

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Virtual via MS Teams

Present

Association Representatives – voting members

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair
Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair
Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3
Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter)
Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton
Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

Regrets

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7
Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners

Staff

Jennifer Bibby, COPE 527
Julie Anderson, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity
Krista Brodersen, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary
Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Lynn Vanderbrug, seconded by Melanie Roberts, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved CARRIED.
4. Medical Health Support Policy Consultation	Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Special Education, Inclusion & Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none">The committee reviewed the policy and provided feedback
5. IPRC Exceptionality Criteria	Danielle Buist, Manager, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity, Psychological Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">The committee reviewed and provided feedback on two of the exceptionality criteria – will be completed at the next meeting
6. Approval of the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">December 18, 2024	On the motion of Lindsay Bray, seconded by Jessica Malcew, the Committee recommends that the minutes be approved CARRIED.
7. Business Arising from the Minutes	
8. Updates	Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3

<p>a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Superintendent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abby Zaitley was sworn in as the new Trustee for Ward 4 Director's Board Annual Plan will be posted on the website shortly <p>Sharon Stephanian, Superintended, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Special Education, Inclusion & Equity Leadership Team is planning for summer learning – at a future meeting will share the sessions provided last year for feedback The Annual Accessibility Report is posted on the Board website – a desk audit was conducted in the summer by Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Division of the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, focusing on transportation, procurement and training Mohawk College tour took place on January 14th with 50 students, learning resource teachers and guidance counsellors attending to learn about the support provided by Mohawk College Entry to School hybrid parent meeting took place January 28th. Judy and Lindsay presented on behalf of SEAC and Ron Joyce – approximately 54 individuals attended EA update: in December interviewed and hired over 62 new staff
<p>9. Correspondence a) Durham District School Board</p>	<p>On the motion of Jessica Malcew, seconded by Lynn Vanderebrug, the Committee recommends that the correspondence be read and filed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
<p>10. Other Business</p>	<p>On the motion of Lindsay Bray, seconded by Jessica Malcew, the Committee voted to extend the meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>Judy Colantino received a request to sign a letter from Ottawa Catholic School Board, that will be sent to the Minister of Education on behalf of SEAC Chairs of Ontario, requesting support for increased funding for training of educational staff working with students with disabilities/special education needs</p> <p>On the motion of Nancy Silva-Khan, seconded by Jessica Malcew, the Committee agreed that Judy sign the letter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>Judy Colantino abstained from voting</p>
<p>11. Adjournment</p>	<p>On the motion of Susi Owen, seconded by Nancy Silva-Khan, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 7:45 pm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>