

## 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 20, 2018 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair  
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired (19:05)  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter  
Fawzia Reza, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living  
Mary Wright, Down Syndrome Association of Peel (19:10)

Members absent: (apologies received)

Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair

Also present:

Janet McDougald, Trustee

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

### 1. Approval of Agenda

SE-91, moved by Barbara Cyr, 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, October 16, 2018**

Arising from the Minutes, a member referred to Item 8, Focus on Poverty: Consultation on Next Steps, and indicated that dealing with the issue of poverty without creating stigma was an important point raised by one of the groups during the feedback session.

SE-92, moved by Carol Oitment, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 16, 2018, be approved.

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**4. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, thanked members who helped with the SEAC booth at the Parent Conference. He circulated and reviewed the report, which highlighted: Board approval for hiring of 50 Teaching Assistants; a possibility of inviting Ontario Human Rights Commission for a joint SEAC event with Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB regarding accessibility for students with disabilities; appointment of Craig Cooper, as Coordinating Principal, Equity and Inclusion, Special Education Support Services (SESS); communication from the Ministry regarding the revised Special Incident Portion (SIP) and Special Equipment Amount (SEA) guideline, claims process, and reporting deadline.

In regard to the Ontario Special Needs Strategy (SNS), Superintendent Moynihan advised that, to date, no communication has been received from the Ministry. He invited Lorie Grant, Chief Speech and Language Pathologist, and Bob Cambria, Coordinator of Integrated Services, to provide a brief update report. Lorie Grant recalled that the Ontario SNS was introduced in the year 2000 to assist young people in preparing for adulthood, through a developmental surveillance process and, in the past, school boards engaged with service providers through Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) to deliver seamless service. She stated that there is no change in actual service delivery, but ErinoakKids Centre will assume funding for service provider contracts from January 2019, and Local Health Integrated Networks (LHIN) will provide nursing and diuretics. She advised that some information is available on the website of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Bob Cambria, commented that there are five specialized coordinators for service planning in the Region of Peel and that he represents Peel DSB on the SNS Steering Committee and Operations Committee. Responding to questions about management of the funds, it was clarified that, only ErinoakKids Centre had come forward to be the lead agency and, no additional funding is expected to compensate for growth in Peel.

Shawn Moynihan reported that no other SEAC has submitted a response to the Ministry's invitation for consultation across Toronto and Area Regional Office; however, two communication items on today's SEAC meeting agenda provide examples of how SEACs are expressing their concerns to the Minister. In response to earlier requests, the Superintendent's Report also included the SESS November 2018 newsletter, presenters' notes from the OHRC Conference on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities, 2017 accessibility compliance report, and guidelines on presentations to SEAC.

SE-93, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

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**5. Introduction to Cochlear Implants, BAHA and Classroom Management**

Chair Foster introduced the presenters, Daniel Beaudoin, Audiologist, and Darota Simpson, Engagement Manager, at Cochlear. Daniel Beaudoin provided background information about himself and Darota Simpson regarding their work experience with hard of hearing children. Advising that the technology has been available for over 35 years, the presenters stated that Cochlear implants and Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA) empower people to live a full life and change the way people think about hearing loss. Daniel Beaudoin described the process for children with hearing aids to become candidates for cochlear implants, which is done through peripheral surgery and usually requires one month for recovery, after which there is programming by an audiologist to adjust volume. Samples of the implants were shown to members. Providing details about hearing range and detection threshold for testing, Daniel Beaudoin noted that children as young as one year of age can be referred for cochlear implants.

Questions of clarification from members were responded to, including: criteria to qualify for a cochlear implant; the implant can last a lifetime; adjustments may be needed as the child grows; people who have used hearing aids in the past may need a couple of months to adjust to human voices; children who have cochlear implants at an early age enjoy and appreciate music. With regard to the question on Electrical Auditory Brainstem Response (EABR) tests used for babies, Daniel Beaudoin will provide a response to Chair Foster. Responding to a query, he explained the three types of processors used for BAHA, which is also recommended for people doing active sports, is compatible with wireless devices, and a waterproof model is also available.

SE-94, moved by Mary Wright, that the oral report re Introduction to Cochlear Implants, BAHA and Classroom Management, be received.

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**6. Update on Supports and Resources: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

Superintendent Moynihan introduced Archie Kwan, Senior Psychologist, and Bob Cambria, Coordinator for Integrated Services, and thanked them for their state-of-the-art work to support students with FASD. Archie Kwan stated that this presentation is part of a three-part series which will be presented over future SEAC meetings, and that work on this project has been in progress for about two years. Archie Kwan advised that diagnosis of FASD is complex and resources need to be viewed through an FASD lens. He described the work done, which included reviewing processes and procedures, and developing an implementation strategy to support students. Inviting input from SEAC members, he noted that adjustments will be made as work progresses. Archie Kwan reviewed a Fact Sheet from Canada FASD Research Network, which provided a description of FASD and the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure on individuals and society.

**6. Update on Supports and Resources: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**  
(Continued)

Using PowerPoint slides, Archie Kwan reviewed the collaborative supports which include: IPRC meetings and case conferences with parents and guardians; school-based support by way of presentations to the Tier 3 Review Committee and support from principal and superintendent of education; community engagement through Service Coordinator and Peel FASD Clinical team. He acknowledged the support of Meghan Echlin, Coordinating Principal for Special Programs, and noted that Bob Cambria, who is part of several related advisory committees that look at problem solving for children, also represents students at case conferences. Archie Kwan spoke about the extent of FASD diagnostics, increase in FASD population and services, and collaborative work to support students. He explained the core goals for FASD collaboration, which are: to build collaborative relationships with community partners; develop a framework and resources to conceptualize student profiles; develop a system of FASD support and implementation plan; identification of resources and supports within PDSB; create an FASD IPRC process. Archie Kwan recalled Bill 191 which called for an amendment to the Education Act to promote awareness and understanding of FASD, but did not get passed, and was re-introduced as Bill 44 to facilitate collaboration with parents but also did not get passed at the second reading. He referred to the letter from Upper Grand DSB, Item 8 a) of these Minutes, in support of Bill 44 and commented that there is no need to wait for legislation to continue the work. A member expressed appreciation for the work being done and progress made to support students and families dealing with FASD.

Questions of clarification responded to by the administration included that, diagnosis of FASD begins around age 5 or 6, no supports are available in Peel for diagnosis after age six, and a referral may be made for a suspected FASD diagnosis. A member advised that private assessments for FASD are available and costs approximately \$4,500. She spoke about birth mothers declining to provide information because of stigma. She advised that there is one FASD conference held per year, and the next one is scheduled for March 2019.

SE-95, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the update report re Supports and Resources: FASD, be received.

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**7. New Release from the Ministry of Education about New Legislation re Access to Service Animals**

Superintendent Moynihan referred to the report, noting that Peel DSB's Operating Procedure, SESS 19, addresses the use of service animals for students with disabilities and that the Ministry of Education plans to introduce legislation regarding student access to service animals.

SE-96, moved by Wes McDonald, that the report re New Release from the Ministry of Education about New Legislation re Access to Service Animals, be received.

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**8. Letter from Upper Grand District School Board's SEAC re Amending the Education Act**

The letter from Upper Grand District School Board's SEAC to the Minister of Education was perused by members, who agreed that Peel's SEAC also send a letter to the Minister in support of Bill 44. Upon a suggestion from Superintendent Moynihan, it was agreed that a draft letter be brought back to the next SEAC meeting for approval before sending.

SE-97, moved by Kathy McDonald,

- a) That, the Letter from Upper Grand District School Board's SEAC regarding Amending the Education Act, be received;
- b) That, the Peel DSB's SEAC write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of Bill 44 to promote awareness and understanding of FASD.

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**9. Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board re Changes to Funding for Special Education**

SE-98, moved by Wes McDonald, that the Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board re Recent Changes to Funding for Special Education, be received.

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**10. Question Period**

Chair Foster acknowledged the presence of Board Chair McDougald and Vice-Chair Nurse. In view of their upcoming retirements, she thanked them for their continued support of special needs students and expressed appreciation for their work in education of all students.

Board Chair McDougald spoke of the importance of SEAC's work. She expressed pride as a long standing trustee of the Board for 30 years and as Chair of the Board for 21 years, and for the privilege to work with committed and dedicated people who make a difference in the lives of students and parents. Speaking about the power of parent advocacy, Chair McDougald commented that SEAC could be more active and she encouraged members to advocate to protect public education and support special needs children.

Chair Foster announced that Nancy Bratkovic will also be leaving SEAC and she thanked her for her wisdom and work on the Committee.

**10. Question Period (Continued)**

Barbara Byers stated that she has been a member of SEAC for 16 years. She introduced Nicole Buckett who will be recommended as the next SEAC representative. Barbara Byers noted that she will continue on SEAC as an alternate member. Chair Foster thanked Barbara Byers for her work as Chair of SEAC.

Carol Ogilvie distributed flyers containing information on programs offered by Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region.

**11. Public Question Period**

Lennox Abraham inquired whether Peel Elementary Occasional Teachers (PEOT) Local is represented on SEAC and whether PEOT is entitled to a copy of the agenda and minutes. Superintendent Moynihan responded.

**12. Adjournment**

SE-99, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the meeting adjourn (21:10 hours).

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