



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Room 308, Education Centre

### 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  
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  
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  
Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3  
Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario

### Staff

Jennifer Bibby, COPE 527 (virtual)  
Julie Anderson, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity  
Kimberly Chute, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity  
Krista Brodersen, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Secondary  
Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity  
Yannis Tjanetis, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals' Council – Elementary

### Guests

Abby Zaitley, HWDSB Trustee, Ward 4 (virtual)  
Chris Tondreau, Interim HWETL Vice President (virtual)

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Julie Armstrong, seconded by Lynn Vanderbrug, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved <b>CARRIED.</b>
4. Barrier Free Student Learning Environments Policy - consultation	Kimberly Chute, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Committee provided feedback to the policy – updates will be shared at an upcoming meeting</li></ul>

<b>5. IPRC Exceptionality Criteria - consultation</b>	<p>Danielle Buist, Manager, Special Education, Inclusion &amp; Equity: Psychological Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee provided feedback – updates will be shared at an upcoming meeting</li> <li>• Staff will compose a letter to be reviewed by the Committee, and send to the Ministry of Education regarding the Ministry language in the IPRC Criteria</li> </ul>
<b>6. Approval of the Minutes</b> ▪ January 29, 2025	<p>On the motion of Susi Owen, seconded by Jessica Malcew, the Committee recommends that the minutes be approved</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>7. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	
<b>8. Updates</b> a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Superintendent	<p>b) Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HWDSB students are invited to apply for the last 5 program spots available for the Leaps to Literacy Spring program beginning April 14<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks (2 times/week). To register, please visit <a href="https://diverselearners.ca/">https://diverselearners.ca/</a></li> </ul> <p>c) Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion &amp; Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the Special Education, Inclusion &amp; Equity team met for professional learning – presentations included an evaluation of the Autism Core Skills Checklist Pilot project which identified gaps in some Autism special classes. Psychological Services staff presented an online document, Recommendations for Supporting Students Based on Cognitive Learning Profile’ that includes live links to resources. The final resource will be shared with SEAC</li> <li>• Yes I Can Awards – the CEC is shifting away from the practice of having a banquet style celebration and are moving to an approach to provide schools with the resources and supports to celebrate students within their own school communities</li> <li>• Autism Carnival will be held on April 26th – more details to follow</li> </ul>
<b>9. Correspondence</b> a) Algoma District School Board	<p>On the motion of Lynn Vanderbrug, seconded by Nancy Silva-Khan, the Committee recommends that the correspondence be read and filed</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
<b>10. Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jessica Maclew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, has been hired by HWDSB and has handed in her resignation from the Committee. The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked Jessica for her contribution to the Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Adjournment</b>	<p>On the motion of Jessica Malcew, seconded by Nancy Silva-Khan, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 7:36 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>