



Information included:

- **Renewed Math Strategy's** focused support to strengthen mathematics learning, teaching and leading for students with special education needs
- Goals of the early math screener project with Western University: to determine if a numeracy screener can help identify children at risk from falling behind in math education
- A video of Dr. Daniel Ansari on the importance of early math
- Foundational Competencies
- Junior Kindergarten Screener Test
- Procedural counting
- Conceptual counting
- Cardinality principle
- Using number symbols in the context of play-based learning

J. Mickle answered members' questions.

## 2.2 Empower Reading Program Updated (J. Scott and W. Reid-Purcell)

W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator and J. Scott, Special Education Resource Teacher at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School provided updates on the Empower Reading Program at Halton Catholic.

Information included:

- Empower Reading Programs are literacy intervention programs that transform struggling readers into capable readers and confident learners
- Empower was developed by the Hospital for Sick Children's Learning Disabilities Research Program
- Empower strips reading to foundational skills; it is presented in a small group, non-threatening, safe place and repetition is a key component of the program
- An outline of the programs: who the programs are designed for, and the number of lessons provided per program
- Empower is a tier 3 approach to reading
- Feedback on the program was shared. Testimonials included: what the Parents have to say; what students have to say; and what the educators (principals) have to say about Empower
- In partnership with Curriculum, the Empower Reading Program was offered to each elementary school in HCDSB

J. Scott and W. Reid-Purcell answered member's questions.

## 3. Actions to be taken

### 3.1 Minutes of the March 5, 2018 SEAC Meeting

*Moved by:* L. Stephenson

*Seconded by:* J. Parisi

*RESOLVED, that the minutes of the March 5, 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

The Chair reminded members that SEAC Soundbytes should be submitted by the end of June.

## 6. Action and Information Items

### 6.1 SEAC Role Review (B. Agnew)

Deferred – item moved to Business Arising.

### 6.2 Special Education Plan Review/Discussion (Sub-committees)

Subcommittees gathered to review their feedback. The Chair noted that feedback for other sections of the Special Education Plan (SEP) should be submitted to the subcommittee responsible for that section. Each subcommittee is asked to submit their section of the plan electronically following the meeting.

Each subcommittee reviewed the feedback for their assigned section of the SEP.

Members were reminder to submit their group's electronic file.

### 6.2 Policy V-04 School Fundraising Activities & Administrative Procedure VI-59

B. Agnew discussed the opportunity for stakeholder feedback on Policy V-04 and Procedure VI59 and asked members to comment back as to whether this was applicable to Special Education. The Chair noted that individually everyone is invited to respond; a response **from SEAC's would be from a Special Education** perspective. It was suggested that members, after speaking with associations or in general, let the Chair know their thoughts regarding feedback on behalf of SEAC.

## 7. Communications to SEAC

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

B. Browne provided updates on:

Ministry Funding Announcement – The Ministry announced significant investments in Special Education and Mental Health with their GSN and EPO announcements at the end of March. Specifically, money is intended for increasing mental health supports in Secondary Schools, multi-disciplinary supports such as psychology, social work, Speech and Language and Behaviour expertise supports. We are still working through details as to how these will translate into practice for HCDSB.

ABA for All Day 3 – We have our follow up to our ABA for All sessions upcoming in May. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Honourable Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister of Education, will be speaking to start off the day.

Professional Development – Special Education Teachers (SETs) continue to be invited to Catholic Learning Communities (CLCs) to engage in shared learning focused on SETs for Essential Skills, Structured Teaching and Gifted. Gifted SETs will participate project based learning PD; we are inviting Self-contained Gifted classroom teachers to a weeklong training on project-based learning

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Conference: D. Kollee represented the Halton Regional FASD Committee at a conference in Vancouver last week. Participated in various forums, sharing the work HCDSB is doing in the Halton Collaborative. Our Clinical team including O. Foese, P. Codner, A. Jones and D. Kollee are all contributing to and leading this work around FASD in Halton on behalf of HCDSB.

Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration: each year we culminate our Roots of Empathy program with a celebration. This is a program involving **mothers and their "tiny teacher" children** working with classes to develop the acquisition of empathy skills, behaviour, and self-regulation. **This year's celebration will be held on Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Gregory in Oakville.** The program continues to be a tremendous success throughout the board under the leadership of R. Bird, Itinerant CYC.

Ontario Council of Administrators of Special Education (OCASE) Symposium: this bi-annual gathering of Special Education Administrators and leaders from across the province takes place on Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> at the

W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind in Brantford. Collaboration, shared practices, and PD is the focus of the sessions.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Picnic – our DHH Itinerant SERTs organize this annual event; this year's picnic will take place on Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at Lowville Park in Burlington.

Care Treatment Custody and Corrections (CTCC) Conference (also known as Section 23 Classes): is being held at Sly Apps Correctional Facility on Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Clinical staff including Social Workers and Psychology Staff will be in attendance.

Student Awards of Excellence: takes place next Monday evening at Corpus Christi; looking forward to recognizing our Spirit of Inclusion Award winners and their families.

Life Skills Dinner Dance/Prom – This annual event for all students in the Life Skills program at our nine secondary schools will be hosted at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School in Milton on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:30pm. The theme for this year's event is "Western Soiree". All members are welcome, details will be emailed.

## 7.2 Trustee Report

Trustees provided updates on board happenings and asked members if they had questions they would like answered.

## 7.3 Association Report

### 7.3.1 Autism Ontario Association Report

L. Stephenson reviewed two news releases:

- March 29, 2018: The National ASD Surveillance System (NASS) released the most up-to-date Canadian prevalence rate - *1 in 66 Canadian children is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder*
- March 28, 2018: *Autism Ontario's Report on the 2018 Ontario Budget*

### 7.3.2 Halton Downs Syndrome Association Report

B. Agnew reviewed D. Hotopeleanu's report on the Canadian Down Syndrome Society's (CDSS) Conference: There will be a great line-up of speakers that would be of interest to educators; early bird deadline to register is April 30<sup>th</sup>. <http://cdss.ca/community/events-activities/down-syndrome-conference/>

## 7.4 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings – CPIC

CPIC is currently looking for nominations for next year.

## 8. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, May 28, 2018

## 9. Adjournment

### 9.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)

*Moved by:* M. Lourenco

*Seconded by:* J. Parisi

*RESOLVED, that be excused. CARRIED*

### 9.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

*Moved by:* M. Lourenco

*Seconded by:* A. Iantomasi

*RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.*

*CARRIED*

The meeting adjourned 9:06 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.