

## 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, November 17, 2015 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, Chair  
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Vice-Chair  
Carrie Andrews, Trustee  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Nokha Dakroub, Trustee  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Brad MacDonald, Trustee  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living

### Absent: (apologies received)

Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter  
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

### Also present:

Karen Del Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel  
Cheri Hearty, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (Alternate)  
Sue Lawton, Trustee  
Fauzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter (Alternate)

### Administration:

Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education (Executive Back-up Member)  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services  
  
Marina Amin, Board Reporter

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

SE-70, moved by Nancy Leaton, that the agenda, be approved.

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**2. Authorization of Member's Absence**

Chair Byers reported that Nancy Bratkovic is unable to attend today's Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. Nancy Bratkovic was absent at the September 30, 2015 and October 28, 2015 meetings. Under the Education Act and the Board's By-laws, members absent from three consecutive meetings must vacate their seats if the absence is not authorized by resolution.

SE-71, moved by Barbara Cyr, that Nancy Bratkovic's absence from three consecutive meetings of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be authorized.

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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, October 28, 2015**

Arising from Item 10 of the Minutes, Letter from SEAC members, Peel DSB re 2015-2016 Special Education Plan, a member requested an amendment in the last paragraph to reflect that the report was discussed during a meeting held by parent association groups of SEAC members. She also clarified having asked if the report could be amended and brought back, if there had been a procedural error while submitting it.

With regard to Item 13, Question Period, Jennifer Knight clarified her comments regarding the Easter Seals of Ontario having received a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant to develop a parent conference on special education, which will take place in the spring of 2016, and include in person and live webcast options. She had reported that PAAC on SEAC has received a PRO grant for SEAC training resources. The funds will be used to update PAAC on SEAC effective practices manual and to develop online resources.

SE-72, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 28, 2015, as amended, be approved.

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**5. Report on Student Achievement on Provincial Assessment: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2014-2015**

Copies of an information graphic and an overview of the 2014-2015 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results were circulated. Paul Favaro, Chief Research Officer, Assessment and Accountability, reported that the OSSLT was designed to assess the reading and writing skills of students at the end of Grade 9, as outlined in the curriculum. He noted that successful completion is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

**5. Report on Student Achievement on Provincial Assessment: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2014-2015 (Continued)**

Paul Favaro stated that, due to job action, EQAO testing of Grades 3 and 6 did not take place. Only Grade 9 students who were enrolled in Mathematics in semester one took part in the assessment. These students will receive individual student results from the EQAO by early November 2015. Students who took Mathematics during semester two did not participate in the Grade 9 EQAO mathematics assessment during the 2014-15 school year, due to job action. As such, EQAO will not provide the Peel District School Board with an overall board report.

Paul Favaro provided an overview of the OSSLT results for 2014-2015, noting a success rate of 83% in Peel for fully participating first-time eligible learners compared to 82% at the provincial level. Success rates have remained fairly consistent over the last five years in Peel, as well as in the province, and he stated that the results are equated to enable fair comparison over the years. Paul Favaro indicated that the success rate of 56% for fully participating previously eligible students is 7% higher than the province. These results pertain to students who were absent, deferred or unsuccessful during previously administered OSSLTs, or were previously exempted, but are now working toward an OSSD. Speaking about the gender gap in reading and writing scores, Paul Favaro reported on females scoring higher than males by 7% in Peel, and 8% at the provincial level. He commented on the successful performance rate of 76% for English Language Learners in Peel, compared to 73% for the province, which is an increase of 29% in Peel over five years. Special Needs student results have remained relatively constant in Peel and the province over the last five years.

Paul Favaro stated that the reports are available on the Parents section of the Board's internet site. They are also available on the Board's social media sites to share and build capacity to use educational research for school improvement. Responding to members' questions, Paul Favaro explained: 98% of Peel students meet the minimum standard for literacy by Grade 12, and that a majority of students are ready by Grade 10, with or without accommodations; OSSLT results for special education students can be made available, although small cell reporting is not offered in keeping with privacy protocol. Chair Byers expressed concern about Peel's results for fully participating first-time eligible students with special education needs, noting that, while the results have remained constant over the last five years, they are below the provincial standard. She asked about steps being taken to improve Peel's scores. Superintendent Minott provided rationale for Peel's scores appearing lower than the province, stating that the inclusion of exempted students in the reporting data lowers the percentage, and she suggested that the report be brought back to a future meeting for a detailed analysis.

SE-73, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Student Achievement on Provincial Assessment: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2014-2015, be received.

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**6. Partnering for Change - Update**

Ana Pauchulo, Coordinating Principal, Special Programs, reported that Partnering for Change, which commenced three years ago as a pilot project, is being implemented in all elementary schools in Brampton, Caledon and Malton this year in collaboration with Community Care Access Centres (CCACs). She noted that an Occupational Therapist (OT) from CCAC will be assigned to each school, to work in classrooms for early identification of motor coordination problems or developmental coordination disorders, and collaborate with the teacher to provide accommodations to improve student participation. Ana Pauchulo stated that the OT may also provide professional development to teachers and parents, if requested. A proposal is being developed for implementation of a consistent model in schools across the Board.

SE-74, moved by Shelley Foster, that the update report re Partnering for Change, be received.

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**7. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent of Education, Pertia Minott, introduced herself to members of SEAC, and reported on the absence of Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, at this meeting. She noted that he will work closely with the SEAC membership to resolve current issues, upon his return. She also conveyed Superintendent Byers' request for members to contact him via email or phone on any issues or matters of concern.

Superintendent Minott responded to a question raised by members at the last SEAC meeting regarding the SEAC email account. Currently, emails directed to the Special Education department are redirected to Vera Colaco, Assistant to Superintendent Byers. However, this redirection can be adjusted. For example, school councils are provided with an email account, and the Chair of the school council has been identified to receive the emails. Superintendent Byers will coordinate the adjustment to the SEAC email account with Chair Byers.

A copy of the revised Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum Parent Guide was circulated, and members were encouraged to review the brochure and ask questions. A member confirmed that the Parent Guide was developed to address issues and concerns arising from a revision of the HPE curriculum. He indicated that various faith groups within the community were consulted to ensure a fair understanding of the curriculum, and he requested that questions be brought to the attention of trustees or school principal.

On behalf of SEAC, Superintendent Minott thanked Trustees Andrews, Dakroub and MacDonald for their service and commitment to special needs students.

SE-75, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the Superintendent's Report (oral), be received.

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**8. Special Education Plan – Report from October 2015 SEAC Discussion**

Gillian Kajganich, Special Programs Coordinator, indicated that input from members at the last SEAC meeting was sorted by staff and majority items have been shortlisted on the handout which was circulated to members. She asked SEAC to prioritize items on a scale of 1 to 5, to enable development of an agenda for the Special Education Plan for 2015-2016. Gillian Kajganich requested members to provide feedback before the next SEAC meeting.

SE-76 moved by Carrie Andrews, that the Special Education Plan – Report from October 2015 SEAC Discussion (oral), be received.

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**9. Special Education Plan Development Consultation**

Coordinators for Special Education, Tracy Bardell and Sharon Cook, provided members with laptops to review the special education plans from four school boards and to provide staff with feedback using the handout provided. The intent of this activity is for SEAC to discuss ideas and identify features for development of a Special Education Plan for Peel. Feedback was collected from some members, and others were asked to forward their input at an early date.

SE-77, moved by Carrie Andrews, that the report regarding Special Education Plan Development Consultation, be received.

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

SE-78, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List, be received.

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**11. Question Period**

Carol Ogilvie asked about the PA day in the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario negotiated settlement, and how special education issues will be addressed on that day.

Carol Ogilvie provided the website details for members to view highlights of the Special Education Advisory Committee Conference held in May 2015.

Carol Ogilvie stated that PAAC on SEAC are looking for feedback from SEAC as they update their handbook and develop e-modules.

Carol Ogilvie reported that the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region is holding a Parent/Adult Workshop on November 30, 2015 at Fletcher's Creek Senior Public School, regarding transitioning from high school to a post-secondary institution.

**11. Question Period (Continued)**

Trustee MacDonald stated that this is his last meeting as a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee, of which he has been a member since the past eight years. He spoke about his reasons for joining this Committee and the great work being done, and he commended staff for their passion and patience in supporting children with special needs and learning disabilities. Trustee MacDonald thanked everyone for their service and commitment, and he explained why he would not be returning to the Committee in December.

**12. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**13. Adjournment**

SE-79, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the meeting adjourn (20:30 hours).

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