

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: May 29, 2017
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
 802 Drury Lane
 Burlington, Ontario

Members Present	B. Agnew (Chair)	R. Quesnel
	K. Bivand	J. Parisi
	D. Hotopeleanu	D. Rabenda
	A. Iantomasi	L. Stephenson
	H. Karabela	S. Trites
	M. Lourenco	

Staff Present

B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services
 W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator
 R. Negoj, Superintendent, Business Services
 A. Lofts, Senior Administrator, Financial Services

Members Excused

R. Barreiro
 L. Currie
 L. Cipparrone
 C. Parreira

Members Absent

Recording Secretary J. Crew

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 B. Agnew.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: L. Stephenson

Seconded by: J. Parisi

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as received.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 Budget Presentation (A. Lofts, R. Negoj)

B. Agnew introduced R. Negoj, Superintendent Business Services and A. Lofts Senior Administrator, Financial Services. Printouts of the presentation were distributed.

An overview of the 2017-2018 budget process presentation included:

- School Board Financial Reporting Cycles
- Grants for Student Needs
- How HCDSB get its funding
- How HCDSB spends its funding

- 2017-18 Budget Estimates: Process and Challenges
- 2017-18 Budget Estimates: Proposed Financial Position
- 2016-17 Special Education Grant and Revenues
- 2016-17 Special Education Budget

The first draft of the budget estimates will be presented at the June 6th Regular Board Meeting. The final estimate will be presented at the June 20th Regular Board Meeting for Trustee approval.

B. Browne reviewed the budget items as prioritized by SEAC at the March meeting, and identified how these priorities aligned with the 2017-2018 budget. SEAC's budget priorities were brought forth to the senior table for conversation to move the requests forward; Business Services worked collaboratively with Special Education to align as much as possible with the priorities identified by SEAC.

The presentation was followed by a question and discussion period. R. Negoi noted that there are information links and guidelines on Special Education funding that will be shared with SEAC.

3. **Actions to be taken**

3.1 **Minutes of the April 26, 2017 SEAC Meeting**

Moved by: L. Stephenson

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the April 26, 2017 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**

- PAAC on SEAC presentation will be moved to the September meeting
- Topics for next year will be discussed in June and September
- A memo came out on May 18 regarding the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) direct funding option, which is to be implemented by the end of this year through the OAP
- Soundbytes will be covered under the Parent Engagement Subcommittee report
- Letter to ministry will remain on business arising
- French Ad Hoc Committed: an update will be provided in June; any input, questions or concerns are always welcome

6. **Action and Information Items**

6.1 **Accessibility Plan (B. Agnew)**

B. Agnew, is the SEAC representative on the Accessibility Working Group along with B. Browne and W. Reid-Purcell. They provide input into the updates for the Accessibility Plan. Updates to the plan were highlighted in the report that was included in the meeting package for members review and feedback.

B. Agnew invited members to submit any input or comments, which she will report back to the working group.

6.2 **Policy I-29 School Boundary Review Process (B. Agnew)**

No feedback was received.

6.3 **Invitation to Respond – Stakeholder Input – The Angelus (B. Agnew)**

B. Agnew confirmed that members had received the invitation to respond to the Angelus Prayer individually, then asked members if they would like to discuss, to determine if or how as a group, from SEAC's perspective, they would like to respond.

Trustees provided information on the Board motion for the Angelus Prayer to be recited in elementary schools; a conflict of interest, for trustees, was identified for this item.

M. Lourenco put forth a motion that SEAC respond as a group in support of reciting the Angelus prayer in elementary schools. There was no seconder for the motion; the motion did not carry.

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 Superintendent's Report (B. Browne)

B. Browne provided updates on:

Professional Development:

- **ABA for All:** day 2 sessions of the ABA for All capacity building were completed in April
- **Early Screening Math Tool:** looking to partner with Dr. Daniel Ansari re: early screening tool in our kindergarten classes, moving forward in looking at how best to support t teachers and DECEs
- **Educational Assistants (EAs):** the latest EA PA Day included presentations on ABA for All, Transdisciplinary Rounds, Peer Mediated Prompting, Body Mechanics and Working Safely; as well as a presentation of personal stories and music from Superfire
- **Safe Management Trainer:** one of our Itinerant EAs successfully completed a 5-day training session, increasing the number of trainers on our Safe Management team
- **Ontario Council for Administrators in Special Education (OCASE):** K. McCarthy, W. Reid-Purcell and B. Browne sit on the Ontario Council for Administrators in Special Education. A provincial symposium was hosted two weeks ago; Superintendents and Senior Special Education teams from around the province gathered for conversations on legal matters and ministry updates

Mental Health:

- **Halton Families for Families Award Winners:** this annual award recognizes champions for mental health. HCDSB was awarded three awards, two for schools, and one individual award. These were awarded to: the CYC at St. Mary/St. Gregory Catholic Elementary Schools for her work with students on mental health; Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School for supporting the *Disable the Label* Conference for the last two years; and the Principal and school team and St. Francis of Assisi CES for their work in supporting students with complex needs
- **Roots of Empathy:** this program helps to develop empathy and contributes to positive mental health and interactions at schools. The annual celebration takes place Wednesday, May 31st at St. Gregory the Great CES
- **School Mental Health Assist:** a provincial Superintendents meeting takes place on June 7th at Ryerson; Superintendents responsible for Mental Health portfolios gather to discuss common issues, get a ministry update, and connect; B. Browne participates on the provincial steering committee for this group

Community Events:

- **Annual Torch Run:** takes place on Friday June 9th; starting at EC Drury School and going through Milton; this event is run by Halton Police partnered with HCDSB and HDSB.
- **Special Olympics Track and Field Event:** also takes place on Friday June 9th; this date was selected and organized by the Board last year; the Halton Police selected the same date for the Torch Run. Every effort is being made to support both events.
- **Mother's Day Run – Team Unbreakable:** took place Saturday, May 13 in Spencer Smith Park, Burlington; there was an amazing turnout from schools and staff for this event. This continues to

grow every year and is a celebration of the work happening in schools around running, physical wellness and mental health. Photos were shared from the run.

- **Life Skills Prom:** was hosted on Thursday May 18th at Jean Vanier CSS in Milton. It was another wonderful event for staff, students, and Best Buddies. All nine of our secondary schools attended supported by Department Heads, Teachers, and EAs.

7.2 Association Reports

7.2.1 Autism Ontario – Project Lifesaver (L. Stephenson)

Autism Ontario is hosting an information session with Halton Police on *Project Lifesaver* to take place on Saturday June 10, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm at the Halton Police, Burlington Station, 3800 Constable Henshaw Blvd., Community Room. Further information is available at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/project-lifesaver-bringing-loved-ones-home-tickets-34260212217>

7.2.2 Autism Ontario – Summer Funding (L. Stephenson)

Autism Ontario is happy to announce that the *2017 One to One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund* is now open for applications. Applications can be received between **May 1, and June 2, 2017**. A random draw will determine eligibility. Visit: www.autismontario.com/camp to view [the flyer](#), [frequently asked questions](#) and [application](#).

7.2.3 Autism Ontario – Educational Advocacy Symposium (L. Stephenson)

All parents are invited to attend Autism Ontario's first *Educational Symposium* on Saturday June 10, 2017 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Wilfrid Laurier University. Parents and caregivers will be provided with practical strategies to support their role as full partners with their child's school and school board with the goal of getting the most appropriate education for their child. Further information is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/educational-advocacy-symposium-registration-34441389122>

7.2.4 Easter Seals Association Report (B. Agnew)

Easter Seals was invited to attend a number of provincial roundtables in different cities to engage in conversations and provide feedback into the Provincial Framework for Alternative Programs and Courses. Information on Alternative programs. Provincial Roundtable takes place May 9th. Further information is available at <http://education.easterseals.org/alternative-programs-and-the-iep/>

D. Hotopeleanu informed members that Halton Downs Syndrome Association's *Go21 Walk* is taking place on Saturday, June 17th at the Milton Fairgrounds from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM to raise awareness and as a fundraiser. All are welcome to join. Full details can be found at www.HaltonGo21.ca

7.3 Trustee Reports

D. Rabenda provided updates on recent Board happenings which include: budget, maintenance, policies, graduations and the renaming of Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School to St. Teresa of Calcutta.

7.4 Sub-Committee Report

7.4.1 Parent Engagement Sub-Committee Report

For 2016-2017 the subcommittee have completed a webinar and SEAC Soundbytes for the school year; for 2017-2018 they are looking to have the September SEAC Soundbyte developed for distribution in June

The subcommittee plans to meet in June, and are looking for feedback on:

- Ideas for the Soundbyte topics for 2017-2018 school year - 9 topics are needed
- Ideas for webinars. Do we want to do more than 1? Format ideas?
- SEAC roadshow; presenting at parent councils and explaining SEAC's role
- Having a SEAC member on CPIC

Considerations for setting up and maintaining a SEAC twitter account were also discussed.

B. Agnew will send out a follow up email.

7.5 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings

8. Questions from the Public

9. SEAC Discussion

M. Lourenco suggested that policies reviewed for special education be brought to SEAC before hand.

10. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, June 19, 2017

The agenda will included the Year in Review as it pertains to the Special Education Plan; and a Ministry request for feedback on the Education Accessibility Standard Engagement

11. Adjournment

11.1 Resolution re Absentees

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that R. Barreiro, L. Currie, L. Cipparrone, C. Parreira be excused. **CARRIED**

11.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (B. Agnew)

Moved by: D. Hotopeleanu

Seconded by: L. Stephenson

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

The meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m. with a prayer led by B. Agnew.