

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 31, 2017 (Room 308, Education Centre)

Present:

- Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
- Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair
- Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair
- Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
- Alex Johnstone, Trustee
- Andrea Lewis, Community Living Hamilton
- Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Paediatric & Rehabilitation
- Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary
- John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair (A)
- Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network
- Dr. Janice Tomlinson, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning
- Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
- John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
- Michele Moore, Principal of Special Education & Positive Culture

Regrets:

- Penny Deathe, Trustee
- Christine Joseph-Davies, Autism Ontario Hamilton Wentworth Chapter
- Tania Kerr, Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local
- Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group (A)
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
- Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
- Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Elementary
- Lorraine Sayles, The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

I. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. welcoming everyone.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. 2017-18 Budget Update	Denise Dawson, Senior Manager of Business Services presented an overview of the preliminary Special Education budget to be given to Board for approval on June 12th. This budget will then be filed with the Ministry by the end of June. Highlight includes 38.5 additional positions as well as an additional 10 educational assistants. SEAC recommends to the board that data be collected to review the effectiveness of extra supports in the classroom to try to discern the appropriate level of resources (ie. EA's, LRT, etc.) A. Johnstone will work on the language of SEAC recommendation with J. Tomlinson, T. White and J. Colantino to present at Board.
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill seconded by L. Barrie the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
4. Approval of Minutes	On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the April

	<p>26th meeting be approved. (Noted no quorum at April meeting.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
5. Business Arising from the Minutes	None
6. Members' Update	<p>A. Johnstone updated the following: Gave an overview of the Ancaster Area Accommodation and Area reviews that have been approved by trustees. All schools in this area will eventually be K – 8. As well, trustees have voted for a boundary review.</p> <p>The West Hamilton Accommodation and Area reviews will conclude with the trustees on Monday, June 5th at Board meeting. Discussion have included building a community hub in this area.</p> <p>Discussion from most recent Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) is around having student representation at the table.</p> <p>On June 1st the High and Moderate School Needs Report will be going to board.</p> <p>From M. Courtepatte: Formal letter of strong complaint has been sent to province concerning large underfunding for FASD. Recommendations had been ignored affecting 2500 kids.</p> <p>While supporting a child in criminal court, judge asked what supports were available for children in the province and was surprised to learn there were none. Mark explained that volunteer organizations are the only supports in place.</p> <p>Hill Park School: The Special Education Services team will be relocating to Hill Park Secondary school. This includes Continuing Education and Section 23. Access will be available to the staff by the end of August.</p>
7. Superintendent's Update	<p>Volunteer Staff and Community Partners combined to make the Special Olympics a great success. Secondary Special Olympics is on June 6th. All indoors so not weather dependent. J. Whitwell will investigate whether filming can be done or has been done for these events.</p> <p>YES I CAN Awards dinner took place on May 11th hosted by the Council for Exceptional Children – many students and staff received the Yes I Can! Awards.</p>
8. Correspondence	Deferred from April meeting. Read and filed.

I. Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group	
9. Other Business	None
Next Meeting	Wednesday, June 14 th , 2017

Adjournment:

On the motion of J.McEwen-Hill seconded by L. Barrie the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at **9:04 p.m.**

CARRIED.