

June 12, 2018
Special Education Advisory Committee:lf

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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, June 12, 2018 at 19:05 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter
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 (19:05)
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel (19:10)

Members absent: (apologies received*)

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada*
Thomas Corbett, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region

Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Foster announced that Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, will be retiring at the end of July 2018. On behalf of the SEAC members, she thanked him for his input and direction to the Special Education department. As a token of appreciation for his work, Shelley Foster presented Ted Byers with a painting.

Chair Foster introduced Superintendent of Special Education Support Services-designate, Shawn Moynihan, who was present at the meeting.

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1. Approval of Agenda (Continued)

The agenda was reordered slightly to facilitate staff presence.

SE-56, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the agenda be approved.

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2. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, May 15, 2018

Referring to Item 6, Student Census, a member noted that Kindergarten-Grade 8 should read as Kindergarten-Grade 3. The Minutes will be amended.

SE-57, moved by Ann Smith, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 15, 2018, as amended, be approved.

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4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Byers thanked everyone for their well wishes and messages on his upcoming retirement. He provided a brief history of his work at Peel DSB, starting in 1985 as a teacher, and later as Vice-Principal, Principal, and Superintendent of Education.

The Superintendent's Report was circulated. With regard to the Teaching Assistant (TA) Study, Ted Byers reviewed a chart on Phase 1 action items completed, which include: defining equity, inclusive education and functional independence; expectations on the use of curriculum resources; job embedded supports; augmentative applications to support learning; Applied Behaviour Analysis; collaboration and teamwork; TA professional learning. He noted that a writing team will begin work on a scheduling resource in summer 2018. The chart on Phase 2 action items consisted of four possible system deliverables, which are, professional learning to support teachers, summer writing teams for professional learning, research on Student Needs Assessment Form, and a review of other assessment methods. Responding to a member's questions regarding the amount of time between identification of issues and resources available in the classroom, as well as information sharing, Ted Byers stated that as there are a range of needs it is difficult to generalize.

(continued overleaf)

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4. Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Superintendent Byers recalled previous queries about students losing Gifted identification upon moving into Regional Learning Choices Programs. He advised that identification of secondary students not attending a Regional Gifted Program will be reviewed, which will take into consideration: other school boards' practices at secondary level; requirements for professional learning across the secondary panel; program alignment with ISELP if there are recommendations for change in practice. With regard to Association for Bright Children (ABC) being invited to participate in the review, Ted Byers replied that ABC's input will be valued.

SE-58, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

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5. Accessibility Report

Superintendent Byers introduced Cindy Francis, Assistant Director, Operations, Human Resources Support Services, and Lyn Wilson, Manager, Abilities, Wellness and Attendance. Cindy Francis stated that the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was introduced in 2005 for all employers in Ontario, and rules for private and public sector differ. She advised that in 2015-2016 an Internal Accessibility Advisory Committee (IAAC) was established to ensure compliance by 2025, and some of the work includes, website changes, ensuring that new schools are compliant with AODA, coordinating with Purchasing department's tender process, customer service and educator training, and obtaining accessibility resources. Cindy Francis demonstrated how to access information on the Peel DSB website regarding accessibility training, forms and feedback, policies and procedures, resources, and statutes and regulations. She advised that the Accessibility Plan for the next 3-5 years will be updated in terms of compliance. A review will be done on library resources and barriers to accessibility in schools, and individual requests are provided for on need basis, such as books in Braille.

Questions of clarification responded to by the administration included that: structures built after AODA was introduced are expected to be compliant and vendors can be held liable if standards are not met; if an existing school does not meet a student's needs, a retrofit can be done, or a neighbouring school is proposed; a process to enable students to ask for assistance is required; itinerant teachers monitor needs and provide resources; various departments work together to ensure proper use of funds; students unable to attend the home school for accessibility reasons is rare. With regard to a query on the percentage of schools that do not meet accessibility standards, Cindy Francis advised that an audit will be done over summer and she offered to bring back information to the Committee. Further comments and questions were responded to regarding: being AODA compliant by the year 2025; considerations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students; the process to identify barriers includes forms and feedback; regular updates to SEAC, importance of feedback from the community; suggestion for a workshop at the Great Start event. Cindy Francis advised that the Accessibility Plan focuses on student, staff, and community needs, and an updated Plan will be available in late September 2018.

SE-59, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the Accessibility Report, be received.

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6. SEAC Collective Priorities

Superintendent Byers recalled a request to bring back the SEAC Collective Priorities in connection with the proposed Student Census. Paul Favaro of Research and Accountability, advised that the Student Census will be administered in fall 2018 and reports are expected in fall 2019. The purpose of the Census is to review data on Peel DSB students in order to improve learning and reduce the achievement gap for students in need. The Student Census will assist in identifying barriers to achievement, design and implement supports and initiatives across the system, establish a baseline of data to measure improvement, and provide a profile of Peel's diverse student population in and out of school. Referring to the report, Paul Favaro reviewed the five initial stages for Measurability of Student Growth and he noted that the Census data will provide the ability to describe students in special education programs by age, gender, race, sexual identity, parent education and Social Risk Index. Paul Favaro added that the Census data will also offer the opportunity to look at the student population as well as the individual student profile, and types of services to be delivered. In addition, the data will enable a review of one, three, and five year trends, as well as cohort tracking.

The administration responded to questions and comments from members which included: whether the Census data collection will assist with tracking students with Down Syndrome; assessment tools to include parent input in addition to teacher input; process for ensuring that parents' goals are met will be done through measurement of success criteria and Pathways programs; merging information from various types of assessments; limitations to running Student Information System (SIS) reports.

SE-60, moved by Carol Oitment, that the report re SEAC Collective Priorities, be received.

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7. Budget Report

Superintendent Ted Byers thanked SEAC members for their input in the 2018-2019 budget process. He circulated a report on Special Education business cases included in the Board's budget for the next school year. Responding to a query on Professional Support Services Personnel (PSSP) allocation, Ted Byers stated that additional PSSP staff approved for 2018-2019 are expected to be funded by the EPO Grant for Mental Health Workers. The administration will verify the approved allocation and bring back updated information to SEAC. He added that EPO Grants for Assessments will be announced in Fall 2018 and these funds are to be used for school boards to address waitlists for additional assessment work. Members expressed disappointment that the itinerant teacher for the Gifted program was not approved and spoke about the need to support gifted children. A member suggested that SEAC advocate for this position to the Board.

SE-61, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the Budget Report, be received.

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8. Special Education Plan - Final

Superintendent Ted Byers advised that the final report is to be submitted to the Ministry.

SE-62, moved by Carol Oitment, that the report re Special Education Plan - Final, be received.

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9. Letter to Franco-Nord Catholic District School Board SEAC from Nouvel-Ontario Catholic District School Board SEAC

SE-63, moved by Ann Smith, that the Letter to Franco-Nord Catholic District School Board SEAC from Nouvel-Ontario Catholic District School Board SEAC, be received.

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10. Letter to Minister of Education from SEAC Chair of Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

SE-64, moved by Ann Smith, that the Letter to Minister of Education from SEAC Chair of Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, be received.

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11. Letter from Minister of Education in Response to Peel DSB SEAC Chair's Letter

SE-65, moved by Ann Smith, that the Letter from Minister of Education in Response to Peel DSB SEAC Chair's Letter, be received.

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12. Question Period

Trustee Lawton thanked Superintendent Ted Byers for his work, care and support to students over the years. She extended good wishes to him on his retirement.

Trustee McDonald expressed gratitude to Ted Byers for his guidance and diplomacy. She wished him well on his retirement years.

Dorothy Peddie thanked Ted Byers for his help and support extended to families of students with FASD conditions and in particular for providing staff, and timely interventions to assist students in transition situations.

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13. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

14. Adjournment

SE-66, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (21:25 hours).

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| Chair Secretary