

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 25, 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
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
Bernadine Nabuurs, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre
Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair (alternate)
Lorraine Sayles, The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

In attendance:

Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning
John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
Tania Kerr, Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local
Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary

Regrets:

Alex Johnstone, Trustee
Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
Rina Rodak, Association for Bright Children of Ontario (alternate)
Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network
Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Elementary

I. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., welcoming everyone.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of B. Nabuurs, seconded by J. McEwen-Hill, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
3. Approval of Minutes	On the motion of B. Reeves, seconded by F. Doodeman, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting be approved. CARRIED.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes (a) <u>Report re Student Transitions</u>	<u>Report re Student Transitions</u> Providing a brief background, Superintendent of Transitions Pam Reinholdt highlighted the following key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Program Offerings and Student Choices▪ Attendance▪ Course Levels Offered and Extra Curricular▪ Option Sheets▪ Supports▪ School Culture and Relationships▪ Academic Achievement▪ Mountain and Delta Secondary Schools▪ 2016-2017 School Year – last year for reporting on this transition

	<p>On behalf of SEAC, the Chair thanked Superintendent Reinholdt for her time and efforts.</p> <p>The Chair voiced SEAC's appreciation and thanks for the Board's commitment and hard work in supporting the transitions of these students.</p>
5. June Meeting Date	<p>It was agreed that the June SEAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m. in Room 308 at the Education Centre.</p>
6. Members' Update	<p><u>Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)</u></p> <p>B. Reeves advised that a new representative will be replacing her and a letter to HWDSB about this is forthcoming from the association.</p> <p>SEAC members expressed their thanks and appreciation to B. Reeves for her efforts and contributions at SEAC.</p> <p><u>Special Education Services</u></p> <p>Principal Whitwell highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The successful May 17th Elementary Special Olympics at Saltfleet Secondary School, noting the very high attendance. He expressed thanks and appreciation for the generous support from staff and community partners who facilitated this annual event. The Secondary Special Olympics will take place on June 7th at Mohawk College. ▪ May staffing has been completed and an update will be provided to SEAC at the next meeting. ▪ The placement process for students in special class went very well overall. Staff have been working diligently to try to problem solve a couple of situations. ▪ A recent fundraising event took place for Glenwood School. <p>To receive an update about programming at Glenwood School, the members agreed to hold a future SEAC meeting there sometime in the fall.</p> <p>Superintendent Woon's update included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Superintendent Woon facilitated a Specialized Services Advisory session with approximately 30 staff from varied roles. Charts of "Next Steps" pertaining to the Learning for All and CPS beliefs were shared with members. The group will meet three times over the 2016-2017 school year to continue to bring staff voice to planning within the Specialized Services department. ▪ On June 10th John Morris, the President of The Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527 (COPE) and Superintendent Woon will collaboratively facilitate a meeting of approximately 25 Elementary Educational Assistants to discuss strategies and supports that are beneficial to supporting the EA role and contribute to a Positive Culture and Well-Being within the

	<p>workplace. A similar session will occur on June 29th with a group of Secondary Educational Assistants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Woon informed the members of her participation on the provincial Special Education Committee that has been created as an outcome of the central agreement between Elementary Teachers' Federation Ontario (ETFO), Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the Crown. The committee is discussing issues in Special Education and generating a report of recommendations to the Minister of Education. The Special Education Plan is being updated and this will be brought to SEAC for review and consideration.
7. Monitoring Update	See Business Arising from the Minutes, item 4(a) Report re Student Transitions.
8. Correspondence	None.
9. Other Business	None.

Adjournment:

On the motion of B. Reeves, seconded by M. Courtepatte, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED.