

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 17, 2017 at 19:05 hours.

Members present:

Shelley Foster, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, Chair
Sue Lawton, Trustee, Vice-Chair
Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch
Thomas Corbett, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (19:50)
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter (19:45)
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
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids

Members absent: (apologies received)

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada
David Green, Trustee

Also present:

Michael Theodore, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel

Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

SE-71, moved by Ann Smith, 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 19, 2017

SE-72, moved by Wes McDonald, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 19, 2017, be approved.

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4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, recalled a request at the last meeting for a written report, and he requested feedback on the new format circulated.

Speaking on Governance Engagement, Director of Education, Peter Joshua, advised that the Ministry is seeking feedback from school board legislated committees, which includes the Special Education Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Parent Involvement Committee and the Indigenous Advisory Circle, on trustee code of conduct and honoraria, participation in board and committee meetings, student trustee term of office and election process, and broadening the director of education qualifications. He stated that each committee will be asked to nominate three representatives who will participate in group discussions facilitated by the Associate Directors. Feedback from the discussions will be forwarded to the Ministry by the deadline of November end.

Superintendent Byers provided update reports regarding: decoupling of secondary Developmental Disabilities programs, and the professional learning for administrators, teachers and teaching assistants; the We Rise Together Action Plan to support black male students. A handout was included on the Peel Association of African Canadian Educators' (PAACE) Parent Engagement in Action event on October 28, 2017 organized in collaboration with the Peel DSB. Responding to a member's query, Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, Poleen Grewal, stated that news about events are communicated through social media, as well as the local newspapers, the school website, and flyers sent home with students.

SE-73, moved by Wes McDonald, that the Superintendent's report, be received.

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5. Special Education in Ontario: Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017 – Summary Explanation

Coordinator of Special Programs, Nora Green, stated that the report provides an overview of content in the Ministry's Policy and Resource Guide 2017. With an online presentation of the document, she reviewed the various guiding resources available relating to: Legislation, Policy, and Funding; Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans; Early Identification, Assessment, and Transition Planning; The Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) Process; The Individual Education Plan (IEP); Other Programs and Services offered at provincial and Section 23 classes, provincial and demonstration schools. Nora Green indicated that direction on transition planning for children with autism is awaited from the Ministry, following which, a transition plan will be written into the Board's Special Education Plan. She highlighted the document as a useful resource for classroom teachers when developing IEPs for identified and non-identified students. Superintendent Byers advised that copies of the document are being distributed widely across the system.

In response to a trustee's query, special education staff provided details about the provincial elementary schools, namely, W. Ross Macdonald School for the blind, and Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf. It was noted that Trillium Demonstration School, is a residential school for students with severe learning disabilities. Staff advised that Special Equipment Amount (SEA) equipment is provided to students with these disabilities upon their return to Peel, and SEA claims are submitted to the Ministry. Special Education Coordinating Principal, Ana Pauchulo reported on the transportation agreement Peel has with the Ministry that involves providing busing to students accommodated at W. Ross Macdonald School and Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf. Superintendent Byers will follow up regarding the number of students attending these schools from Peel. Responding to a member's query, Ted Byers indicated that while the Ministry is reviewing the category of Intelligence, there has been no direction so far.

SE-74, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Special Education in Ontario: Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017 – Summary Explanation, be received.

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**6. Special Education Plan Development - Section G: Professional Learning
Special Education Plan Development - Section H: Special Education Advisory
Committee**

Noting that the Special Education Plan is developed in consultation with SEAC members, Superintendent Byers invited questions and comments on the above noted draft sections on Professional Learning and the Special Education Advisory Committee. He highlighted the tiered approach to professional learning, stating that this topic can be included in the group discussion being held after the meeting. Providing an overview of professional learning extended to staff, Special Education Coordinator, Tracy Bardell, spoke about the 3-day Tier 1 learning event organized by the In-School Support Program (ISSP) Teacher Institute in September 2017. She reported on the topics discussed and resources shared, which included: leadership in ISSP roles and building staff capacity; developing effective IEPs that focus on student strengths and needs; exploring enquiry and critical thinking; how the In School Review Committee can support students with mental health and wellbeing.

**6. Special Education Plan Development - Section G: Professional Learning
Special Education Plan Development - Section H: Special Education Advisory
Committee (Continued)**

On reviewing Section H – Special Education Advisory Committee, a member advised that it was her impression that the SEAC member information list would be in a generic format, and not include personal contact details.

SE-75, moved by Sue Lawton, that the reports re Special Education Plan Development – Section G re Professional Learning, and Special Education Plan Development – Section H re Special Education Advisory Committee, be received.

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7. Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List

The updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member list was reviewed and a correction noted.

SE-76, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Updated Special Education Advisory Committee Member List, be received.

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8. Response of Administration to Former Questions

1. Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services

Providing an update on integrated delivery of rehabilitation services, Superintendent Byers reported that the provincial advisory committee guiding the initiative will meet this fall.

SE-77, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the response of administration to former questions re Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services, be received.

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2. Identification Placement and Review Committee Guide – Appeal Process

With an online presentation of the Special Education section of the Board's website relating to the Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Guide, Superintendent Byers highlighted detailed information about the IPRC process. Responding to a member's question, he explained that the IPRC reviews cases throughout the school year, and he confirmed that a parent has 30 days to appeal a decision. In response to another member's question, Superintendent Byers will follow up and bring back information about the number of IPRC reviews conducted each month.

8. Response of Administration to Former Questions (Continued)

2. Identification Placement and Review Committee Guide – Appeal Process (Cont'd)

SE-78, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the response of administration to former questions re Identification Placement and Review Committee Guide – Appeal Process, be received.

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9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

SE-79, moved by Sue Lawton, that the meeting adjourn (20:10 hours).

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