

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 15, 2018
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
802 Drury Lane
Burlington, Ontario

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

Staff Present	B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services
	W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator
	M. Goulet, Behaviour Analyst
	K. Mann, Behaviour Analyst
	T. Wheatley, Behaviour Analyst

Members Excused	L. Currie
	K. Bivand
	S. Trites
	H. Karabela
	C. Parreira

Members Absent
Recording Secretary J. Crew

1. Call to Order

B. Browne called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer led by B. Browne.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: L. Cipparrone

Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as received.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 Behaviour Analysts: Role, Services, Programming, and Expertise

B. Browne welcomed and introduced HCDSB Behaviour Analysts: M. Goulet, K. Mann and T. Wheatley.

M. Goulet, K. Mann and T. Wheatley presented on HCDSB's Behavior Analyst's role, services, programming and expertise; the presentation included information on:

- Connections for Students
- Ontario Autism Program (OAP)
- Support during Third Party Observations and subsequent follow up meetings regarding behaviour
- Transition support for students transitioning from a third party agency to HCDSB
- HCDSB's ABA for All capacity building sessions

- sessions began in 2016-2017; approximately 300 staff members participated in the two day training; two classroom teachers and one SERT or Department Head from each of the 56 schools, itinerant staff, consultants
- focused support in real time was provided to classroom teachers between Day 1 and Day 2 of the workshops in 2017
- summary of data collected from the 2016-2017 sessions was reviewed
- next steps this school year include: re-organizing team members as needed and providing makeup sessions; professional development for Social Workers, CYCs, Speech Language and Psychology staff and Educational Assistants; and moving forward with *ABA for All* day 3 focused on practical application
- *ABA for All* resource library has been setup and catalogued for staff to sign-out support resources
- workshops are provided for all Educational Assistants over 2 PA Days
- ABA 'walk-ins': staff are provided with scheduled weekly opportunities to call, email or in-person walk-in with questions around general ABA strategies; data on the ABA walk-ins was provided
- Transdisciplinary Rounds (TDR)
- Research published by HCDSB BAs K. Mann and T. Wheatley
- Next steps for BAs include poster submissions/symposiums at upcoming conferences

B. Browne noted that the work done by our BAs is rooted in our foundational assumptions; the support of our BAs is a manifestation of what we say we believe; and expressed thanks to the team for promoting HCDSB in such positive ways.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

B. Browne thanked the Behaviour Analysts for the presentation and for all work they are doing throughout our system.

Following the presentation, members broke 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 the Behaviour Analyst's role at HCDSB?

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Election of SEAC Chair (B. Browne)

B. Browne called for nominations for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2018 to December 2018.

L. Cipparrone nominated B. Agnew as Chair of SEAC. B. Agnew accepted the nomination.

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

3.2 Election of SEAC Vice Chair (B. Browne)

The Chair called for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2018 to December 2018.

R. Quesnel nominated Lorraine Cipparrone as Vice Chair of SEAC. L. Cipparrone accepted the nomination.

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

B. Browne turned the meeting over to the Chair.

3.3 Minutes of the November 20, 2017 SEAC Meeting (B. Agnew)

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: L. Cipparrone

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the November 20, 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 Ontario Autism Program Update

B. Browne noted that the OAP will be removed as a 'business arising' item. As appropriate, ongoing information will be provided via association reports from Autism Ontario and ministry initiative updates from staff.

6. Action and Information Items

6.1 Special Education Plan Review - Subcommittees

In preparation for the upcoming review of the Special Education Plan (SEP), B. Browne explained that the SEP has been divided into three sections and identified the subcommittees assigned to each sections.

Hardcopies were distributed (of the corresponding section of the plan) to each member to provide members with an opportunity to review their section prior to February's meeting.

B. Browne reviewed the introduction page of the SEP; then outlined the process agreed upon at the September SEAC meeting:

- February SEAC meeting will focus on reviewing the 3 sections; one subcommittee assigned to each section to do a concentrated review and discussion; members will be provided with their section of the SEP in tracking mode for revisions; members can provide feedback on any portion of the SEP to the corresponding subcommittee.
- March SEAC meeting will have time allotted for any areas of the SEP should subcommittees require further clarification following their review
- April SEAC meeting will have each subcommittee present on the sections they reviewed, followed by open discussion on each section
- May SEAC meeting: SEAC will review a combined draft of the SEP with revisions

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 Superintendent's Report

B. Browne provided updates on:

- Math and the LD Learner: Elementary SERTs, Gifted SETs and ESC SETs will be participating in Math and the LD Learner sessions this week; resources will be provided to be used as a Tier 2 intervention and to support the learning of any student as needed
- Empower Update: Day 3 of Empower training will be run for teachers new to Empower this year; a refresher will be run in early February for all teachers currently running Empower
- Model Me Kids: is an evidence based resource which uses video modelling to teach social skills, daily living skills and other pro-social behavioural skills; Behaviour Analysts will build capacity to use this valuable resource for students at various ages and stages of their social skills development; BAs are running an in-service on January 30th for all system CYCs, SLPs, CDAs, Consultants and Itinerant EAs and SERTs

- Special Education & New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP): B. Browne distributed an agenda of PD sessions on Special Education that are being provided as part of NTIP; V. Goodwin-Duncan will be leading this important PD; dates run through January, February and March
- Special Education PD for Long Term Occasional Teachers (LTOs): on the February 2nd PA Day a Special Education workshop will be provided to LTOs; V. Goodwin-Duncan and I-SERT R. Richardson will present on a variety of Special Education topics
- Special Education PD for Principals: at the Principal/Vice-Principal mentorship session in December, Special Education staff presented carousel sessions to both mentors and mentees on a variety of special education practices for administrators
- Regional Special Education Council (RSEC): B. Browne and W. Reid-Purcell have been invited to speak at the London Region RSEC next Friday to present our student independence rubric; philosophy, and the EA allocation tool. Work at HCDSB is recognized around the province and we are delighted to share our work/message with Special Education Supervisory Officers from across southwestern Ontario
- Chief of Mental Health Programming: P. Webber-Callaghan retired at the end of December; the position has been posted and is generating a lot of interest; look forward to having someone in this role in the next month or so to continue to move our work in Mental Health forward
- Mental Health Hub: continue to work closely with our community partners such as Joseph Brant Hospital, ROCK, CAS, HDSB and the Ministries of Education, Health, and Child and Youth Services to create a mental health “hub” in Burlington where we can align services and try to create a place for youth to connect and get support for mental health.
- Bell “Let’s Talk” Day is January 31st: to continue conversation around mental health, Bell will donate money per tweet with the appropriate hashtag; B. Browne will participate in the morning at Lumen Christi in Milton who do an amazing day of shared learning and tweeting to raise awareness of the importance of mental health in Halton; B. Browne invited anyone that would like to join in at Lumen Christi to let him know
- Human Trafficking: joint PD for Social Workers and CYC staff took place on January 17th re: recognizing the signs of students who are being groomed for Human Trafficking and addressing what we can do
- Child and Family Services Act (CFSA): on January 1st 2018 an amendment was proclaimed to raise the age to provide child protection services to youth 16 to 18
- Trauma Sensitive Training: January 25th 2018 we have 30 spots available for support staff to enhance their understanding of trauma through a full day of tier one training at Sheridan College
- Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Training: working on our DBT PD, to be announced soon, for front line staff (i.e. Social Workers, Child & Youth Counsellors and possibly Psychology) between February and March 2018
- Every School Day Matters: emphasis around attendance for the remainder of the school year with “Every School Day Matters”; social workers will be working closely with their school administrators to ensure attendance is a priority, addressing barriers on why students are not attending as they should

- *Stay, Play, Talk*: further to information previously presented to SEAC; the next wave of *Stay, Play, Talk* will be starting; 3 more educator teams attended training; the program will begin at the end of January at three more schools
- Staff Presentation: T. Van Reenen and D. Kollee presented to the Halton Connections Planning group about *Stay, Play, and Talk*; Erinoak, Woodview, and both district school boards were in attendance
- Peer Mediated Prompting: Speech Language Pathologists, Itinerant CYCs, and Behaviour Analysts have collaborated to develop an 8 week program to support staff using Peer Mediated Prompting in classrooms, beyond Kindergarten; the program was developed in conjunction with *Camps on Tracks* program and will be piloted in 2 schools starting the end of January
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Collaboration: D. Kollee and A. Borg (CDA) will be presenting to ESL teachers in February to share strategies, resources, and activities to support developing oral language skills
- Christmas Dance: photos were shared of the Christmas dance that took place at Corpus Christi in Burlington; another amazing day of celebration as all nine secondary schools attended with their Best Buddies. Best Buddies Canada happened to be hosting their annual AGM in Toronto at that time, and brought their senior leadership team to Burlington to be part of the day and look at using HCDSB's work as a template for other Best Buddies events across Canada.

7.2 Trustee Reports

Trustees provided updates on Board happenings.

7.3.1 Association Reports

7.3.1 Association Report – Easter Seals

B. Agnew attended a monthly teleconference, with SEAC reps from across Ontario; the emphasis was on resources; <http://education.easterseals.org/special-education-in-ontario/>

Camp Applications become available January 2018; <http://www.eastersealscamps.org/applications>

Skate with the Maple Leafs took place on Sunday December 17th; <http://eastersealsskate.org>

Monthly Easter Seals at School Blog posts; are informative; B. Agnew encouraged anyone who has questions to check them out as there are common themes across the board

7.3.2 Association Report – Autism Ontario

L. Stephenson explained that last year the ministry committed to a direct funding option that is now available.

On December 7th the MCYS provided an update on the new Ontario Autism Program: <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2017/12/providing-more-choice-for-families-in-the-ontario-autism-program.html>

Autism Ontario's response to the update highlights ongoing concerns and challenges for families that include lengthy waitlists

8. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, February 12, 2018

The agenda will included the Special Education Plan workshop. An email will be sent out regarding convening a subcommittee for the selection of the Spirit of Inclusion recipients.

9. Adjournment**9.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)**

Moved by: L. Cipparrone

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED that, L. Currie, K. Bivand, S. Trites, H. Karabela, C. Parreira be excused. **CARRIED**

9.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

Moved by: D. Hotopeleanu

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

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

The meeting adjourned 9:08 p.m. with a prayer led by the B. Agnew.