

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 25, 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
 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
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio
 Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
 Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
 John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton (Alternate)
 Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

In attendance:

Manny Figueiredo, Director of Education
 Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning
 John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
 Deb Katz, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527 (attending for Susan Lucek)
 Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Secondary
 Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Elementary

Regrets:

Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation, District 21
 Tania Kerr, Vice-President of Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers’ Local
 Susan Lucek, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527
 Susie Owen, CNIB Hamilton
 Lorraine Sayles, The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton
 Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., welcoming everyone.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of B. Nabuurs, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
3. Introduction: Manny Figueiredo, new HWDSB Director of Education	The Chair welcomed Manny Figueiredo, the newly appointed HWDSB Director of Education. Director Figueiredo shared some background information about himself and highlighted his career in the education field, particularly at HWDSB. He expressed his excitement with the opportunity and privilege to be in his new position. Director Figueiredo noted his vision of supporting students of all needs and belief on inclusion and likewise finding balance with this concept. Speaking briefly on the Reimagine initiative, Director Figueiredo emphasized his mandate of creating a positive

	<p>culture for HWDSB, adding this will be facilitated through team work with the Board of Trustees and Executive Council.</p> <p>On behalf of SEAC, the Chair thanked Director Figueiredo for his time and efforts.</p>
<p>4. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
<p>5. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Feedback on items discussed at the October 28th SEAC meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ M. Courtepatte was pleased about the discussion on the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS). ▪ Superintendent Woon clarified that when the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is in attendance at a future SEAC meeting, the discussion will focus more on priorities of PIC.. ▪ L. Barrie suggested holding a future SEAC meeting at the new Ron Joyce Children’s Health Centre where the McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation has moved its paediatrics and patient services. <p>J. McEwen-Hill noted that an open house to this new facility has been scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd.</p>
<p>6. New Business (a) January 14, 2016 Joint SEAC HWCDSB and HWDSB</p>	<p>The members agreed to having a joint SEAC meeting with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at the Nicholas Mancini Centre on 44 Hunt Street, Hamilton.</p>
<p>7. Members’ Update</p>	<p><u>Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group</u> M. Courtepatte reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since its relationship with HWDSB (parents and staff), attendance to the Group’s monthly meeting at the Mountain Police Station has doubled and resulted in a change in the meeting venue. The group will now meet at Community Centre on 2-64 Elite Drive, Hamilton. ▪ The Group has created Youth and Sibling which provides support for youth with FASD and their siblings. This initiative has been receiving positive results and feedback. <p><u>Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton</u> J. Colantino advised that the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, in partnership with the Down Syndrome Program at Boston Children’s Hospital, will hold a webinar on children with Down Syndrome and their behavioural challenges. Dr. David Stein, Psy.D., Co-Director of the Down Syndrome Program at the Boston Children’s Hospital, will be the key moderator. This online presentation will take place on Thursday, December 10th, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.</p> <p><u>Trustees</u> Trustee Pattison highlighted the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Transition Committee meetings have been delayed (due to labour negotiations and sanctions) and rescheduled to January 2016. ▪ The opening of the new south school (Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School) has been delayed. ▪ Trustees considered and approved a motion at the November 23, 2015 Board meeting to engage in a conversation with Wesley Urban Ministries and the City of Hamilton to use empty schools to help settle Syrian refugees in Hamilton. ▪ Trustees met on November 21, 2015 on the Reimagine initiative and engaged in an excellent process and discussion with Executive Council members and Consultant Wayne Joudrie. Timeline for the draft Strategic Directions document is December 2nd, for presentation to the Board on December 7th with the consultation process beginning in January 2016. ▪ The current Board held its last meeting on November 23rd (the first of the 4-year term) and the next Board will begin in December 2015. <p>Trustee Pattison thanked and acknowledged the team work and efforts of staff and various committees, including SEAC.</p>
<p>8. Monitoring Update – Superintendent S. Woon</p>	<p>Superintendent Woon’s update included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the November 27th Professional Day (PD) a few learning opportunities will be provided to support EA’s knowledge and skills in ASD, CPS and NVCI. Staff remaining in schools will be provided PD opportunities to work on independently or in small groups (resources will include web-based supports to create awareness of Mental Health Assist, provincial initiative and Collaborative and Proactive Solutions. EAs will also have opportunity to prepare resources to assist with the programming of students with special needs. Positive School Climate Consultants Aaron Pulley and Lori Burnagieli, have planned a professional development opportunity to assist Elementary School Support EAs with the programming they provide to students. ▪ Discussion on Special Education budget has started at Executive Council. Superintendents of Student Achievement, in collaboration with school administrators and managers, have begun gathering information relative to what the priorities are in terms of supporting their schools. Various advisory groups, including SEAC, will also be consulted for their input. <p>SEAC had a 30-minute (8:30-9:00 p.m.) small breakout group discussions regarding Special Education budget priorities based on pressing needs of our students.</p>

	<p>Judy Colantino, on behalf of SEAC, emphasized the committee’s desire to have an update on how the Mountain and Parkview students performed in the second semester of 2014-2015 and how the students are doing this school year.</p> <p>Trustee Pattison shared that he had received positive feedback from the parents at a meeting he recently attended at Mountain.</p> <p>In response to a question, it was clarified that secondary school enrolment was slightly declining from Semester 1 to Semester 2 for some reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Down in terms of projections; the data piece poses challenge for many school boards ▪ Impact on data entry due to labour dispute/sanction ▪ Need to assess projections; reached a point where enrolment has reached a plateau ▪ In spite of a plateau stage, there are pockets of growth; overall, enrolment is actually stabilizing instead of declining <p>Members were apprised about the current status of both provincial and local negotiations for all union groups, noting those who have reached tentative agreements.</p>
<p>9. Correspondence (a) Ottawa-Carleton DSB – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)</p>	<p>The members agreed to receive and file the following letter: (a) Ottawa-Carleton DSB – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)</p>
<p>10. Other Business</p>	<p>The Chair reminded members about the upcoming joint SEAC/PIC meeting on <u>Tuesday, December 8th, at the Education Centre (Room 180A) from 6:00-8:30 p.m.</u></p> <p>SEAC would like to receive an electronic copy of the Student Achievement Report.</p>

Adjournment:

On the motion of D. Foster, seconded by J. McEwen-Hill, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED.