

## 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, September 20, 2016 at 19:00 hours.

### Members present:

Barbara Byers, Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, Chair  
Shelley Foster, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Vice-Chair  
Barbara Cyr, Association for Bright Children, Peel Chapter  
David Green, Trustee  
Jennifer Knight, Easter Seals Ontario  
Nancy Leaton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter  
Carol Ogilvie, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region  
Carol Oitment, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario  
Harkirat Singh, Trustee  
Ann Smith, Brampton-Caledon Community Living

### Absent: (apologies received marked\*)

Nancy Bratkovic, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch \*  
Sue Lawton, Trustee \*  
Wes McDonald, VIEWS for the Visually Impaired  
Dorothy Peddie, FASworld Canada, Peel Chapter  
Mary Wright, Peel Caring Network for Challenged Kids \*

### Also present:

Thomas Corbett, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (Alternate)  
Andrew Cruickshank, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario  
Karen Del Ben, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel  
Janet McDougald, Chair, Peel DSB  
Daniele Roch, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

### Administration:

Ted Byers, Superintendent of Special Education Support Services (Executive Member)  
Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education (Executive Backup Member)  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Approval of Agenda**

At the invitation of Chair Byers, everyone at the table and in the meeting room briefly introduced themselves. Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Ted Byers, welcomed newly appointed Special Education Coordinator, Nora Green, to the meeting.

SE-56, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

**2. Starting Point 2016 - "Words of Wisdom" Video**

Superintendent Byers reported that the video entitled "Words of Wisdom" was shown during Director of Education Tony Pontes' address to administration and support staff at Starting Point, on August 31, 2016, an event which highlights the Board's vision and work for the school year ahead. The video, featuring students of all ages sharing their views on what it means to be successful, was viewed by the Committee. Superintendent Byers congratulated Media staff for the video, and commented that it is respectful, thoughtful and inclusive. The video is posted on the Board's website, and is available for use in schools.

SE-57, moved by Shelley Foster, that the report re Starting Point 2016 - "Words of Wisdom" Video, be received.

..... carried

**3. Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, June 14, 2016**

SE-58, moved by David Green, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held June 14, 2016, be approved.

..... carried

**5. Letter from Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter, re Programs and Services for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Superintendent Byers recalled that he had reported to SEAC on changes to autism services introduced by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in March 2016. He indicated that the above-referred memo from the Ministry of Education provides information on further changes to autism services announced by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in June 2016. He noted that SEAC will be updated on the finalized plans with regard to the additional funding.

**5. Letter from Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter, re Programs and Services for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Continued)**

A member thanked Board Chair Janet McDougald for her letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Children and Youth Services, which expressed concerns about the impact of the new Ontario Autism Program on school boards (Item 10 of these Minutes). A trustee member reported that, at a meeting of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the need for appropriate funding for autism services was conveyed to staff present from the Ministry of Education, who agreed to bring back some plans in the future.

SE-59, moved by Nancy Leaton, that the Letter from Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter, re Programs and Services for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, be received.

..... carried

**6. Peel District School Board Plan for Student Success 2016-2021**

Providing background information, Director of Education, Tony Pontes, explained that the Board's Report Card for Student Success, contained seven goals and was in operation for 14 years. Arising from feedback from the system indicating that there were too many goals to focus the work of the Board, the Report Card for Student Success was reviewed and revised, resulting in the new Board Plan for Student Success and a new graphic. Highlighting the Plan, he described the four goals: high expectations for achievement; parent, community and staff engagement; equity and inclusion; safe, positive, healthy climate/well-being. These goals reflect and support the Ministry's goals, and the new graphic demonstrates the connections between goals. The Plan aligns with existing structures and processes, and will contain ten major projects, including the Special Education Review and the Mental Health Strategy. Director Pontes explained that there is one effective statement for each goal, and the Board Plan for Student Success will guide system work on budget, staffing, programs, etc. Superintendent Byers reviewed the Plan from the special education standpoint, highlighting the role of special education staff in building authentic connections with parents of special education children, and in making children with special needs feel welcome, safe and included. He stated that this, taken together with the provision of differentiated supports to meet needs and access learning, will help to achieve success for these students.

In response to a member's question on measuring the success of goals and making changes, Director Pontes stated that, over the next four months, the Leadership team will review indicators and criteria to measure success, as well as the targets. The member asked that regular reports be brought back to the Committee on the progress.

SE-60, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the report re Peel District School Board Plan for Student Success 2016-2021, be received.

..... carried

**7. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Byers reported on Starting Point 2016, when Director Pontes spoke of the vision for the new school year. Ted Byers reviewed highlights of the address and the special education connections, including: EngageMath, and training and involvement of special education teachers; Early Years Strategy and Links to Literacy; empowering learners with technology; Mental Health Strategy; special education review; inclusive washrooms; gender identity and expression; refresh of The Future We Want; support for black students. Superintendent Byers indicated that enrolment has grown this year, including for special education students. He noted that the Board is hosting the ISSP (In School Support Program) Institute today, and he provided details of work done by department staff to set up classrooms before start of the school year.

SE-61, moved by Ann Smith, that the Superintendent's Report (oral), be received.

..... carried

**8. Updated SEAC Member List**

Shelley Foster, Jennifer Knight, and Carol Ogilvie provided updates to their contact information.

SE-62, moved by Ann Smith, that the report re Special Education Plan 2016-2017, be received.

..... carried

**9. SEAC Annual Calendar Draft – Agenda and Goals /  
Special Education Department Goals and Projects 2016-2017**

Referring to the draft Annual Calendar, Ted Byers invited members to submit items for discussion. A presentation in March 2017 from the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region will be added.

Recalling that he had brought forward the Special Education Department Goals and Projects to the June 2016 SEAC meeting, Superintendent Byers indicated that during the review of the report, members had commented that the goals remained unchanged for years, and had asked for status reports. Requesting members to review the 2016-2017 report and identify items for future discussions at meetings, he advised that the two projects identified in the Board Plan for student success, viz., Special Education Review, and Mental Health Strategy, may also be suggested for discussion on the agenda. He then invited Special Education staff to provide update reports on some of the projects undertaken by the department.

Tracy Bardell, Special Education Coordinator, highlighted the two-day ISSP Institute for elementary teachers being hosted at the Board today. Stating that the event was held in response to feedback gathered from previous events, she provided details of workshop topics and collaboration between staff in facilitating the event. Feedback is being requested from participants to help in future planning.

**9. SEAC Annual Calendar Draft – Agenda and Goals /  
Special Education Department Goals and Projects 2016-2017 (Continued)**

Special Education Coordinator, Sharon Cook, spoke about secondary supports, including assistive technology. She noted that staff are looking at making Chromebooks available for students, and she provided details about the pilot project on Read&Write for Google. Speaking on the Special Needs Strategy, Coordinating Principal, Ana Pauchulo, and Chief of Speech-Language Pathology, Lorie Grant, described the integration rehabilitation teacher proposal presented to the Ministry in 2015. Feedback on the proposal was received from the Ministry in Spring 2016, including that it was family centered, offered a broad range of interventions, and demonstrated good engagement with families. At a June 2016 webinar, the Ministry introduced program guidelines for implementation, and committees will be struck in the next few months. The work of the steering committee and the developmental working table was outlined. It was noted that proposals were not approved, but boards were asked to review the guidelines and offer comments. Peel staff commented on the importance of having the setting of school based services. Implementation is expected in Fall 2017. Professional development workshops or training for teachers new to Developmental Disabilities, Individual Education Plan (IEP) development, and building the student profile were highlighted.

Several questions of clarification were responded to by the administration, including: ongoing discussions regarding PD for teachers of the In School Enhanced Learning Program and contained classes, and a report will be brought back; videos and online modules for system use is one mode of providing PD; Ministry supplies the framework for PD days; challenges to tracking use of online training; reports regarding EngageMath and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) will be brought to SEAC meetings. A member recalled a reference at an earlier meeting to SEAC training and team building activities, and she asked for monthly update reports on programs.

SE- 63, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the reports re SEAC Annual Calendar Draft – Agenda and Goals, and Special Education Department Goals and Projects 2016-2017, be received.

..... carried

**10. Letter from Board Chair McDougald to Minister Michael Coteau and Minister Mitzie Hunter re Ontario Autism Program, and response from Ministers Coteau and Hunter**

SE- 64, moved by Carol Ogilvie, that the Letter from Board Chair McDougald to Minister Michael Coteau and Minister Mitzie Hunter re Ontario Autism Program, and response from Ministers Coteau and Hunter, be received.

..... carried

**11. Question Period**

Barbara Cyr referred to the Starting Point 2016 event and she stated that the Chair and Co-Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee had been invited. She asked whether the Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC were also invited. Superintendent Byers responded in the negative.

**11. Question Period (Continued)**

Carol Ogilvie reported that the PAAC on SEAC has updated its website with videos, and the link will be sent to SEAC Chair. She asked whether SEAC will be updated on the Ministry of Education consultations regarding demonstration schools.

Superintendent Byers confirmed that Peel staff and student representatives participated in the focus group sessions, and members will be provided updated information.

Carol Ogilvie indicated that a memo was sent on September 8, 2016 to Directors of Education regarding updates to IEP guidelines. In response to her request for details, Ted Byers confirmed that he will report back to SEAC. Carol Ogilvie requested an update report on the Special Needs Strategy program. Superintendent Byers reported that Ana Pauchulo and Lorie Grant had provided oral reports on the working tables set up by the Ministry and the proposals submitted to the tables (Item 9 of these Minutes). Further details are confidential at this time, and SEAC will be updated when information is available. Carol Ogilvie reported that she has sent SEAC members the links to the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region Fall workshops.

Ann Smith recalled that last year, she had asked for statistics on children who were out of school. Superintendent Byers responded that, at this time, there is no electronic method of tracking these students. However, as students are enrolled, he will attempt to gather the data.

David Green remarked that members have made many requests for reports. He suggested to the administration that these reports be provided in writing, so that members can review them ahead of the meeting.

**12. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**13. Further Business**

**1. Mental Health Strategy Launch**

Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education, recalled that, in February 2016, SEAC was provided detailed information regarding the Board's Mental Health Strategy 2016. She invited members to the launch on October 5, 2016, of the five priority group projects involved in the Mental Health Strategy.

**14. Adjournment**

SE-65, moved by Barbara Cyr, that the meeting adjourn (20:45 hours).

..... carried

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