

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 28, 2015, (Room 308, Education Centre)

Those present:

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair
 Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair
 Larry Pattison, Trustee
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio
 Lorraine Sayles, The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton
 Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network
 Kathie Soules (proxy for Fran Doodeman)
 Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

In attendance:

Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning
 John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
 Susan Lucek, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527
 Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
 Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Elementary

Regrets:

Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation, District 21
 Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
 Fran Doodeman, Community Living Hamilton
 Doug Foster, CHOICES – Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities
 Susan Guzina, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
 Susie Owen, CNIB Hamilton
 Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., welcoming everyone. Noting there was no quorum at this point in the meeting, members agreed with the Chair’s suggestion of hearing the Update on Mental Health Strategy first. There was quorum after the update/presentation.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of T. Sherriff, seconded by L. Vanderbrug, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
3. Approval of Minutes	On the motion of L. Vanderbrug, seconded by L. Sayles, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the September 30, 2015 meeting be approved. CARRIED.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes (a) Update on Mental Health Strategy	The Chair called on Michelle Rosenberg (Manager of Mental Health and Well Being) to present the update. The following key points were covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2011- “Open Minds Healthy Minds”- outlined long term comprehensive Tri-Ministerial strategy to improve the Mental Health and Well Being of all Ontarians ▪ Areas of initial focus was on children & youth (Fast Access to High Quality Services, Identify and Intervene Early, Close Critical Service Gaps) ▪ Five areas of current focus (Promoting Mental Health and Well Being; Ensuring Early Identification and Intervention; Expanding Housing, Employment Supports, Justice System Diversion and Transitions; The Right Care at the Right

	<p>Time in the Right Place; Funding Based on Need and Quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Mental Health Assist (headed by Dr. Kathy Short)- Provincial Implementation Support Team working with Mental Health Leads in all 72 School Boards to establish pillars of successful implementation for a Mental Health and Well Being Strategy (Organizational Conditions, Capacity Building, Evidence Based/Evidence Informed Programming) ▪ HWDSB’s revised Mental Health and Well-Being strategy is focused on establishing organizational conditions that facilitate the development of core conditions of well-being for all students and staff ▪ Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) is the underpinning of HWDSB’s Mental Health & Well Being strategy and is currently in Year 2 of a 3-5 year implementation plan ▪ Other highlights for this year include: Year 1 of Mindfulness Practices; School Based Mental Health Leads, Staff Capacity Building Mental Health Modules; Implementation of the revised Suicide Response Protocol & Best Practice Guidelines; Updated Mental Health and Well Being page on the Board’s website <p>The Chair thanked M. Rosenberg for her time and efforts.</p>
<p>5. New Business</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>6. Members’ Update</p>	<p><u>McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio</u> All pediatric services (including autism, mental health programs and patient services) from the Chedoke Hospital site will move to its new facility, the Ron Joyce Children’s Health Centre, located at 325 Wellington Street North in Hamilton, across from the Regional Rehabilitation Centre and Hamilton General Hospital. The Ministry opening is November 17th while doors open for services on November 23rd.</p> <p><u>Trustees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Pupil Accommodation Review Process of two areas for 2015-2016: Lower Stoney Creek and East Hamilton City ▪ Trustees are at the next stage of HWDSB’s Strategic Directions ▪ Meetings of Transition committees are on hold due to ongoing job action
<p>7. Monitoring Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion at the annual joint Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and SEAC meeting on December 8th will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Resources available for parents and community ➢ Summer writing projects relating to parent web-based and language resources

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hub, which is being launched, will include some special education resources ▪ PIC will be at a future SEAC meeting for discussion regarding parent issues. ▪ Asthma Directive (resulting from Ryan’s Law [Bill 20]) was passed at the October 28th Board meeting; this directive ensures that students are permitted to carry asthma medication and the schools have strategies in place to support this process. Ryan’s Law requires all school boards to establish and maintain an Asthma Policy. ▪ Transforming Learning Everywhere has been the focus across HWDSB in terms of working and transforming system classes, 3-tier process, alignment of system areas, including special education classes. Hiring and training of staff will take place in support of rollout of technology.
<p>7. Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group – New Alternate Representative on SEAC 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 	<p><u>Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group – New Alternate Representative on SEAC</u> On the motion of L. Barrie, seconded by J. McEwen-Hill, the Committee RECOMMENDS that Catherine McFarland be the new alternate representative of Hamilton FASD Parent 7 Caregiver Support Group on HWDSB’s SEAC. CARRIED.</p> <p>The members agreed to receive and file the following letters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Durham Catholic DSB – Regulation 274: Consequences and Impact on Special Education Needs ▪ Upper Canada DSB – Impact of Reformulation of High Needs Amount (HNA) Calculations on Special Education Funding <p>There was concurrence that the SEAC Chair, in consultation with Stacey Zucker, Superintendent of Business Services, write a response letter to Upper Canada DSB regarding this board’s concern with the impact of reformulation of High Needs Amount (HNA) calculations on special education funding.</p>
<p>8. Other Business</p>	<p><u>Parents as Partners Initiative</u> The Chair noted that future meetings will include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helping to address and answer parents’ questions ▪ Transition to high school ▪ Attendance of Superintendent of Leadership & Learning – Special Education ▪ Presentation re mental health and well being (Michelle Rosernberg) ▪ Individual Education Plan (IEP) for fall in 2016

Adjournment:

On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by L. Sayles, the Committee **RECOMMENDS that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 8:35 p.m.**

CARRIED