

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 24, 2016 (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
 Alex Johnstone, Trustee
 Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
 Fran Doodeman, Community Living Hamilton
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio
 Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
 John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton (Alternate)
 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
 Pam Reinholdt, Superintendent of Transitions
 John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
 Susan Lucek, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527
 Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Elementary

Regrets:

Larry Pattison, Trustee
 Bernadine Nabuurs, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)
 Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Secondary

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Superintendent Woon called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., welcoming everyone. To accommodate the presenters, S. Woon suggested considering the two presentations at this time.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of J. Colantino, seconded by A. Johnstone, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
3. New Business (a) <u>Election of SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair</u>	<u>Election of SEAC Chair</u> Superintendent Woon advised that SEAC should have its elections for Chair and Vice-Chair, subsequent to the elections for the new Board. She then called for nominations for SEAC Chair. On the motion of T. Sherriff, seconded by M. Courtepatte, the Committee RECOMMENDS that Judy Colantino be appointed SEAC Chair. Superintendent Woon asked three times if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

<p>(b) <u>Timed Presentations</u> (The presentations were moved to the top of the agenda in consideration of the presenters.)</p> <p>7:15 p.m.: Youth Wellness Centre</p> <p>7:45 p.m.: Update on Student Transitions</p> <p>(c) <u>Joint HWDSB/HWCDSB SEAC Tour of the new Ron Joyce Children’s Health Centre</u></p>	<p>J. Colantino accepted her nomination.</p> <p>Moved by T. Sherriff, seconded by M. Courtepatte: That the nomination be closed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>To the main motion,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>J. Colantino thanked the members for her re-election and assumed the Chair.</p> <p><u>Election of SEAC Vice-Chair</u></p> <p>The Chair called for nominations for SEAC Vice-Chair.</p> <p>On the motion of L. Vanderbrug, seconded by L. Sayles the Committee RECOMMENDS that Lita Barrie be appointed SEAC Vice-Chair.</p> <p>The Chair asked three times if there were any other nominations.</p> <p>There were no other nominations.</p> <p>L. Barrie accepted her nomination.</p> <p>Moved by T. Sherriff, seconded by J. McEwen-Hill: That the nomination be closed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>To the main motion,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>L. Barrie thanked the members for her re-election as SEAC Vice-Chair.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Trustee Johnstone, one of two trustees on SEAC for the new Board.</p> <p><u>Youth Wellness Centre</u></p> <p>Lisa Jeffs, Program Manager, made a presentation on St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton’s Youth Wellness Centre, an accessible, friendly space for young people age 17-25 to receive the best possible care for mental health and addiction issues. The centre opened in March 2015 at 38 James St. South, Hamilton, ON on the 2nd floor (contact information: YWCintake@stjoes.ca; 905-522-1155, x31725). Youth participation, research and evaluation are integrated into the program.</p>
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	<p>Copies of the PowerPoint presentation and the ReachOut Hamilton flyer were distributed during the presentation.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Service streams (Early Intervention, Transition Support, Mobile Team)▪ Staffing▪ Clinical services▪ Preliminary data (the first six months) in terms of referrals and number of youth seen▪ The next steps<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Continue support for trans youth peer support group➤ Partnerships with several community agencies (Good Shepherd, Alternatives for Youth, Child and Adolescent Services)➤ Address several system challenges identified <p>Superintendent Woon advised that going forward a link to Youth Wellness Centre will be available on HWDSB website.</p> <p>There was a comment that the Centre may be able to facilitate early identification, particularly in terms of reducing case load.</p> <p>The committee thanked L. Jeffs for her time and efforts.</p> <p><u>Update on Student Transitions</u></p> <p>Superintendent of Transition Pam Reinholdt presented the report Student Achievement Data of Transitioned Hill Park and Parkview Students (2013-2014 School Year). The report shows a summary of the first and second semester achievement data of students who transitioned from Hill Park (Grades 10, 11, 12) and Parkview (Grades 10, 11, 12) Secondary Schools in June 2014. The statistical analyses presented were prepared by HWDSB's Evidence-Based Education Services Team (E-BEST). The report also showed a section on Supporting Early Leavers.</p> <p>Key highlights of the discussion were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Wilson Reading, Jump Math and Empower programs supported transition for these students.▪ It was noted that this report focused solely on the academic achievement of these transitioned students based on a specific request for data by the Board. Some other factors considered were attendance record and socio-emotional well being of these students.▪ SEAC would like to see:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An overview on the why and how of the transition program/initiative: What programs are in place? Who made the decisions and how these decisions were made? ➤ Resources and support in place specific to those transitioned students who are not doing well or unable to get credits ➤ Programs in place and decisions made around these and engagement of the transitioned students ➤ Data on who are the students actually accessing these programs and resources ➤ A comparison of transitioned students and those students who did not transition ➤ A closer analysis of the Early Leavers data, including the impact of the different programs and resources made available to these students ➤ Specific number of students working toward either an OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) or an OSSC (Ontario Secondary School Certificate), including timelines and a clear depiction of what they are working toward ➤ How the data presented in the report compare to those students in composite high schools for Semester 2 in terms of getting 4 or more credits? <p>SEAC members were advised that all data in terms of student needs, e.g., mental health issues, student culture and profile, may be looked at through HWDSB’s Alternative Education programs and partnerships with various stakeholder groups. Staff agreed to take back SEAC’s feedback and questions for further review and bring back a report at a future SEAC meeting.</p> <p>The committee expressed their thanks and appreciation for Superintendent Reinholdt’s time and efforts.</p> <p><u>Joint HWDSB/HWCDSB SEAC Tour of the new Roy Joyce Children’s Health Centre</u></p> <p>Members agreed with the suggestion of confirming the proposed tour date of April 21st with the contact persons at HWCDSB and the Ron Joyce Children’s Health Centre.</p>
<p>4. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>On the motion of L. Vanderbrug, seconded by J. McEwen-Hill, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the November 25, 2015 meeting be approved.</p>

	<p>Noting the considerable details in the minutes, Trustee Johnstone suggested that Chair Colantino and Superintendent Woon may want to consult with Heather Miller, Officer of Trustee Services, and discuss the Board's current Governance process, particularly relative to the format and style of Board and Committee minutes.</p> <p>To the motion,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
<p>5. Members' Update</p>	<p><u>Trustees</u> Trustee Johnstone's update included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was considerable participation from all stakeholders in the consultation process for HWDSB's Strategic Directions which is now in its final stage. The development and implementation of these Strategic Directions are facilitated by Consultant Wayne Joudrie. ▪ HWDSB's Program Committee (Trustee Johnstone is current Chair) is looking at the Elementary Program Strategy which sets out principles similar to the Secondary School Program Strategy, including review of French Immersion and tiered programs. ▪ HWDSB is continuing the building of new schools and renovating/renewing existing spaces from recent years' accommodation reviews. ▪ Consultation process for: (a) 2016-2017 School Year Calendars and subsequent Board approval and submission to the Ministry of Education; (b) Parent Engagement Policy ▪ Upcoming election for 2016-2017 Student Trustees which is being facilitated by the current Student Trustees, Student Senate and appropriate Board staff. ▪ The Board has started its 2016-2017 Budget process and one key item for consideration is the number of Syrian refugees who came into our school system and the transition plan around this. Staff have been asked to track this in terms of expenses. ▪ The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) has obtained a report from EQAO regarding EQAO's plan to move its assessment data to online/computer-based format based on accessibility point of view. <p><u>Special Education Services</u> Principal John Whitwell provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special Olympics Dates: Elementary Schools - May 17th, rain date: May 19th, venue: Saltfleet Secondary School; Secondary Schools – June 7th, rain date: June 9th, venue: Mohawk College

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The IPRC process will commence soon and focus will be on looking at what is best for the child. ▪ Educational Assistant Professional Day dates: last January 29th and February 26th (entire system) ▪ There was very good turnout at the February 3rd “Parents as Partners” event and this will be a joint undertaking with Student Success next year.
<p>6. Monitoring Update – Superintendent S. Woon</p>	<p>Superintendent Shelley Woon noted that the Best Start Network, in partnership with Culture for Kids in the Arts, facilitated the creation of a new made-in Hamilton Charter of Rights for Children and Youth.</p> <p>Superintendent Woon advised further that beginning in the fall of 2015, Hamilton’s Charter of Right for Children and Youth exhibition began a tour of the city, including stops at municipal centres and libraries. The art exhibition has been at the lobby of HWDSB’s Education Centre from February 1-29, 2016.</p>
<p>7. Correspondence</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>8. Other Business</p>	<p>None.</p>

Adjournment:

On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 9:14 p.m.

CARRIED.

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