

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 30, 2017  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room  
802 Drury Lane  
Burlington, Ontario

Members Present      B. Agnew (Vice Chair)                      M. Lourenco  
                                 R. Barreiro                                      J. Parisi  
                                 L. Cipparrone (Chair)                      D. Rabenda  
                                 L. Currie                                        R. Quesnel  
                                 A. Iantomasi                                    L. Stephenson

Staff Present              B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
                                 W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator  
                                 A. Campopiano, Researcher  
                                 R. Haven, Computer Technician

Members Excused      D. Hotopeleanu  
                                 H. Karabela

Members Absent        C. Parreira  
                                 S. Trites

Recording Secretary    J. Crew

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### 1. Call to Order

B. Browne called the meeting to order.

#### 1.1 Opening Prayer,

The meeting opened at 7:15 p.m. with a prayer led by B. Browne.

#### 1.2 Approval of Agenda

Revisions: Item 3 Actions to be taken moved to item 2; Item 2 Presentation moved to item 3; Item 6.2 SEAC Response to Policy IV-01 Fencing at School Site added; item 6.3 SEAC Response to Policy I-06 Delegation to the Board added

**Moved by:** A. Iantomasi

**Seconded by:** B. Agnew

**RESOLVED**, that the agenda be accepted as amended.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Actions to be taken

#### 2.1 Election of SEAC Chair      **B. Browne**

B. Browne called for nominations for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2017 to December 2017.

A. Iantomasi nominated Lorraine Cipparrone as Chair of SEAC. L. Cipparrone accepted the nomination.

B. Browne called for other nominations; no other nominations were received; L. Cipparrone was acclaimed Chair.

B. Browne thanked L. Cipparrone for her leadership as Chair and for her willingness to continue to serve as the Chair of HCDSB's SEAC.

**Moved by:** A. Iantomasi

**RESOLVED**, that L. Cipparrone be nominated for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of January 2017 to December 2017. **CARRIED**

B. Browne turned the meeting over to the L. Cipparrone.

## 2.2 Election of SEAC Vice Chair (L. Cipparrone)

L. Cipparrone called for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2016 to December 2016.

D. Rabenda nominated B. Agnew as Vice Chair of SEAC. B. Agnew accepted the nomination.

L. Cipparrone called for other nominations; no other nominations were received; B. Agnew was acclaimed Vice Chair.

**Moved by:** D. Rabenda

**RESOLVED**, that B. Agnew be nominated for Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of January 2017 to December 2017. **CARRIED**

## 2.3 Minutes of the December 12, 2016 SEAC Meeting

**Moved by:** D. Rabenda

**Seconded by:** B. Agnew

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the December 12, 2016 SEAC Meeting be approved as presented.

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

## 3. Presentations

### 3.1 Independence Rubric (W. Reid-Purcell, B. Browne, A. Campopiano)

B. Browne began the "Building Independence in Students with Special Education Needs – Planning With the End in Mind" presentation by providing background on the implementation of the independence rubric; explaining HCDSB's foundational assumptions; and referencing several articles and research data.

W. Reid-Purcell presented the ongoing process; reviewed the Independence Rubric; identified the seven areas and subsections of the rubric; and discussed the team members involved in the process.

W. Reid-Purcell introduced A. Campopiano, Researcher. A. Campopiano explained the allocation algorithm and reviewed the goals, prototype conversion chart; finite resources; the software development; and the reports/outputs.

Members were asked to break into groups of three to provide feedback on the presentation by answering three questions: What do you want to know more about? What did you learn that you didn't know? What would you tell others about this process?

A copy of the presentation was requested and will be emailed to members.

At 8:29 pm B. Agnew took over as chair of the meeting.

#### 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 added to the business arising chart; the presentation was rescheduled to the April SEAC meeting agenda.

#### 6. **Action Items**

##### 6.1 **Spirit of Inclusion Sub-Committee**

The selection committee will meet on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The Chair called for volunteers for the selection subcommittee; B. Browne, R. Quesnel and B. Agnew will participate and an invitation will be sent out for other members to participate in the selection process.

##### 6.2 **SEAC Response to Policy IV-01 Fencing at School Sites**

Members were asked to provide feedback via email to the Chair and Vice Chair by Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017; feedback received will be combined into a response on behalf of SEAC.

##### 6.3 **SEAC Response to Policy I-06 Delegation to the Board**

Members were asked to provide feedback via email to the Chair and Vice Chair by Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017; feedback received will be combined into a response on behalf of SEAC.

#### 7. **Communications to SEAC**

##### 7.1 **Superintendent's Report**

B. Browne provided updates on:

**Special Needs Strategy:** is currently in a holding pattern; complexities of the Integrated Rehab and Service Coordination are playing out across the province. A proposal has been submitted; awaiting feedback from the Ministry.

**Ontario Autism Program (OAP):** is convening a Clinical Expert Committee to assist with the establishment of benchmark data, give clinical advice, etc. They are also establishing an OAP committee, which will include parents and community partners, to help inform the way forward.

**21st Century Committee:** The ministry is looking for feedback around technology, teaching and learning and is seeking Board feedback and input at a roundtable on February 7<sup>th</sup>; we will be sending a Special Education representative to the table.

**Alternative Programming:** B. Browne, W. Reid-Purcell; and Special Education Life Skills teachers, will be attending a Ministry session on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> regarding alternative programming and reporting feedback.

##### **Mental Health**

- **Leading Mentally Healthy Schools:** great feedback has been received from the Family of School sessions; this will be rolled this out across the system; we are currently offering options for training sessions based on the feedback received to ensure that we are reaching everyone in a way that works for them.

- **Bell Let's Talk Day:** This is in congruence with our “Talk. Learn. Support” strategy; photos depicting schools concerted efforts to raise awareness were shared.

**French Committee:** Thanks to B. Agnew for her willingness to represent SEAC on the French Ad Hoc committee which is being established by the Board.

**Kindergarten Registration:** occurred last week, parents complete a kindergarten questionnaire to help identify families we need to connect with to ensure we have appropriate transition strategy in place; staff go out to visit in daycares, in family's homes, etc. to gather as much information as possible in order to best plan for successful transitions to kindergarten.

**Independence Rubrics:** work on the individual independence rubrics at each school for every student considered for Educational Assistant support closely follows kindergarten registration work.

**New Special Education Staff Additions:** based on system growth, identifications and additional new schools, the completion of the budget in the fall has resulted in the hiring of three key staff members: a Social Worker for system wide tier three cases; a Psycho-Educational Consultant for support across the system and to reduce wait lists; and a Special Education Consultant to provide key support to our families of schools.

**ABA For All:** the first two “day 1” sessions of ABA for All have completed; this collaborative work between academic and clinical staff towards refreshing teachers, SERTs, and principals across the board on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis has had tremendous feedback. Next steps include in-school support for ABA principles and another round of “day 2” in-services to take place in late March/April.

**Transdisciplinary Rounds:** had a great start in December and January; these meetings invite collaborative professionalism by bringing all relevant academic, clinical, and parent partners to the table to collectively problem solve around our most challenging situations. There has been very positive feedback about the process and follow up so far.

**Tele-Support and Walk Ins:** We've scheduled times for our Applied Behaviour Analysts to help support staff working through challenging situations; many staff from throughout the system take advantage of this opportunity to discuss proactive strategies, data collection and positive reinforcement.

B. Browne shared pictures from the Bell Let's Talk day and the Life Skills Christmas dance at Assumption.

## 7.2 Association Reports

### 7.2.1 Autism Ontario Association Report/Presentation (L. Stephenson)

Raise the Flag Campaign: While World Autism Awareness Day is recognized this year on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Autism Ontario has chosen to raise their flags on Monday April 3, 2017 in order to allow schools and municipalities across the province to participate. This marks the fifth year of the campaign. This year Autism Ontario will help schools, towns and cities raise over 1000 flags in support of Autism Awareness as part of the Raise the Flag Campaign

ABC Ontario – Halton's general meeting takes place on February 15<sup>th</sup>; M. Lourenco will forward a flyer to SEAC members and for distribution.

## 7.3 Trustee Reports

D. Rabenda provided updated on board happenings and explained the rationale for the French Ad Hoc Committee, which will be finalized on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## 7.4 Sub-Committee Update

### 7.4.1 Parent Engagement Sub-Committee Report (R. Quesnel)

The Parent Engagement Sub-committee met this week; they are pleased with the quality and feedback from the soundbytes. February's soundbyte has now been finalized; the subcommittee hopes to have this year's remaining soundbytes written in a timely manner. Feedback and topic suggestions are always welcome.

Remaining topics this year included:

- March 2017 - Resources in the School System
- April 2017 - Beyond Integration
- May 2017 - Who is at the SEAC table
- June 2017 - Mental Health and Special Education

Members are ask to provide any feedback received on past Soundbytes and as well as any opinions regarding upcoming topics.

## 7.5 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings

## 8. Information Items

## 9. Questions from the Public

## 10. SEAC Discussion

M. Lourenco expressed appreciation for having a SEAC member on the French committee and volunteered to be an alternate for B. Agnew if needed.

R. Quesnel will present PAaC on SEAC in April and will supply hard copies of the PAaC on SEAC Handbook as soon as possible.

## 11. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, February 27, 2017

Agenda will included the Special Education Plan and a presentation by CPIC.

## 12. Adjournment

### 12.1 Resolution re Absentees

**Moved by:** M. Lourenco

**Seconded by:** L. Stephenson

**RESOLVED**, that D. Hotopeleanu, H. Karabela be excused. **CARRIED**

### 12.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (B. Agnew)

**Moved by:** R. Quesnel

**Seconded by:** L. Stephenson

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with a prayer led by B. Agnew.