

June 16, 2015
Special Education Advisory Committee:nf

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 16, 2015 at 19:15 hours.

Members present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, Chair
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, 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
Brad MacDonald, Trustee
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter (19:30)
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

Absent: (apologies received)

Carrie Andrews, Trustee
Nokha Dakroub, Trustee
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired

Also present:

Karen Del-Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel

Administration:

Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)
Ted Byers, Superintendent of Education

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Item 9.3 In-School Enhanced Learning Program Data
Item 10.2 Letter from SEAC Chair to the Minister of Education re Regulation 274

SE-41, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

..... carried
2/3rds' majority

2. **Special Needs Strategy – Follow-up**

Marian Pitters, Special Needs Strategy Facilitator, recalled her presentation at the April 2015 SEAC meeting regarding the proposal for coordinated service planning. She expressed appreciation for the commitment of Lorie Grant, Chief Speech-Language Pathologist, and Ana Pauchulo, Coordinating Principal, to the program. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Marian Pitters, reported on integrated rehabilitation services and the work of the Peel Integrated Rehabilitation Services Planning Committee. Highlighting background information, she noted that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has been exploring strategies to improve services to children and youth that would work across four Ministries, Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Education, and Health and Long-Term Care. This will include earlier identification, improved service coordination, and removal of barriers to seamless rehabilitation services. Marian Pitters outlined the areas of focus, involvement of partners through community input, analysis of reports, input from reference groups, and an online survey. She explained in detail the themes of rehabilitation services: access and waitlist management; service system navigation; assessment; service delivery; service transition; family, child and youth engagement; service information. Marian Pitters described the new rehabilitation services model with regard to age 0 to school entry, school entry to school exit, and a transition protocol that supports earlier, layered, and continuous services.

Marian Pitters invited SEAC members' questions and feedback on integrated rehabilitation services and the work of the Committee. She commented that, although longevity of any program is a concern, the involvement of the four Ministries may help with sustainability of the program. She confirmed that the Committee will review concerns regarding waitlists and accessibility. Eligibility criteria for families and children, and services that have short waitlists, will be considered in developing the most efficient integration model possible. Ana Pauchulo spoke of the expectation that the model will have one waitlist, rather than waitlists for each service, and Lorie Grant clarified that, under the new model, funding is directed to the school, service delivery occurs in workgroups, includes supervision by Teaching Assistants and elimination or reduction of administration costs. In cases where services are not being provided by the school, or for highly specialized needs, students will continue to receive services through Erinoak Kids. Lorie Grant confirmed that Speech and Language Pathologists will provide early detection strategies, assistance, and coaching to teachers. Further questions from members included: whether there is a way for parents to continue working with students at home; assessment of needs while students are on the waitlist; clarity with regard to services available, duration, and next steps; timing of implementation of the new model. Marian Pitters invited members to email her with feedback or suggestions on how to improve the integration of rehabilitation services in Peel.

SE-42, moved by Mary Wright, that the oral report re Special Needs Strategy – Follow-up, be received.

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3. **Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, May 19, 2015

SE-43, moved by Carol Oitment, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 19, 2015, be approved.

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5. SEAC Annual Calendar - Draft

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Louise Sirisko, requested SEAC members to review the report, and bring forward items for the calendar to the September meeting. She confirmed that the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee has been included, and she asked members whether the work plan should be discussed during the formal SEAC meeting time or during the pre-meeting consultation session. Members were asked to consult with their associations on supports and new information that can be shared with them.

SE-44, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the draft SEAC Annual Calendar, be received.

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6. Special Education Programs and Services Report 2015-2016 – Draft

Ana Pauchulo and Special Education Coordinators, Katie Levalds and Gillian Kajganich, reviewed the report. Katie Levalds stated that the draft report does not contain any significant new information, and is a consolidation of special education classes and teacher allocation.

Katie Levalds noted that the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) secondary teacher allocations for 2015-2016 is 312.66, which is a small reduction from 2014-2015 due to decrease in secondary enrolment. Reviewing changes in classes, Katie Levalds stated that there is an addition of two Autism Spectrum Disorder program classes, and she clarified that because of common lunch times, there has been no need to add staff. Ana Pauchulo noted the decrease in secondary school classes for students with Developmental Disabilities at Applewood School from 24 in 2014-2015 to 22 in 2015-2016, and an increase in the classes at Parkholme School from 29 to 32 during the same period. Superintendent Sirisko reviewed the year over year increase in the Teaching Assistant allocation from 1237.5 in 2009-2010 to 1613.5 in 2015-2016, including 70 permanent teaching assistant positions to be added next year. Reporting on special education projects, Gillian Kajganich stated that the departmental projects for 2014-2015 were considered and brought forward for 2015-2016. She provided details of professional development plans for special education staff, and she noted that she and Coordinating Principal, Therese Fitzpatrick, will review professional development courses, information on who has been utilizing them, and who has completed these courses.

SE-45, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the draft Special Education Programs and Services Report 2015-2016, be received.

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7. In-School Enhanced Learning Program (ISELP) Data

Special Education Coordinator, Donna Zuccato, indicated that the oral report is a follow-up on a member's request to provide information on ISELP statistics. She advised that a data review undertaken in May 2014 provided a comparative analysis for the May 2015 data. She noted that the statistics include students who received enhancements and extensions, as well as students who are identified as gifted. The number of identified gifted students in the program declined by 58 students, from 478 in 2014 to 420 in 2015, and the number of non-identified students increased by 290, from 1465 to 1755 students. In response to a question of clarification, Donna Zuccato confirmed that students included in this data are those identified as gifted and who scored at the required range in the CCAT and Gifted Rating Scale, as well as non-identified students who have scored slightly below the range.

SE-46, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the oral report re In-School Enhanced Learning Program Data, be received.

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**8. Letter to Minister Liz Sandals, President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), President of the OSSTF-Peel, and Chair of the Peel District School Board re Hiring Policy
Letter to Minister Liz Sandals from SEAC Chair, Peel District School Board re Regulation 274**

SE-47, moved by Shelley Foster:

1. That, the Letter to Minister Liz Sandals President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), President of the OSSTF-Peel, and Chair of the Peel District School Board re Hiring Policy, be received;
2. That, the Letter to Minister Liz Sandals from SEAC Chair, Peel District School Board re Regulation 274, be received.

..... carried

9. Response of Administration to Former Questions

1. SEAC Email Address

Superintendent Sirisko referred to the question asked at the May 2015 SEAC meeting regarding the Committee having its own email address, and she asked who will respond to emails sent to that address. It was agreed that Chair Byers and Vice-Chair Foster will respond to emails.

10. Question Period

Carol Ogilvie asked whether the Committee would like to send a thank you note to the organizers of the Special Education Conference, and request that the conference be a regular feature. Carol Ogilvie was asked to draft a letter to be signed by Chair Byers.

Carol Ogilvie referred to the draft Special Education Programs and Services Report 2015-2016, and she asked for information on changes to the checklist, and external agencies that the Board works with to provide special education programs and services. Katie Levalds indicated that the checklist does not change year to year, and changes to the plan are incorporated in the report. It was noted that the list of external agencies is on the website.

Carol Ogilvie reported that the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region is hosting the Annual Educators Institute on August 25-26, 2015. She indicated that the flyer regarding the charity golf event in Brampton on August 26, 2015 will be provided to members.

Barbara Cyr reported that she has developed a sample banner for SEAC, and she invited members to review it and provide suggestions.

Brad MacDonald noted that this is Superintendent Sirisko's last SEAC meeting before her secondment to the Ministry and, on behalf of the Committee, he thanked her for her contributions to students and, in particular, especially during the last four years to students with special needs. He expressed appreciation for her work and dedication to SEAC. Superintendent Louise Sirisko stated that working as the Executive Member of SEAC has been a sincere pleasure. She spoke of her learning experiences, and sharing stories with members of SEAC which, she remarked, has had a profound effect on her. She thanked staff of Special Education Support Services for their proficiency, caring, and tireless work for students with special needs that has made them role models in the province.

11. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

12. Adjournment

SE-48, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (20:30 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary