

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2017 (Room 180 C, Education Centre)**

**Present:**

- 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
- Tania Kerr, Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local
- Andrea Lewis, Community Living Hamilton
- Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group (A)
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
- 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
- Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
- Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning

**Regrets:**

- Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
- Christine Joseph-Davies, Autism Ontario Hamilton Wentworth Chapter
- Kim Kurceba, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children (A)
- Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children's Developmental Paediatric & Rehabilitation
- Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary
- Michele Moore, Principal of Special Education & Positive Culture
- Mary Orlik, Autism Ontario Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter (A)
- Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
- Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Elementary
- Rina Rodak, Association for Bright Children in Ontario (A)
- Lisa Tyrrell, CNIB Hamilton (A)
- John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
- Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership & Learning: Specialized Services

**1. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Chair called the meeting to order at **7:05 pm** welcoming everyone.

Item	Discussion/Decision
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>	On the motion of <b>Lynn Vanderburg</b> seconded by <b>Tracy Sherriff</b> the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS</b> that the agenda be approved.  <b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	On the motion of <b>Andrea Lewis</b> seconded by <b>Mark Courtepatte</b> , the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS</b> that the minutes of the <b>November 10, 2016</b> meeting be approved.  <b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	None – Chair noted that the December meeting was combined with PIC and combining the groups for joint learning seems to be a valuable practice.
<b>5. SEAC Protocol</b>	Judy provided an overview of the history of SEAC and the evolution of having Employee Group representation at the table. Groups provide great perspective. Their participation is voluntary. HWDSB has one of the largest SEACs in the province.

<p><b>5. Members' Update</b></p>	<p>Chair – Welcome to Penny Deathe joining as a new Trustee Representative and welcome back to Alex Johnstone. Guests today are Sharon Stephanian (filling in for Shelley Woon) and Dianne Parr.</p> <p>Mark Courtepatte – shared details on a number of upcoming events which are posted on the FASD Parent and Caregiver Support Group Website (<a href="http://www.hamiltonfasdsupport.ca">www.hamiltonfasdsupport.ca</a>). Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – Supporting Suicidal Teens, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – Children with FASD and the Court System</p> <p>Lita Barrie – SEAC Voice is hosting an event at Gordon Greydon High School</p> <p>Alex Johnstone – provided an update on the PAR (school accommodation) processes underway. Funding has been approved for a new school in Summit Park. Tiffany Hill Elementary opened in Ancaster. Trustees approved an Elementary Program Strategy and French Immersion Strategy. The Hamilton Community Foundation is funding mentor programs in schools through ABACUS. HWDSB launched Chase the Future.</p> <p>Penny Deathe – provided an update on the mental health and wellness hub model in Waterdown.</p>
<p><b>6. Superintendent's Update</b></p>	<p>Sharon Stephanian was welcomed and thanked for filling in in Shelley's absence. Sharon offered a joint meeting in the spring with SEAC and a presentation regarding ABACUS.</p> <p>An overview of the HWDSB Strategic Directions and Annual Plan took place. Sharon facilitated a brainstorming session with the committee. Input was sought in the following areas: Good News communication, Home/School connections in Mathematics and parents being informed about what their child is learning in Mathematics.</p> <p>Dianne Parr provided an update on the SEAC PRO Grant and how the dollars might be used. Five Parents as Partners events will happen during the school year – Pathways, IEPs, Transition to School, FASD and CPS. The committee has approximately \$7500 remaining.</p>
<p><b>7. Correspondence</b></p>	<p><b>None</b></p>
<p><b>8. Other Business</b></p>	<p>The committee discussed the lack of supports for individuals with FASD, within Hamilton. The group moved an Action Item:</p> <p>Move by Judy Colantino and seconded by Mark Courtepatte, that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education and copied to HWDSB Trustees regarding the lack of medical support for children in Hamilton with neurological disorders including FASD.</p>

**Adjournment:**

On the motion of **Tracy Sherriff** seconded by **Mark Courtepatte** the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at **8:59 pm.** **CARRIED.**