

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 30, 2013 (Helen Detwiler School - Library)

Those present:

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair
Judith Bishop, Trustee
Alex Johnstone, Trustee
Doug Foster, CHOICES - Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities
Mary Jane Gable-Flock, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) – Hamilton Branch (Alternate)
Adrian Mackey, The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio
Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter)
Pat Senft, Community Living Hamilton
Sandra Starr, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Lisa Tyrrell, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

In attendance:

Vicki Corcoran, Superintendent of Education - Leadership and Learning
Elizabeth Rutherford, Principal of Special Education Services

Also in attendance:

Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
Linda Lauppe, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Elementary
Heather Moffat, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Secondary
Wilma Minaker, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527

Regrets:

Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Maria Carbone, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Elementary
Bernadine Nabuurs, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) – Hamilton Branch
Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning Support Group

1. Call to Order/Welcome

J. Colantino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., welcoming everyone.

2. Elections – Chair and Vice-Chair

V. Corcoran noted the need to elect the new Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2012-2013 school year and then called for nominations for Chair of SEAC.

It was moved by D. Foster, seconded by L. Tyrrell: That Judy Colantino be nominated to the position of Chair of SEAC.

J. Colantino accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

To the motion, **CARRIED.**

V. Corcoran called for nominations for Vice-Chair of SEAC.

It was moved by J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by L. Vanderbrug: That Lita Barrie be nominated to the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC.

There were no other nominations.

To the motion, **CARRIED.**

(a) Message from the Chair

None.

Item	Discussion/Decision
<p>3. Approval of Agenda</p>	<p><u>Revisions:</u> <u>Added Items under Correspondence</u> Durham District School Board: Development Services of Ontario Agency (DSO), item 8(f) Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board: Ministry of Community and Social Services' "Transformation Agenda", item 8(g)</p> <p>It was moved by A. Mackey, seconded by D. Foster: That the agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED.</p>
<p>4. Approval of the Minutes</p>	<p>It was moved by D. Foster, seconded by L. Tyrrell: That the minutes of the November 28, 2012 meeting be approved. CARRIED.</p>
<p>5. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p><u>Positive School Climate: Summary from December</u> V. Corcoran advised of considerable feedback received, including from students. Principals also discussed Positive School Climate at their Principal's Conference. V. Corcoran will share the feedback information.</p>
<p>6. Department Updates/Reports PowerPoint Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning Foundations Program ▪ Gifted Centres ▪ Character Networks Foundations - Special Education Program ▪ Foundations Program - System Alternative Education 	<p><u>Learning Foundations Program</u> Presenters: Dolores Chapin (Special Education Consultant - Cluster South) and Cynthia Johnson (Special Education Elementary Teacher - Cluster South).</p> <p>The presenters discussed the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Program overview – this provides support for students with complex needs. ➤ Goals of the program ➤ Staff component ➤ Student eligibility ➤ Student selection process ➤ Intake process ➤ Transition to the program ➤ Continuous program monitoring ➤ Program demission criteria <p>In response to questions, the following clarifications were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A key goal is for the student to be engaged; this program is focused on primary students. ▪ The Inter-disciplinary team is very important, particularly

	<p>in how assessments come together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team members are able to look at participating students closely in terms of their learning needs in a supportive learning atmosphere. ▪ There is no wait list at this time. <p><u>Gifted Centres</u> Presenters: Beth Carey (Itinerant Gifted Teacher) and Ben Nywening (Psychological Consultant).</p> <p>The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Four centres are currently running. Each session starts with brain challenge and students acquire higher order thinking skills. ➤ Gifted student participants presently call themselves "da Vinci kids". ➤ The team started a site in the HWDSB Commons which is accessible by students and enables them to converse among themselves. ➤ Teachers are invited to two "coffee house" meetings running for sharing of ideas and information. ➤ The information gathering goes back to the students' home schools and the gifted team will work with their teachers to help with programming. <p><u>Character Networks Foundations – Special Education Program</u> Presenters: Todd Graves (Special Education Consultant - Cluster North) and Piero Evfremidis (Special Education Elementary Teacher - Cluster North)</p> <p>The presenters discussed the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose ➤ Goals – action piece is key ➤ Student profile – assessment ➤ Collaborative planning ➤ Program description ➤ Lisgar School, K-8 (location) ➤ Staffing: One Special Education Teacher, two Educational Assistants, One Special Education Consultant (Cluster North) ➤ Transportation is provided ➤ Daily activity schedule/routine ➤ Case conference model (reflections) ➤ Transition-out meeting <p>In response to questions, the following clarifications are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team is working towards the best fit/option for the students. ▪ Partnership possibilities are expanding beyond the system, including working closely with the parents. ▪ There are other programs available at Lisgar School to
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	<p>support these students.</p> <p><u>Foundations Program – System Alternative Education</u> (Information hand-outs were distributed.) Presenters: Steve Oulahen (System Principal - Care, Treatment and Correctional Programs, Secondary Alternative Education and Supervised Alternative Learning), Randy Shiga (Social Worker), John Elston (Secondary Teacher) and Julie Lofthouse (Educational Assistant).</p> <p>The presenters noted the following key points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This program involves transition and intervention. ▪ The student should want to be in the program to benefit from it and be successful. ▪ There are many pathways within the system Alternative Education which is located on King William Street. ▪ The team's key role is stabilizing the students then introduce to them pathways and other relevant programs available. ▪ In terms of technology, computers, iPads and cell phones are the common communication tools used by the students. Peer mentorship and shared experiences are also helpful in reaching out to these students. ▪ There are many volunteers in the different areas of the program, including community people. More community partnerships are being explored, particularly for paid Co-op placements. <p>E. Rutherford recognized the dedication and considerable efforts of staff working on the Foundations programs.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all the presenters for their time and hard work.</p>
<p>7. Members' Updates</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>8. Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Renfrew County District School Board: Special Education Funding Model b) Wellington Catholic District School Board: Special Education Funding Model c) Wellington Catholic District School Board: Cut to Special Services at Home Funding (SSAH) d) Upper Canada District School Board: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and Special Education Preparatory Courses e) CNIB: Representation on HWDSB SEAC (for SEAC approval) f) Durham District School Board: Development Services of Ontario 	<p>The Chair drew attention to the letters received for SEAC's consideration.</p> <p><u>CNIB: Representation on HWDSB SEAC</u></p> <p>It was moved by J. McEwen-Hill, seconded S. Starr: That April Benner and Susi Owen be appointed the new main and alternate representatives, respectively, of CNIB on SEAC during the 2010-2014 membership term. CARRIED.</p>

Agency (DSO) g) Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board: Ministry of Community and Services' "Transformation Agenda"	
8. Other Business	None.

Adjournment:

It was moved by A. Mackey, seconded by D. Foster: That the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 9:08 p.m.

CARRIED.

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