

B. Agnew invited this year's secondary recipient and the principal of Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School to come forward and reviewed the nomination information that resulted in Serena being selected as this year's secondary recipient of the Spirit of Inclusion award. A school plaque and a gift were presented.

2.2 Assistive Technology / Special Education Amount (SEA) (J. Thompson)

B. Agnew introduced J. Thompson Itinerant SERT SEA Lead.

J. Thompson explained that she would begin by presenting updates to the information she had previously shared with SEAC last year.

Updates included:

- Increased SEA staff to better facilitate student needs
- SEA Inventory Intake Tool (SEA IT) to improve approval process and delivery time to students; allows for online submissions and approval of all claims; assigns and tracks the location of devices; alerts are set up for equipment that require updating; creates deliveries to schools. Next step will be to connect to Trillium to further streamline the process
- increase in number of laptops sent out and number of students trained; clips of a student sharing positive feedback on the training, and emails on feedback from SERTs were shared
- an overview of the staff training to date and a plan for expansion of training was reviewed
- *BoardMaker Online* is on trial for all Structured Teaching and Life Skills teachers. In partnership with Curriculum, our goal is to have it available board-wide in September
- computers and iPads: purchases are now being made for newer models of equipment including Dell 3380 and iPad 2017
- purchased 2 new Virtual Reality Headsets and 2 new HoloLens (mixed reality) to trial; devices will be trialed in the ESC and Gifted Classrooms to enhance student engagement in learning; J. Thompson played a clip of *Hollow Lens Mixed Reality* technology. Next steps: have reached out to Microsoft and other potential partnership to work on developing curriculum for students to develop financial literacy skills and daily life skills. This is a large scope project in the early stages

B. Browne noted this was previously an area of challenge that is turning into a real strength, J. Thompson has taken our work to another level. Staff attended the ISTE Conference and are taking a leadership role around the province. This is what happens when our staff lead; we have gone from a challenge to now talking about **what's possible**.

B. Agnew thanked J. Thompson.

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Minutes of the February 12, 2018 SEAC Meeting

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the February 12, 2018 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

Members were reminded about submitting SEAC Soundbytes; the Chair will also send out a reminder; would like to have Soundbytes by June; these can be submitted any time before June.

6. Action and Information Items

6.1 SEAC Role Review (B. Agnew)

It was suggested that the SEAC Role Review be deferred to the next meeting; all were in agreement to defer.

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 **Superintendent's Report**

B. Browne provided updates on:

Special Need Strategy: an update was received today; current process remains for now; the government remains committed to seeing this through.

Chief of Mental Health Programming: interviews took place after the February SEAC meeting and we are very pleased to announce the hiring of T. Melkuty to the role. She will be starting after the March Break

Professional Development: Itinerant SERTs for Blind/Low Vision and a Speech Language Pathologist will be attending the inter-professional workshop at Holland Bloorview on supporting Alternative and Augmentative Communication in children with vision challenges

Stay, Play Talk classrooms: a third wave will be starting after March Break

Psychology: have hired a temporary Psycho-Educational Consultant to replace staff on a leave of absence and have confirmed the addition of a new position starting April 3rd; beginning then FTE will be up by 1.0, until the end of May; there are some anticipated leaves coming up.

Compassionate Care Crisis Response Team (CCRT): Special Education staff have been significantly involved in multiple CCCRT responses recently; in addition to Chaplains, the CCCRT involves Special Education staff, including I-CYCs, Social Workers, Psychology Staff and the school based CYCs; staff are out there doing amazing, challenging work.

Gifted Screening Process: currently in the final days of the gifted screening; based on results, we have revised our current cut-off criterion for the CCAT-7 VQN score in the group test stage downward to 95th percentile; adding all students with that score to our stage 2 screening. Preliminary numbers suggest that we are identifying 2.2% of the grade 4 population, up from the last two years, which were the first years with the WISC-5. **This year's information will be used** for extensive research evaluation of our process.

Gifted Survey of Secondary Students: staff have been taking a look at gifted program options at secondary school. Part of this research involved an intentional look at student voice; secondary students identified Gifted were invited to participate in a survey about how secondary is meeting their needs from a variety of perspectives. The survey received an 81% response rate, from an overall perspective: the majority of students responded being satisfied with their program, options, and opportunities overall in all three: the regular stream, the Advanced Placement (AP) program, and International Baccalaureate (IB). IB reported slightly lower due to a lack of flexibility in course selection. Qualitative responses valued the importance of course selection, extra-curricular, social, and high marks. We are pleased that secondary students reported strongly their satisfaction with the options available to them in secondary.

Kindergarten Information Night: for families of students with special needs, who will be joining us in September took place on Wednesday February 28th at 7:30 pm at St. Benedict School in Milton. Participation included SEAC, Special Education and Curriculum staff. B. Agnew presented on behalf of SEAC and did a great job of connecting with parents; Special Education Consultants connected with parents to start the transition process.

Spirit of Inclusion Award: presentation of individual awards will take place on Monday, April 30th at Corpus Christi; look forward to celebrating with our elementary and secondary award winners; as emailed previously SEAC members are welcome to attend.

Culture Counts Conference: B. Browne was invited to sit on panel, from a school board perspective, at a *Cultural Responsiveness and ASD Conference* on March 2nd; proud to share and talk about the work we do: our focus on capacity building; our foundational assumptions; our work towards independence; and how individual student needs drive our work.

7.2 Trustee Reports

S. Trites asked if members had any questions.

7.3 Association Reports

7.3.1 VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children (R. Quesnel)

R. Quesnel shared two upcoming events:

- The 26th Annual VOICE Conference: *Hear Me, Hear You – Technology & Transitions*. The conference takes place Friday May 4th 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM and Saturday May 5th 8:00AM-4:30 PM at Centennial College - Event Centre, 937 Progress Ave in Scarborough. May 4 is for professionals; May 5 for parents. Can register on line at website www.eventbrite.ca/e/26th-annual-voice-conference-tickets
- 2018 Dress Loud Day will take place on Friday May 4, 2018. Dress Loud Day typically occurs on the first Friday of Hearing Awareness Month. It is an event meant to raise awareness about hearing loss where participating schools and workplaces encourage students and staff respectively to dress in loud clothing, wild hats or accessories and participants can donate a toonie if they wish. Those wishing to participate can contact VOICE for more information. <https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/>

Discussion on providing event information to schools resulted in the decision to design a 'SEAC Awareness' calendar. B. Agnew will send out a follow up email to gather information from associations to be included in a 'year in advance' event awareness calendar to be sent out for consideration by schools. The goal will be to pull information together by the end of the school year.

7.3.2 Easter Seals Ontario (B. Agnew)

B. Agnew informed members that March is Easter Seals Awareness Month; fundraisers will be happening at retailers.

B. Agnew reported that Alison Morse has been appointed to the Education Accessibility Standard Development Committee for Kindergarten to Grade 12. A second Standard Development Committee (SDC) has been established for post-secondary education. The standard committees will be developing recommendations for the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario about how to improve accessibility in schools. The first meeting was held on February 5th; topics included: Mandate and Guiding Principles; K-12 Education SDC Key Messages–Orientation Meeting; and Accessibility Survey–Results in Context.

The *Accessibility Survey – Results in Context* is a high level overview of responses to last year's survey by the Ministry of Education. At the first meeting, in the session on barriers, there was support for expanding the list of identified barriers in education.

A. Morse will provide information to on how conversations go, regarding all students across the board; information will be shared as things move forward.

7.4 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings – CPIC

The Council of Chairs meeting took place February 28th; last Wednesday; each council received 44 books; items on the agenda included: Catholic Literacy; Indigenous Education; Christian Meditation; and the Legalization of Cannabis Impact on Schools.

8. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, April 23, 2018
 B. Browne asked members if they would be agreeable to submitting reports for April's agenda a week early, to allow preparation and distribution of the meeting documents to occur earlier in the month; it was agreed that documents for April's agenda would be submitted by Friday, April 6 and meeting documents will be distributed by April 11.

The April agenda will included Renewed Math Strategy; Empower Reading Program update; Special Education Plan updates from each subcommittee; and SEAC Role Review (item 6.2 deferred)

9. Adjournment

9.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)

Moved by: L. Stephenson

Seconded by: S. Trites

RESOLVED, that L. Currie, A. Iantomasi, H. Karabela be excused. CARRIED

9.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

Moved by: S. Trites

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn. CARRIED

The meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.