

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 2017 (Room 308, Education Centre)**

**Present:**

- Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
- Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair
- Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair
- Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
- Penny Deathe, Trustee
- Alex Johnstone, Trustee
- Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary
- Michele Moore, Principal of Special Education & Positive Culture
- John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair (A)
- Lorraine Sayles, The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
- Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network
- Janice Tomlinson, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning
- Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
- John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services

**Regrets:**

- Christine Joseph-Davies, Autism Ontario Hamilton Wentworth Chapter
- Tania Kerr, Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local
- Andrea Lewis, Community Living Hamilton
- Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatric & Rehabilitation
- Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group (A)
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
- Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
- 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
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>	On the motion of L. Vanderbrug seconded by T. Sherriff the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.</b>
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	On the motion of M. Courtepatte, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting be approved. CARRIED.</b>
<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	<p>L. Barrie reminded the committee not to lose track of the money available that was referenced in the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes.</p> <p>M. Courtepatte distributed the draft letter to the Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter, as a task approved in the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter does refer to the concerns of support for FASD students</li> <li>• Noted that it also reflects in the letter the lack of funding for all exceptional students</li> <li>• CC of the letter will be sent to Minister of Health, Child and Youth Services, Ontario School Board Chairs, Ontario Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs, OPSBA and MACSE</li> </ul>

	<p>On the motion of L. Barrie, seconded by T. Sherriff, the Committee approves the letter as written. <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>5. Special Education Technology Update/Presentation</b></p>	<p>J. Whitwell introduced and welcomed Andrew Kelly, Special Assignment Teacher, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since November new software has been introduced in Special Education</li> <li>• All Special Education classes have iPads and Apple TV</li> <li>• Access here for TLE <a href="http://bit.ly/SEACTLEUPDATE">http://bit.ly/SEACTLEUPDATE</a></li> <li>• Technology is a learning tool rather than a reward and iPads are the “tool” of choice</li> <li>• Continued collaboration with various departments</li> <li>• Website developed <a href="http://Explain.commonshwdsb.on.ca">Explain.commonshwdsb.on.ca</a> acts as a universal device which other schools and boards can share their work and ideas instantly</li> <li>• Book Creator App is brand new this year with assistive features for writing social stories that can be shared with all students</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish pilot for blended learning</li> <li>• Continue with tech integration continuum</li> <li>• Focus on communication and assessment</li> </ul> <p>Comment/suggestion brought forward for parents to be inserviced so they can be educated on how students are learning with this new technology and not just playing games.</p> <p>The committee looks forward to welcoming Andrew back at the end of the school year or the beginning of next for further updates.</p>
<p><b>6. Members’ Update</b></p>	<p>A. Johnstone gave an update on the Ministry’s plan for SHSMs and opening more programs. As well as tentative plans for the promotion of these programs to students who may not fully understand the Specialized High School Major Programs that are already offered.</p> <p>P. Deathe attended the Healthy Relationship Conference and reported on the success of HWDSB being a front runner in this area.</p> <p>Update of the status of Hill Park was shared by A. Johnstone. Looking to perhaps house many different programs such as Adult and Alternative Education and perhaps Section 23 programs. Details are still being planned with Facilities.</p> <p>M. Courtepatte attended the “Supporting Suicidal Teens” reporting on the success of this informative conference.</p>

<p><b>7. Superintendent's Update</b></p>	<p>Budget Priority Survey in on HWDSB website and members are encouraged to participate. The closing date is Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Province having a feedback session on the Draft Provincial Framework for Alternative Programs and Courses on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Representative from SEAC is invited. If interested, please connect with J. Colantino.</p> <p>Yes I Can Awards Dinner will be on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Michelangelo. More information to follow.</p> <p>Special Olympics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary will be held at Saltfleet on May 17<sup>th</sup> (RD May 18)</li> <li>• Secondary will be held at Mohawk College on June 6<sup>th</sup> (RD TBD)</li> </ul> <p>Student Summer Experience workshops will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Hamilton Family Engagement Initiative (Handout) "Working for a Safe and Happy Future for our Children and Ourselves" will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 – 9 p.m. at 220 Cranbrook Drive.</p>
<p><b>8. Correspondence</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bluewater District School Board</li> <li>2. Nippising Parry Sound Catholic District School Board</li> </ol>	<p>Received and filed.</p>
<p><b>9. Other Business</b></p>	<p>No other business</p>

**Adjournment:**

On the motion of L. Vanderbrug seconded by A. Johnstone the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 8:36 p.m.

**CARRIED.**