

May 16, 2017  
Special Education Advisory Committee:lf

## 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, May 16, 2017 at 19:00 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 Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada  
Thomas Corbett, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
David Green, Trustee  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids (19:05)

Member absent: (apologies received)

Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter

Also present:

Michelle Anderson, Peel Principals and Vice-Principals Association  
Andrew Cruikshank, Peel Elementary Teachers' Local  
Karen Del Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel  
Daniele Roch, Peel Elementary Teachers' Local

Administration:

Scott Moreash, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

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

In the absence of Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Scott Moreash, acted as Executive Member.

SE-41, moved by Nancy Leaton, that the agenda, be approved.

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**2. Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**3. Special Presentation – Brampton-Caledon Community Living and Community Living Mississauga**

Margarette Guerra, Director of Community Resources at Brampton Caledon Community Living, and Brett Paveling, Manager of Communications at Community Living Mississauga, provided an overview of the organization's mission, vision and services. Using a PowerPoint presentation, they advised that Community Living is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and some funding is also received from United Way. Margarette Guerra stated that Community Living assists over 5000 people with disabilities and their families. She explained the various types of supports and services offered by Brampton-Caledon Community Living which included resources, living assistance and community participation. Noting that a referral from the Developmental Services of Ontario (DSO) is required to access the services, she provided information on eligibility and matching of individuals with services. Brett Paveling described the supports offered by Community Living Mississauga, which included: residential and day services; social and recreational initiatives; child and youth resources and programs; community supports such as service coordination. Margarette Guerra advised that, adults over the age of 18 years find services through the DSO and children under 18 years are referred to services through Kids Pathways Peel, which is a new model of service coordination offered through a partnership of Peel community agencies.

Questions of clarification were responded to regarding: incentives for employers to hire people with disabilities; families sponsoring children with challenges are paid a stipend, receive some funding for room and board, and can avail themselves of some respite opportunities; the timeframe for DSO to place individuals after assessment; DSO accepts old assessments if diagnosis and results are clear; individuals are matched with services in the geographical region and within reasonable distance; parents can decline services if the proposed location is not suitable.

**4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2017**

SE-42, moved by Wes McDonald, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of April 19, 2017, be approved.

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**5. Superintendent's Report**

Scott Moreash advised that, Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education, who is responsible for the Board's Mental Health Strategy, is on sick leave and Superintendent Byers has been overseeing that work in her absence. He reported that the newly formed Mental Health Advisory Committee, which provides advice on implementation of the Board's Mental Health Strategy, has been involved in developing the survey questionnaire that was sent to schools. Noting that a similar survey was done five years ago, he thanked Nancy Leaton and Nancy Bratkovic for their input to the work of this Committee. Scott Moreash stated that the completion rate of the survey is 94%, which indicates that the data collected is representative of Peel system's perspective, and the Mental Health Steering Committee is expected to review the data and proceed with the next phase in the Mental Health Strategy. He stated that suicide intervention and prevention training was held for guidance counsellors, special education staff, student success teachers and frontline staff, and principals and school leads will have discussions and presentations to school staff on this topic. Responding to a question of clarification, Scott Moreash advised that participants in the mental health survey included ISRC committees, special education teachers, and Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP). A member commented positively on the data collected from the mental health survey and suggested collecting feedback on family and student experiences.

Scott Moreash stated that the Teaching Assistant Study Steering Committee is expected to finalize the action and communication plan on the TA study by the end of May 2017, which will include formation of writing teams and professional development activities, and a report will be brought to SEAC in June 2017. He expressed appreciation of Carol Oitment's involvement on this Steering Committee.

SE-43, moved by Ann Smith, that the Superintendent's Report (oral), be received.

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**6. Special Education Plan Development – Section C: Service Delivery Model by Exceptionality - Behaviour**

Using PowerPoint slides, Special Programs Coordinator, Nora Green, and Special Education Coordinator, Tracy Bardell, presented information on service delivery for students identified with Behaviour exceptionality. They reviewed the flow charts in the report which outlined the placement process and options for students in the elementary and secondary panels. They noted that, in the elementary panel, classes have a maximum of eight students and, in addition to teaching assistants and teachers, additional supports of PSSP staff or a Behaviour Consultant may be provided. For the secondary panel, in addition to the Intensive Support Program, there is a Contact Program for identified or non-identified students. Nora Green advised that, as no contained class placements are available in secondary school, students who may continue to have Behaviour issues can access Learning Support Level 1 and 2 programs. Tracy Bardell commented that a case manager monitors progress at the secondary level. She provided information on the staff team supporting the classroom teacher and teaching assistant.

**6. Special Education Plan Development – Section C: Service Delivery Model by Exceptionality – Behaviour (Continued)**

SE-44, moved by David Green, that the report re Special Education Plan Development – Section C: Service Delivery Model by Exceptionality - Behaviour, be received.

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Wes McDonald retired from the meeting (20:00 hours).

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**7. Special Education Programs and Services 2017-2018 – Amendment – Draft**

Special Education Coordinator, Tracy Bardell, advised that the amendments are based on student needs and staffing. She highlighted areas where changes have been made, such as staffing allocations, types of programs, new and relocated programs to meet geographical needs of students, and transportation. Questions of clarification were responded to with regard to: Developmental Disability (DD) classes have increased significantly due to decoupling for Parkholme and Applewood schools and will be called District DD programs; placement in the primary enhancement learning class at Silverthorne Public School; secondary enhancement learning centre at Glenforest Secondary School will be closing this year; circulation of the special education monthly newsletter to members; possibility of adding sound bites to the newsletter; responsibilities of SEAC members related to privacy issues while discussing individual cases; providing associations with a formal report on SEAC proceedings. Comments from members for updating SEAC member information in the report were noted by Tracy Bardell.

A member referred to the mandate outlined in the report which indicated that SEAC usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month or an alternate date approved by SEAC and the Board. She commented on the need for input from members with regard to SEAC meeting dates when alternate dates are being scheduled.

SE-45, moved by Barbara Byers, that the Special Education Advisory Committee recommends to the Board:

That, the Board consult and receive approval of the Special Education Advisory Committee when SEAC meeting dates are changed from the third Tuesday of the month to another date.

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Members speaking in support of the motion commented that SEAC members are volunteers, and expressed the opinion that members should provide input and approve the dates scheduled for SEAC meetings. Those speaking against the motion stated that SEAC meetings are public meetings, and the Board needs to consider accommodation according to the Human Rights Code.

**7. Special Education Programs and Services 2017-2018 – Amendment – Draft**  
(Continued)

Trustee Nurse, Vice Chair of the Board, stated that input from SEAC is not unreasonable, however it may not always be possible to honour requests for alternate meeting dates. Associate Director Moreash further explained that meeting dates are set in context with a number of other dates for Board and legislated meetings, as well as religious observances.

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SE-45 ..... carried  
(10-0-3)

Discussions continued on the mandate outlined in the report. A member inquired about SEAC's participation in the Board's annual budget process. Another member pointed out that the Ministry Regulation indicates that SEAC shall be consulted on special education budget. Associate Director Moreash explained the public consultation process for the Board's budget development and advised that SEAC can provide input through Superintendent Byers and through participation in a survey. A suggestion that input on the Budget be added as an agenda item to facilitate SEAC's involvement, will be forwarded to Superintendent Byers.

SE-46, moved by Carol Oitment, that draft report re Special Education Programs and Services 2017-2018 – Amendment, be received.

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**8. Special Education Plan 2017 - Draft**

The draft 2017 Special Education Plan, Sections A to E, were reviewed by Special Education staff, Nora Green and Tracy Bardell. They acknowledged input received from members with regard to layout and including visuals to clarify information. The document will be posted on the Board's website once finalized. It was noted that a Table of Contents and hyperlinks have also been added to the document. Associate Director Moreash stated that the document is a result of many months of collaborative work between SEAC members and staff from Special Education Support Services and Learning Technology Support Services. He expressed appreciation for the feedback received from Jennifer Knight and Ann Smith. Nora Green added that there are six more sections to add to the Special Education Plan which will include transitions, professional development, SEAC, mental health and addictions, and appendices. A correction with regard to Fragile-X Syndrome was noted.

SE-47, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the draft Special Education Plan 2017, be received.

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**9. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2017-2018**

Associate Director Moreash noted that two dates in the schedule, March 19, 2018 and June 12, 2018 do not fall on the third Tuesday of the month. Information about reasons for alternate dates will be brought to the next SEAC meeting.

SE-48, moved by David Green, that the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2017-2018, be received.

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**10. Reports from Representatives on Councils/Associations**

Ann Smith circulated a flyer providing information on Discover, an art exhibit to be held at T. L. Kennedy Secondary School, on June 1, 2017. The flyer will be emailed to members.

Shelley Foster distributed a flyer and advised that the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Voice Family Camp 2017 will take place on August 11-13, 2017, and funding is available for families who cannot afford the fee. She reported that VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children had a name change which reflects the Ministry definition of the exceptionality. She added that she had recently attended the Annual Voice Conference and presented information on SEAC and the 2017 Voice Family Camp.

Barbara Byers stated that Fragile-X Research Foundation of Canada is having an annual Family Day Picnic in Scarborough on June 11, 2017. The event will include various indoor activities and more information can be found on their website.

Thomas Corbett provided information on Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region's Annual Golf Tournament to be held at Caledon Golf and Country Club on June 8, 2017.

**11. Question Period**

Nancy Bratkovic inquired whether there will be an opportunity next month, to review the plan for SEAC's upcoming meeting items, tracking of issues, service orientation and review, in order to create a plan for the new school year and receive input from the larger community. Scott Moreash will follow up. Shelley Foster suggested reviewing the PAAC on SEAC handbook for members, which is available on their website.

**12. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

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**13. Adjournment**

SE-49, moved by Mary Wright, that the meeting adjourn (21:05 hours).

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..... Chair ..... Secretary