

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Room 308, Education Centre

Present

Association Representatives – voting members

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7

Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair

Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners

Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair

Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group

Melanie Roberts, The Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

Tracy Sherriff, Community Living Hamilton

Regrets

Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3

Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter)

Staff

Jennifer Bibby, Canadian Office and Professional Employees (COPE 527)

Kimberly Chute, System Principal, Specialized Services

Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Specialized Services

Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council - Secondary

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Susi Owen, seconded by Lindsay Bray, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved CARRIED.
4. Religious Accommodations-School Year Calendar Consultation	Simon Goodacre, Superintendent of Student Achievement, Family of Schools 3 Sally Landon, Manager, Research & Analytics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Board of Trustees passed a motion in September for a consultation process to take place with advisory committees and report back to Trustees in order to inform the calendar for the 2025-26 school yearResearch & Analytics will design a survey for the public, based on the feedback from committees, aiming for April/May
5. Approval of the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">December 20, 2023	On the motion of Dawn Danko, seconded by Julie Armstrong, the Committee recommends that the minutes be approved CARRIED.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	

<p>7. Roundtable (small groups) (continuation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What should Special Education Programming/Classes Look Like in HWDSB 	<p>Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Specialized Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred to next meeting
<p>8. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Superintendent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HWDSB Chair, Maria Felix Miller will be replacing Trustee Dahab as member on SEAC ▪ Last week, trustees attended a conference with other public school board trustees – discrepancies of wages for staff have been raised – working with Ministry of Education to get results ▪ Two boundary reviews are underway – should have a plan for these areas in a month ▪ March 1st PA day has been changed to Monday, April 8th due to the solar eclipse ▪ Trustees sent a letter of support for a Federal national school food program b) Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The kids that competed in the Robotics competition in December won in Hamilton and went onto Provincials – they were 8th overall out of 40 – they received an award in core values Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halton & Hamilton FASD Support groups are collaborating to provide a hybrid (live & virtual) FASD Conference “Empowering Families to Grow Together”, Saturday, March 2nd https://www.hamiltonfasdsupport.ca/?page_id=33 Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reminder about the upcoming virtual Solutions for Learning Conference March 1st and 2nd https://diverselearners.ca/sf113/ ▪ Carolyn Rankin-Boutin is the new Executive Director at CDL effective February 1st, replacing Allison Brindle who has moved to a new strategic role withing the organization c) Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Specialized Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are hosting a Pathways to Transition event at the Education Centre on April 23rd 6:30-8:30 pm for students with special education needs (14-21), parents and guardians who are in the process of planning for life after secondary school ▪ In December and January grade 12 students with an IEP were invited for a guided tour of the Mohawk College Campus Accessible Learning Services: 81% had never had a formal tour of the Fennel Campus: prior to tours, 61% had not heard about Accessible Learning Services available to them. Following the tours: 83% reported that they now knew most of the types of supports they can access through Accessible Learning Services, 89% reported they were now aware of services available to them on campus, 77% reported that they now knew where to go on campus to learn tips related to test taking, note taking, study habits, etc.,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are re-introducing Best Buddies program which will be starting in semester 2 at Glendale Secondary School ▪ Virtual optional drop-in sessions for vice-principals and principals will take place in the upcoming months: Reduced Instructional Day Request Form, Personalized Transportation Request Form – Duty to Accommodate: IEPs, Refresher on IPRC Process, Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities ▪ Specialized Services will be offering a half day learning series for secondary learning resource teachers – each session will cover different topics and build on previous sessions ▪ HWDSB is accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers to deliver ASD Additional Qualification training – this allows us to provide this training on site and provide broader staff learning ▪ We completed a proposal for Special Education Part 1 Additional Qualification training – we hope to offer this course in the summer, and offset cost for staff through Ministry funding ▪ We are in process of creating cross department structure to look at AODA requirements in order to be more accessible as a system, as well as creating an advisory committee with students and staff with lived experience
9. Correspondence	
10. Other Business	
11. Adjournment	<p>On the motion of Tracy Sherriff, seconded by Jessica Malcew, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 7:07 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>