



**SEAC's KEY VALUES:**

**Accountability  
Communication  
Honesty  
Positive Climate  
Respect**

**HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, October 28, 2015**

**Location: Education Centre (Room 308, Third Level)  
[20 Education Court, Hamilton, ON]**

**7:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order** J. Colantino
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes – September 30, 2015**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes**
  - (a) Update on CPS Process Michelle Rosenberg
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Members' Update** Members
- 7. Correspondence**
  - (a) Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group – New Alternate Representative on SEAC  
**[for SEAC approval]**
  - (b) Durham Catholic DSB – Regulation 274: Consequences and Impact on Special Education Needs
  - (c) Upper Canada DSB – Impact of Reformulation of High Needs Amount (HNA) Calculations on Special Education Funding
- 8. Other Business**

**[IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE ADVISE CHIT REVILLA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE – 905-527-5092, EXT. 2273 or e-mail: [crevilla@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:crevilla@hwdsb.on.ca)]**

**Future Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, November 25  
December (joint with PIC)  
Wednesday, January 27  
Wednesday, February 24  
Wednesday, March 30

Wednesday, April 27  
Wednesday, May 25  
Wednesday June 8 or June 15  
[due to school graduations]

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 MEMBERSHIP**

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE BOARD**

Judy Colantino	<b>Chair</b>
Lita Barrie	<b>Vice-Chair</b>

Christine Bingham (Ward 1 & 2)  
289-3396902  
Fax: 905-5212539 [c/o Director's Office]  
cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca

**Trustees:**

Larry Pattison (Ward 3)  
289-6892870  
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**MEMBERS OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS**

***Association for Bright Children of Ontario***

Susan Guzina  
Ph: 905-5609658  
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Rina Rodak (Alternate)  
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***CNIB Hamilton***

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lisa.tyrrell@cnib.ca

***Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)***

Bernadine Nabuurs  
B: 905-5238600, ext. 2150  
fax: 905-5748852  
bernadine.nabuurs@hnhb.ccac-ont.ca

***Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group***

Mark Courtepatte  
Catherine McFarland (Alternate)\*  
B: 905-6280055  
hamilton.fasd@gmail.com  
\*pending SEAC approval

***Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)***

Barbara Reeves  
H: 905-6289131  
reeves1@cogeco.ca

Mary Orlik (Alternate)  
mary.orlik@hotmail.com

***Community Living Hamilton***

Fran Doodeman  
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fdoodeman@clham.com

***Lynwood Charlton Centre***

Lynn Vanderbrug  
B: 905-3891361, ext. 235  
fax: 905-3898765  
lvanderbrug@lynwoodcharlton.ca

***The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton***

Lorraine Sayles  
B: 905-5221121, ext. 6264  
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lsayles@hamiltoncas.com

***CHOICES – Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities***

Doug Foster  
H: 905-6275716  
douglas41@sympatico.ca

***Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton***

Judy Colantino  
H: 905-3855022  
judycolantino@hotmail.com

John Sanges (Alternate)  
jsanges@sourcecable.net

***McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio***

Jenny McEwen-Hill  
B: 905-5212100, ext. 74457  
fax: 905-5212636  
hillj@hhsc.ca

***VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children***

Lita Barrie  
H: 905-5277796  
B: 905-5463200, ext. 3230  
lita.barrie@gmail.com

Kim Kurceba (Alternate)  
Ph: 289-2860881  
Kim.kurceba@live.ca

**Member at Large:**

***P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network***

Tracy Sherriff  
H: 905-9787784  
p.a.l.s@hotmail.com

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 MEMBERSHIP**

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**BOARD OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES**

Shelley Woon  
***Superintendent of Leadership and Learning***  
905-5275092, ext. 2625  
swoon@hwdsb.on.ca

John Whitwell  
***Principal of Special Education Services***  
905-5275092, ext. 2671  
jwhitwel@hwdsb.on.ca

***Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local***  
Tania Kerr, Vice-President of HWETL  
HWETL Office  
905-3182771  
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hwetl-vpe@sourcecable.net

***Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Elementary***  
**To be determined**

***Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21***  
Jeremy Abrahams  
905-5275092, ext. 2639  
(voice mail only)  
jabraham@hwdsb.on.ca

***Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Secondary***  
Brent Monkley  
Sherwood Secondary School  
905-3833377, ext. 275  
fax: 905-3186561  
bmonkley@hwdsb.on.ca

***Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527***  
Susan Lucek  
Green Acres School  
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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, September 30, 2015, (Room 308, Education Centre)**

**Those present:**

Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair – Chair Pro Tem  
 Larry Pattison, Trustee  
 Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group  
 Fran Doodeman, Community Living Hamilton  
 Bernadine Nabuurs, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre  
 Susie Owen, CNIB Hamilton  
 Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)  
 Lorraine Sayles, The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton  
 Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network  
 Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

**In attendance:**

Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning  
 John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services  
 Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation, District 21

**Regrets:**

Manny Figueiredo, Director of Education  
 Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair  
 Doug Foster, CHOICES – Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities  
 Susan Guzina, Association for Bright Children of Ontario  
 Susan Lucek, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527  
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio  
 Tania Kerr, Vice-President of Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers’ Local  
 Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Secondary

**1. Call to Order/Welcome**

Lita Barrie, Chair Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., welcoming everyone. She noted Chair Judy Colantino’s absence due to illness.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>	On the motion of B. Nabuurs, seconded by L. Sayles, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.</b>
<b>3. Introduction: Manny Figueiredo, new HWDSB Director of Education</b>	Due to a conflict with Director Figueiredo’s schedule, this item was deferred to the November 25, 2015 SEAC meeting.
<b>4. Approval of Minutes</b>	On the motion of F. Doodeman, seconded by M. Courtepatte, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting be approved. CARRIED.</b>
<b>5. Business Arising from the Minutes</b> (a) Update on Special Education Report	Superintendent Woon advised that the revised report was submitted to the Ministry of Education and also posted on HWDSB website.
<b>6. New Business</b> (a) Review of Values We Engage By (b) Topics for SEAC Presentations	<u>Review of Values We Engage By</u> Superintendent Woon recalled the process taken by the committee in developing SEAC’s key values. After some discussion, the members agreed to uphold the following values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accountability</li> <li>▪ Communication</li> <li>▪ Honesty</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Positive Climate</li> <li>▪ Respect</li> </ul> <p><u>Topics for SEAC Presentations</u>                  Superintendent Woon reviewed a list of topics and also encouraged the members to suggest other issues they want presented at future SEAC meetings.</p> <p>There was agreement that the following will be topics for future SEAC presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Joint SEAC meeting (with HWCDSB)</li> <li>▪ HWDSB Budget Presentation</li> <li>▪ Update on Student Transitions</li> <li>▪ Pathways to Special Education Classes and Programs</li> <li>▪ Youth Wellness Centre</li> <li>▪ Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS)</li> <li>▪ Parent Engagement and Advisory Initiatives at HWDSB</li> <li>▪ Programming for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students</li> <li>▪ Programming for Blind/Low Vision Students</li> <li>▪ Presentation on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Monitoring Update</b>                  a) Student Transitions                  b) Summer Writing Teams</p>	<p><u>Student Transitions</u>                  Superintendent Woon advised that a full report is forthcoming to Program Committee and Board in October. This report will be brought to the November SEAC meeting.</p> <p><u>Summer Writing Teams</u>                  Superintendent Woon referred to the following summer writing teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Communications</li> <li>➤ Autism Services</li> <li>➤ Psychological Services</li> <li>➤ Mental Health and Well-Being</li> <li>➤ CampAble Initiative</li> <li>➤ CPS Summer Institute, including evening session</li> </ul> <p>Responding to a request, Superintendent Woon agreed to bring an update on the CPS process, noting that staff are still waiting for the results of resource mapping. This will assist in assessing what the community is doing well and what still needs to be done.</p> <p>In response to a query, J. Abrahams explained that the “Hub” is a portal available to staff for professional learning and sharing of information.</p> <p>Principal Whitwell noted that the Gifted programming is doing quite well.</p>
<p><b>7. Members' Update</b></p>	<p><u>Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)</u>                  B. Nabuurs announced that Mary Jane Gable-Flock, retired recently and CCAC has not appointed a new alternate representative on SEAC at this time.</p>

	<p><u>Community Living Hamilton</u> F. Doodeman noted the organization's upcoming Annual General Meeting at McMaster Innovation Park on October 20<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Sheila Bennett, Professor of Education and former Chair of Department of Teacher Education at Brock University, as main/guest speaker.</p> <p><u>Hamilton FASD Parent &amp; Caregiver Support Group</u> M. Courtepatte reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The group started bi-weekly meetings, including some children, which gathered positive feedback and encouraged members to hold these meetings monthly.</li> <li>▪ A September 9, 2015 report was released following a roundtable meeting on FASD last May. The report contained considerable findings about FASD, particularly concerns on the lack of awareness in Ontario. FASD support groups, in collaboration with other stakeholders, have challenged the Ministry of Child and Social Services to address the key issues/findings.</li> </ul> <p><u>P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network</u> T. Sherriff noted an upcoming “Giving Your Child the Tools for Life (How to Raise Resilient Students)” workshop taking place on October 26<sup>th</sup> at Dr. John Perkins Centre in Hamilton.</p> <p><u>VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children</u> L. Barrie advised that the organization has recently launched its new website. She then noted the value of closed captioning in terms of literacy rates, not only to VOICE children, but to all early readers.</p>
<p><b>8. Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Wellington Catholic DSB – Concerns with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Students</li> <li>b) Wellington Catholic DSB – Support for Revisions to Ontario Reg. 272/12 Hiring Practices</li> </ul>	<p><u>Wellington Catholic DSB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Concerns with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Students</li> <li>b) Support for Revisions to Ontario Reg. 272/12 Hiring Practices</li> </ul> <p>On the motion of M. Courtepatte, seconded by L. Vanderbrug the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS</b> that these letters be received and filed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
<p><b>9. Other Business</b></p>	<p>None.</p>

**Adjournment:**

On the motion of B. Nabuurs , seconded by F. Doodeman, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 8:25 p.m.

**CARRIED**

7(a)



**Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group**

35 Chifney Lane, Ancaster, ON L9K 1K7

Website: [hamiltonfasdsupport.ca](http://hamiltonfasdsupport.ca)

Tel: (905) 628-0055 Email: [hamilton.fasd@gmail.com](mailto:hamilton.fasd@gmail.com)

October 16, 2015

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
20 Education Court, Hamilton, ON L9A 0B9

Attention: Judy Colantino  
Chair, SEAC – Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

Dear Judy:

**Re: Endorsement/Nomination for Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group Alternate on Hamilton Wentworth District School Board SEAC**

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The intention of this letter is to:

1. Advise that Mr. Jeff Gowland is no longer able to continue as alternate for the Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group SEAC.
2. Indicate my endorsement and nomination for Mrs. Catherine McFarland as the replacement alternate.

For background information, Mrs. McFarland is a resident of Hamilton. She has two children presently in the HWDSB. Mrs. McFarland is a strong contributing member of our support group, and as well she is one of the founding members of the FASD Youth & Sibling Support Group formed in May 2015.

I regret that I am not able to attend the Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting in the event that my endorsement/nomination is raised for consideration at the meeting as I will be attending the Ashinabek G7 FASD Conference however I am hopeful that the SEAC are able to consider my endorsement / nomination in my absence.

My sincere thanks to you and the members of SEAC for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Courtepatte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Courtepatte  
Co-Chair  
Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group



## Durham Catholic District School Board



September 15, 2015

The Honourable Liz Sandals  
 Minister of Education  
 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
 900 Bay Street  
 Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Madame Minister:

The SEAC of Durham Catholic District School Board is writing to express our concern about the unintended consequences of Reg. 274 as it has great impact on the students who have special education needs.

Durham Catholic District School Board, like many other Ontario school boards, takes great pride in accommodating students with special education needs within the regular, inclusive classroom. In order to accommodate the rising number of students with special education needs within these classrooms, Administration is required to assign teachers who would best support the well-being and achievement of all students, in particular students with special education needs. An unintended consequence of Reg. 274 has resulted in the Administration having to hire based on seniority rather than based on hiring the best candidate to meet the needs of the students, including those students with special education needs.

Further impacting the student is the challenge of teacher mobility throughout the province. Hiring in remote areas by seniority does not necessarily provide all students with the opportunity to be taught by teachers with training in their specific area of need, thus putting the students with special educational needs at a disadvantage in the regular classroom. Allowing the school board Administration the opportunity to hire candidates with specific skills and experiences would help to encourage teachers to consider remote areas for teaching positions. Ultimately, it is students, and particularly students with special education needs who do not benefit from the impact of Reg. 274.

Durham Catholic District School Board would like to thank you for your consideration of the challenges identified by our SEAC, but also by the other SEACs, Boards, and Administration. It is our hope that Reg. 274 will be reconsidered in order to promote fair, consistent and student focused hiring.

Sincerely,

Lynne Smart  
 Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 7C4

Tel 905 576-6150 Toll Free 1 877 482-0722

[www.dcdsb.ca](http://www.dcdsb.ca)

cc: Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

Anne O'Brien B.A., B. Ed., M. Ed. Director of Education / Secretary-Treasurer



September 15, 2015

The Honourable Liz Sandals  
Minister of Education  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Sandals:

Members of Upper Canada District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (UCDSB's SEAC) would like to express our concern over the previous, current and future planned decrease in our special education funding, due to the reformulation of the High Needs Amount (HNA) calculation, which excludes the Special Incidence Portion...

- 2013/2014 HNA (adj. for Full Day Kindergarten) was funded at \$22,092,421,
- 2014/2015 HNA as per Revised Budget was funded at \$19,668,130,
- 2015/2016 HNA is estimated to be funded at \$18,676,063,
- 2016/2017 HNA is estimated to be funded at \$17,678,671, and
- 2017/2018 HNA is estimated to be funded at \$16,900,434

Although the funding reduction began in the 2014/15 school year, we had deferred revenue available to minimize the impact on our most vulnerable students for that year only. UCDSB no longer has deferred revenue with which to buffer the impact of this decrease.

Our senior staff have done an exceptional job of planning to ensure minimal impact is felt by our students in the classroom to date. However, any further reductions from the 2015/16 year funding level will result in significant impact at the classroom level. We are concerned about our board's ability to meet the legal requirements outlined in student's IEP's as well as our ability to respond to requests for IPRC's.

One measure that our board has implemented to respond to these budget constraints is creating Student Support Partners which amalgamates the Child and Youth Worker (CYW) and Behaviourist positions. For 2015/16 there will be 20 Student Support Partners. In 2014/15 there were 20 CYWs and 11 Behaviourists. This will result in the



SEAC 11/13/14



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Special Education Advisory Committee  
**SEAC**

absence of CYW's at high schools on a daily basis. These positions helped with significant mental health needs of our students and allowed for more engaged student learning. Students with anxiety and depression as well as students in crisis rely heavily on these CYW.

We currently see and hear about needs that have not been met and know that we have a responsibility to provide for those students' needs. The forecasted funding cuts for 2016/17 and 2017/18 make us very anxious about how our board will be able to meet its responsibility to our high needs population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kimberley Wright'.

Kimberley Wright,  
SEAC Vice-Chair on behalf  
of UCDSB SEAC Committee

cc: Ontario SEAC Committees

