses of Teachtown software, and positive features of the software were highlighted. The expectation is to foster student independence. In response to a member's request, Nora Green will follow up with the supplier of Teachtown for demonstration software so that a presentation can be made at a future SEAC meeting.

SE-14, moved by Carol Oitment, that the report re Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Funding Priorities, be received.

..... carried

**9. Response of Administration to Former Questions**

**1. Special Education Handbook**

Superintendent Byers stated that a query was raised at a previous meeting regarding updates to the Special Education Handbook. He advised that updates are expected this spring, and that follow-up will be maintained.

**10. Question Period**

Ann Smith conveyed Brampton-Caledon Community Living's request to make a presentation at the March 2017 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting.

Carol Ogilvie asked about the proposed closure of Roy McMurtry School by the year 2020, and requested a report on how the students will be tracked and supported. Superintendent Byers indicated that the Board is awaiting further clarifying information regarding the future of students at Roy McMurtry School. He noted that a general report can be brought to this Committee, as providing details of students will be a violation of privacy rules.

**11. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**12. Adjournment**

SE-15, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (20:30 hours).

..... carried