

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: December 12, 2016
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
 802 Drury Lane
 Burlington, Ontario

Members Present	B. Agnew R. Barreiro L. Currie D. Hotopeleanu A. Iantomasi H. Karabela	M. Lourenco J. Parisi D. Rabenda (Chair) S. Trites
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Staff Present	B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator
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Members Excused	L. Cipparrone C. Parreira R. Quesnel L. Stephenson
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Recording Secretary	J. Crew
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1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer,

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m. with a prayer led by D. Rabenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Item 2.1 deferred to a future meeting, B. Browne will replace the presentation.

Moved by: A. Iantomasi

Seconded by: B. Agnew

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 PAaC on SEAC Resources Update (R. Quesnel)

Presentation deferred.

B. Browne read a letter provided by the Chief Social Worker which had been shared by a Child and Youth Counsellor with the Elementary CHANGE Program. The letter outlined a success story from the program; B. Browne concluded by providing some background on the Elementary CHANGE program at HCDSB.

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Minutes of the November 28, 2016 SEAC Meeting

Moved by: D. Hotopeleanu

Seconded by: B. Agnew

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the November 28, 2016 SEAC Meeting be approved as presented.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

5.1 Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

The Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings was reviewed.

6. Action Items

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 Superintendent's Report

B. Browne provided updates on:

- **'ABA for All' Professional Development & Transdisciplinary Rounds Process:** rolled out to principals last week and is being rolled out to SERTs this week; the first transdisciplinary rounds take place this week.
- **Mental Health:** consolidation continues with our Mental Health strategy; with Research, HCDSB has developed evaluations for *Friends for Life*, the *Anxiety Module* and *MindsUp*; feedback will be provided in the Spring
- **Ministry TARO Student Well-Being Engagement Session:** The Ministry sought input into the Well Being (Safe Schools, Equity and Inclusion, Mental Health, and Healthy Schools) strategy by seeking feedback from senior administration, parents, community partners, mental health leads, and students. HCDSB invitees included the Superintendent of Special Education, the Superintendent responsible for Mental Health, Equity & Inclusion, Safe Schools, the Mental Health Leader, a Researcher, a Principal, the CPIC Vice Chair and the SEAC Chair.
- **Skillstreaming Program:** Itinerant CYC is working with the Department Head and her team at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School to bring the *Skillstreaming* (pro social skills program) program to their Life Skills class; this project has gone well.
- **Leading Mentally Healthy Schools:** this winter mental health literacy is being offering to teachers on *Leading Mentally Healthy Schools*; the *Anxiety Module*; *ASIST* and *SafeTalk*.
- **Suicide Prevention Strategy** a subcommittee of the Mental Health Leadership Team is working on a draft for the Board's Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention protocol; it is currently anticipated that the draft will be complete by the March Break.
- **Psychology:** is piloting iPad technology to expand test administration, in efforts to expedite the process.
- **Speech and Language - Selective Mutism:** we are continuing to build capacity to better serve students with selective mutism by in-servicing staff.

- **Leadership Development:** in recognizing the importance of our system leaders having special education experience, our Chief Social Worker, Mental Health Leader, and Chief Psychologist presented to our leadership candidates (aspiring leaders) last week to make connections regarding clinical practice and school leadership, community partners and connections. The session was well attended and received tremendous feedback.
- **CEC Conference:** 2 HCDSB staff members presented at the December 2nd conference:
 - An HCDSB Speech and Language Pathologist co-presented about the research that took place at HCDSB last year on *Stay, Play and Talk*. The session was entitled: *Stay, Play, and Talk (Phase IV): A Peer-Mediated Social Skills Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Social Communication Difficulties*; co-presenters included professors from Brock and Fanshaw who were involved in the research.
 - An HCDSB Special Education Consultant presented *The Uplift Project: Elevating Student Self-Regulation, State of Well-Being, and Growth Mindset through Yoga and Mindfulness*. This presentation was designed to help frontline educators and mental health providers with an understanding of how the practice of yoga and mindfulness can help reduce student stress, anxiety (including test anxiety), and inattention while enhancing positive thinking, a sense of well bring, optimal focus, self-regulation and growth mindset, placing children in an optimal zone for learning.
- **OCASE Conference** – C. Cipriano, B. Browne, a lawyer from Miller Thompson and a lawyer from Hicks Morley formed a panel that spoke about legal issues and the impact in schools. Topics included service animals, Autism Program, and administration of medication.
- **Parent Information Night for Students with Special Needs Entering the Kindergarten Program in September 2017** will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at St. Benedict Catholic Elementary School.
- **Life Skills Best Buddies Christmas Dance** takes place on December 13th from 10:30 am-1:30 pm at Assumption Catholic Secondary School. Multiple SEAC members confirmed they would be in attendance.
- **SIP Claim Update** – Staff have worked hard to pull together the Special Incidence Portion claims; HCDSB has increased our funding over last year which speaks to the increasing complexity of the needs in our system and the work our staff have done to prepare.

7.2 Association Reports

7.2.1 HDSA Association Report/Presentation (D. Hotopeleanu)

D. Hotopeleanu presented information on the World Down Syndrome Day Contest. The contest, in its third year, spreads awareness about Down Syndrome and helps promote diversity and inclusion.

More information about the 2017 contest will be available by January 20th on Halton Down Syndrome Association's website.

7.3 Trustee Reports

Trustees provided updated on board happenings. A. Iantomasi welcomed D. Rabenda as newly elected Chair and S. Trites as newly elected Vice Chair.

7.4 Sub-Committee Update

SEAC Soundbytes: members were invited to provide feedback or revisions for the January 2017 Soundbyte, which had been emailed to members.

7.5 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings

M. Lourenco discussed some observations from her attendance at other HCDSB meetings and attendance at a SEAC meeting of our co-terminus board.

8. Information Items

9. Questions from the Public

10. SEAC Discussion

10.1 SEAC Webinar Debrief (B. Agnew)

B. Agnew recognized the amount of behind the scenes work that went into the success of November's webinar, and discussed the positive numbers for registration and attendance.

Feedback discussed included looking at more interactive content for live webinars; alternately putting sessions together then housing online for access at any time. Moving forward; will examine expanding on what has begun and looking at practical real life strategies parents can benefit from.

Next steps will include creating a step by step guide for webinars; various steps were highlighted and discussed, including the benefits of having an IT person on hand. Everyone did a great job, the subcommittee will put something together for moving forward and welcome further ideas.

Several ideas for increasing parent engagement; online questionnaires and ways of gathering feedback on what people might like covered were discussed.

11. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, January 30, 2017

January's agenda will include the election of a Chair and Vice Chair and a presentation on the Independence Rubric.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Resolution re Absentees

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that L. Cipparrone, C. Parreira, R. Quesnel, L. Stephenson be excused. **CARRIED**

12.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (D. Rabenda)

Moved by: J. Parisi

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn. **CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with a prayer led by D. Rabenda.