

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 29, 2017 (Room 308, Education Centre)

Present:

- Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair
- Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair
- Penny Deathe, Trustee
- Alex Johnstone, Trustee
- Andrea Lewis, Community Living Hamilton
- Tania Kerr, Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers' Local
- Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatric & Rehabilitation
- Catherine McFarland, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group (A)
- Michele Moore, Principal of Special Education & Positive Culture
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton
- Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
- 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
- John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services
- Dr. Janice Tomlinson, Acting Superintendent of Leadership and Learning

Regrets:

- Jeremy Abrahams, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 21
- Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
- Christine Joseph-Davies, Autism Ontario Hamilton Wentworth Chapter
- Kim Kurceba, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children (A)
- Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary
- Mary Orlik, Autism Ontario Hamilton Wentworth Chapter
- Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Elementary
- Rina Rodak, Association for Bright Children of Ontario (A)
- Lisa Tyrrell, CNIB Hamilton (A)

I. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. welcoming everyone.

| Item | Discussion/Decision |
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| 2. Approval of Agenda | On the motion of L Barrie seconded by L. Vanderbrug the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED. |
| 3. Approval of Minutes | On the motion of A. Lewis, seconded by L. Barrie, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting be approved. CARRIED. |
| 4. Business Arising from the Minutes | L. Barrie reminded of PRO grant money available to the committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent sessions on FASD and Anxiety have been offered with speakers presenting • Money available to offer other parent-driven sessions/initiatives by the end of June. • Send ideas to J. Colantino |

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| <p>5. Members' Update</p> | <p>From A. Johnstone:</p> <p>Board priorities for budget have been approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High ranking from public consultation is Special Education; Low Ranking is 21st Century Learning <p>SEAC report highlights this committee would like to have input into plans for Hill Park.</p> <p>SHSM Programs will be expanded in September as per Ministry mandate. Will be offered at every level and pathway.</p> <p>Accommodation Reviews have been on-going.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown is still continuing to meet • Ancaster is complete and ready for next step of the process <p>Student elections are in process. Total of six applicants. Vote will take place in April.</p> |
| <p>6. Superintendent's Update</p> | <p>Letter received from the Ministry has indicated that a resource is now available for Chairs and Co-chairs to connect. Link has been sent in email.</p> <p>Intake meetings have been taking place for students with special needs who are entering school for their first time. As of the end of March, 151 students are entering the Kindergarten program.</p> <p>On Saturday, April 1st, HWDSB will be hosting the Family Carnival for World Autism Awareness Day. The event is free to the public.</p> <p>Mountain School students are making a smooth transition with some attending secondary, others attending Mohawk College and some have employment opportunities. Mohawk is very supportive and is making sure everything is in place, well in advance, to welcome the students.</p> <p>On April 6th, a guest from Puma, India will be visiting to see how we administer the research drive Empower Program.</p> <p>LRT PD days has been up and running this week.</p> <p>EA Staffing is underway. Classes will be populated in the next week or two and the process will be wrapped up by late June.</p> <p>Professional Development for EA's has been offered and the offered sessions are based on previous feedback from staff.</p> |
| <p>7. Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bluewater District School Board 2. Peterborough Catholic School Board | <p>Received and filed.</p> |

B. Other Business

J. Tomlinson will connect with the HWCDSB to arrange a joint SEAC meeting for this year possibly in April but more than likely in May.

Adjournment:

On the motion of A. Johnstone seconded by T. Sheriff the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at **9:02 p.m.**

CARRIED.