

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Room 180 A, Education Centre)
Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Present:

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton/SEAC Chair
 Michelle Campbell, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics & Rehabilitation Program
 Cecile-Santos-Ayrault, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
 Tracy Sherriff, Community Living Hamilton
 Lyn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
 Susi Own, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara
 Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group/Vice Chair
 Alyson Kowalchuk, P.A.L.S. Parent Advocacy Learning Support Group
 Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton (Alternate)
 Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children’s Hospital Development Pediatrics & Rehabilitation Program (Alternate)
 Daiene Verissimo, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara (Alternate)

Alex Johnstone, Chair of the Board, Trustee Ward 11 & 12
 Penny Deathe, Trustee, Ward 15

Peggy Blair, Superintendent of Student Achievement, Specialized Services
 Michele Moore, Principal of Special Education Services
 John Manzin, Principal of Special Education Services
 Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council (Secondary)

Regrets:

Lorraine Sayles, The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Mark Courtepatte called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. welcoming everyone.

Item	Discussion/Decision
2. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Tracy Sherriff, seconded by Judy Colantino, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.
3. Budget overview	Stacey Zucker, Associate Director, Support Services, presented an overview of the current budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We usually receive budget information by end of March – in order to meet collective timelines we had to budget conservatively, not knowing the budget amounts • Special education was part of our budget priority, strategic direction and guiding principles, during budget implementation • New budget has changes in class size which is a direct implication to our staffing
4. CNIB Hamilton and Niagara	Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara SEAC representative and Daiene Verissimo, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara SEAC Alternate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susi has been a SEAC member 5 years – Daiene is a Low Vision Specialist who specializes in Orientation and Mobility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNIB started 1918 after WW1 – due to the Halifax explosion where a lot of people had with vision loss • Their services cover all across Canada • In 2017 underwent new branding of name – CNIB changed to Vision Loss Rehabilitation Services Ontario • https://on.visionlossrehab.ca/en • Some of the services and programs CNIB provides include: CNIB foundation, which covers kids camps, guide dog program, peer support etc; deaf blind services provides services at home-independent living specialist (cooking/cutting, how to write a cheque, touch braille, etc); orientation and mobility-teach people how to travel safely in home or community; children’s services-work with kids at home, daycare/school etc; computer assessments-equipment to enlarge screen, JAWS, etc; Phone it Forward Donation Program-provides clients that cannot afford a smart phone • https://cnib.ca/en?region=on
<p>5. Special Education Plan</p>	<p>Peggy Blair, Superintendent of Student Achievement, Specialized Services, presented an overview of some of the sections being updated according to the Standard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following standards of the plan were provided to SEAC: Model for Education, Roles and Responsibilities, Provincial and Demonstration Schools, and the Board’s Consultation Process • The remaining standards will be presented at the next SEAC meeting
<p>6. Approval of the Minutes – April 3, 2019</p>	<p>On the motion of Cecile Santos-Ayrault, seconded by Jenny McEwen-Hill, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the April 3, 2019 meeting be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
<p>7. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	
<p>8. Members’ Update</p>	<p>Tracy Sherriff, Community Living Hamilton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National AccessAbility Week May 26-June 1, 2019 – staff is wearing multi coloured shoelaces in support of “moving inclusion forward” <p>Michelle Campbell, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes with Autism Ontario – we are amalgamating with Central Eastern Chapter, which includes Hamilton, Halton, Peel, Wellington and Waterloo – office in Hamilton has closed <p>Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have launched our new website <p>Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Trust Seminar, Saturday, June 8th 10:00-12:00 at Rygiel Community Living – free, and open to anyone • Sandy’s Law was passed in 2004 – posters should be displayed at all LCBO and grocery stores where alcohol is sold

	<p>Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny is retiring after 28 years in pediatrics
9. Superintendent’s Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Priorities Funding has not been renewed. As a result any staffing funded through Local Priorities Funding will no longer be in place Due to delays in receiving financial information, staff have not been able to provide SEAC an update on staffing changes
10. Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bluewater District School Board b) Durham Catholic District School Board c) Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board d) Toronto District School Board e) Conseil scolaire Viamonde f) Ottawa Carlton District School Board g) District School Board Ontario North East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Chair Johnstone and Trustees sent to Minister of Education on behalf of HWDSB has been shared – student trustees have also sent a letter to the Minister of Education SEAC will review the letter to determine if there is anything they wish to add regarding various impacts that affect students with special education needs, and discuss at the June meeting
11. Other Business	
12. Adjournment	<p>On the motion of Jenny McEwen-Hill, seconded by Michelle Campbell, the Committee RECOMMENDS that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 8:20 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>