

## 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, October 16, 2018 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Chair  
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee  
Anju Mistry, Down Syndrome Association of Peel  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter (19:05)  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living

### Members absent: (apologies received)

Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch  
Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired

### Also present:

Rick Williams, Trustee

### Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services  
Joy Uniack, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

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

Chair Foster welcomed Trustee Rick Williams to the meeting. She noted that he is retiring after 21 years as a trustee, and she thanked him for his service and dedication to the Peel DSB and to students.

SE-78, 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. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, September 17, 2018**

SE-79, moved by Carol Oitment, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 17, 2018, be approved.

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**4. Superintendent's Report**

Reviewing the report circulated, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Shawn Moynihan highlighted Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day on October 24, 2018, and he described their roles in supporting student success. He expressed appreciation for their commitment, caring approach, and professionalism, and he stated that their skill, knowledge and leadership have a positive effect on students and families.

Superintendent Moynihan noted that the Grade 4 CCAT 7 Regional Testing period will be December 3-14, 2018, in view of the student census scheduled in November 2018.

Referring to EQAO data contained in his report, he indicated that discussion on EQAO results will be scheduled for the November SEAC meeting. Staff are working on presenting EQAO data by exceptionality, and members were invited to submit questions which can be responded to at the November meeting.

SE-80, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Superintendent's Report, be received.

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**5. Accessibility Plan Update**

Manager of Abilities, Wellness and Attendance, Lyn Wilson, explained that the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 2005 has reporting requirements and deadlines for all public sector organizations with over 50 employees. She noted that the Board met the deadline of December 31, 2017 to file the accessibility compliance report, and that the next date is December 31, 2019. Lyn Wilson reported that staff are preparing an updated Accessibility Plan Status Report, which will be presented to the Physical Planning and Building Committee in February 2019, and the Special Education Advisory Committee in March 2019. Thereafter, status reports will be presented to the two committees in February of each year.

The administration responded to members' questions of clarification.

Superintendent Moynihan welcomed SEAC input into the annual plan status reports, and he stated that the input will be included in the Board's annual special education plan. Lyn Wilson clarified that compliance reports follow the multi-year compliance schedule on different aspects of AODA requirements. She noted that the recently filed report provided an outline of the accessibility projects undertaken so far, including physical and online accessibility requirements.

**5. Accessibility Plan Update (Continued)**

Chair Foster confirmed that the Committee would like to receive the recently filed compliance report. Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, Poleen Grewal, indicated that information will be brought to SEAC on completed projects and a gap analysis of AODA requirements yet to be covered.

SE-81, moved by Carol Oitment, that the update report re Accessibility Plan, be received.

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**6. SEA – Summer Camp Pilot**

Michelle Anderson, Coordinating Principal, Special Education Amount, along with Casimir McGeown, Special Education Consultant - Assistive Technology, presented information on the summer camp pilot, Camp Goal. The camp was funded by the Ministry of Education Special Equipment funds, with the goal of providing an opportunity for students to increase their knowledge, confidence and independence in using SEA technology. Camp Goal was offered at two schools, Erin Centre Middle School and Centennial Senior Public School, to students from Grades 4-8 who were within the busing area of the school, and who had recently received their SEA equipment. On average, each location had 12 students and two teachers who provided excellent support, similar to one on one training provided during the school year to students with new SEA equipment. Writing teams created curriculum engaging modern learning using assistive technology tools to support their reading, writing and study skills. The equipment available for students' use in Camp Goal was listed. Parents were invited to the last day of Camp Goal to view a carousel of tools and resources used. Students' progress was monitored and they will also receive one on one training during the year.

Comments from members, and responses to their questions of clarification included: Assistive Technology Resource Teachers (ATRTs) support schools with SEA training and offer professional development; review of students' achievement during Camp Goal provided to classroom teachers, and ATRTs follow up with classroom teachers to determine students' progress; students were not allowed to take home equipment at Camp Goal, as these were on loan; extend offering the camp at other sites that provide summer school and busing; SEA funding cannot be used to cover transportation expenses; explore inviting students with higher needs to Camp Goal. A member requested that plans for next year's Camp Goal be shared with SEAC, and she suggested that this information be included in the SEAC newsletter.

SE-82, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the report re SEA – Summer Camp Pilot, be received.

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**7. Review of Secondary Gifted Programming - Update**

Shawn Moynihan noted that the timeline for the review of secondary Gifted programming is outlined in the report, and that this month, a steering committee will be struck comprising representatives from various stakeholder groups. He recommended that SEAC consider being represented on the steering committee by the Chair, Vice-Chair and one other member. Members agreed that Barbara Cyr will also represent SEAC on the steering committee.

SE-83, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the update report re Review of Secondary Gifted Programming, be received.

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**8. Focus on Poverty: Consultation on Next Steps**

Providing background information relating to the Focus on Poverty project, Kim Bennett, Research Officer, noted that the project was framed from an equity perspective, and she highlighted the review of Social Risk Index, and creation of poverty indicators. The Focus on Poverty report also included data on students with identified special education exceptionalities to determine whether poverty impacts these students.

Kim Bennett stated that an action report is being developed to address issues arising from the Focus on Poverty report, which will help to focus and plan on activities. As the Board decides on the action items, staff will collaborate and consult with stakeholders and experts, including SEAC. She asked members to view the report, reflect on the intersection of students in poverty and those with exceptionalities, and consider the specific actions needed for students who are receiving special education support and also living in poverty. Kim Bennett requested members to also consider the success criteria, in terms of actions that have made a difference with special education students. In small groups, members discussed the action items and success criteria. Feedback from the group discussion was provided to Kim Bennett, and briefly outlined at the meeting. This included: fundraising; equitable access to technology, nutrition and resources; identifying issues early; measuring achievement of special education students receiving support; assisting parents with internal resources such as translation, and providing information on external resources such as government funding. Members were encouraged to submit further input by November 1, 2018.

SE-84, moved by Jennifer Knight, that the report re Focus on Poverty: Consultation on Next Steps, be received.

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**9. Updated Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member List**

Superintendent Moynihan reported that he had reviewed SEAC member lists of some other boards, and that the list brought forward today will provide contact information of members as required by the Ministry of Education. The Special Education Plan, SEAC brochure, and contact information on the Board's website, will be amended accordingly.

**9. Updated Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member List (Continued)**

SE-85, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the updated Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member List, be received.

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**10. Ontario Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference**

SE-86, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the report re Ontario Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference, be received.

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**11. Association for Bright Children of Ontario Toronto Mini Conference**

SE-87, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the report re Association for Bright Children of Ontario Toronto Mini Conference, be received.

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**12. Response to Question re Ministry of Education Consultations on Education**

Superintendent Moynihan referred to the email from the Ministry of Education included in the report regarding the process to consult with stakeholders. He suggested that SEAC consider submitting a joint response. He indicated that he will update members regarding the practice being followed by other boards.

SE-88, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the report re Response to Question re Ministry of Education Consultations on Education, be received.

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**13. Response to Question re Process for Associations to Provide Letters of Recommendation**

Ontario Regulation 464/97 provides the criteria for a person to be nominated as a representative on SEAC. The above-noted report includes information provided to SEAC members outlining the requirements for criteria, process and timelines for nomination. Deadline for submission of nomination letters is November 13, 2018.

SE-89, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Response to Question re Process for Associations to Provide Letters of Recommendation, be received.

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#### 14. Question Period

Dorothy Peddie referred to discussions at the previous SEAC meeting regarding camera ready communication, and she asked about the process to provide documents to Board staff for inclusion in the newsletter. Chair Foster reported that a sub-committee was struck to develop the documents, which will be reviewed by SEAC and sent to the Board for publication. Thomas Corbett, Shelley Foster, Jennifer Knight, and Dorothy Peddie are members of the sub-committee. Jennifer Knight recalled that SEAC had discussed allotting some time during meetings for members to provide input. Chair Foster suggested this be done after the formal SEAC meeting is adjourned, and it was agreed that, to start the process, an email will be sent to members for their input on the list of documents.

Barbara Cyr requested members to provide her with brochures or items related to their associations for display at the Parent Literacy Conference. She asked for volunteers to staff the display table.

Barbara Cyr indicated that Great Start, a school council event, is being held on November 14, 2018, and a table has been set aside for SEAC. She asked members for brochures to display and for volunteers to staff the table.

Dorothy Peddie requested a status update report on student transportation. Vice-Chair Lawton reported that Board staff continue to work on resolving the issues which, in general, are fewer, and response times have improved. She noted, however, that there are still problems on some school routes with buses being considerably delayed, and she highlighted the nature of the intermittent driver shortage problem. Trustee Lawton indicated that senior staff have been discussing the issue with Student Transportation of Peel Region, with the hope of resolving the issues. Trustee Nurse stated that some other school boards are also facing a similar situation with school busing. Anju Mistry asked about issues with busing for secondary French Immersion students. Trustee Nurse advised that secondary FI students are not eligible for busing.

Jennifer Knight asked for an update report on the Ministry's Special Needs Strategy. Superintendent Moynihan stated that no information has been forthcoming from the Ministry although staff have been regularly checking for updates. Associate Director Grewal advised that the Strategy is funded not through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) but by the Education Programs – Other (EPO) grants, which are in-year funding amounts that had been regularly provided by the previous government. She reported that no funding has been received as yet, although there are unconfirmed reports that an announcement may be made at the end of October 2018. Adding that the in year funding for the student census has also not been received, she stated there is a backlog of EPO funding for initiatives on mental health, equity, student success, mathematics, literacy, and special education. Vice-Chair Lawton indicated that the Parents Reaching Out grants have not been released, as well. Superintendent Moynihan confirmed that the change in the calculation of special education component in the GSNs had resulted in a shortfall of approximately \$850,000 in the budget.

**15. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**16. Adjournment**

SE-90, moved by Dorothy Peddie, that the meeting adjourn (20:40 hours).

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