

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date:	May 28, 2018	
Time:	7:00 pm	
Location:	Catholic Education Centre - Board Room 802 Drury Lane Burlington, Ontario	
Members Present	B. Agnew (Chair) L. Cipparrone (Vice Chair) D. Hotopeleanu	J. Parisi R. Quesnel D. Rabenda
Staff Present	B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator Roxanna Negoj, Superintendent Business Services Aaron Lofts, Senior Administrator Financial Services	
Members Excused	R. Barreiro, K. Bivand L. Currie A. Iantomasi H. Karabela M. Lourenco L. Stephenson	
Members Absent	S. Trites C. Parreira	
Recording Secretary	J. Crew	

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: L. Cipparrone

Seconded by: D. Rabenda

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as received.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

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

R. Negoj and A. Loft outlined HCDSB's budget and specifics related to Special Education. Information provided included:

- School Board Financial Reporting Cycles
- Grants for Student Needs (GSN)

- How HCDSB get its funding
- How HCDSB spends its funding
- 2018-19 Budget Estimates Process
- 2018-19 Budget Estimates: Proposed Financial Position
- 2018-19 Special Education Grant and Revenues
- 2018-19 Special Education Budget

Presenters answered questions from members.

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Minutes of the April 23, 2018 SEAC Meeting

Moved by: J. Parisi

Seconded by: D. Rabenda

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the April 23, 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

B. Agnew reminded members that SEAC is still looking for Soundbytes for the next school year. Potential topics for Soundbytes were discussed.

6. Action and Information Items

6.1 Accessibility Plan (B. Agnew)

B. Agnew asked members if they had feedback, comments or questions that would like to discuss regarding Accessibility Plan that had been sent out to members with the meeting package. Members were asked to review the plan and forward feedback.

6.2 Special Education Plan (B. Agnew)

The Chair noted that feedback was still outstanding from subcommittees; to date we are unable to provide a combined report to staff for their consideration. Subcommittees were encouraged to get information in as soon as possible.

6.3 SEAC Meeting Dates (B. Agnew)

SEAC meeting dates were reviewed, the meeting for the webinar that was originally scheduled for December 3rd was moved to November 26. Dates for the 2018-2019 SEAC meetings will be:

- Monday September 17, 2018
- Monday October 15, 2018
- Monday November 12, 2018
- Monday November 26, 2018
- Monday January 28, 2019
- Monday February 25, 2019
- Monday March 25, 2019
- Wednesday April 24, 2019
- Monday May 27, 2019
- Monday June 17, 2019

6.4 Policy V-04 School Fundraising Activities & Administrative Procedure VI-59 (B. Agnew)

Following the Policy V-04 discussion at the April meeting and an email to determine if a response was appropriate from a SEAC special education lens, it was determined that a SEAC response would not be submitted. Members were encourage to submit their individual feedback.

6.5 SEAC Membership (B. Browne/B. Agnew)

Members were reminded that the term for SEAC membership runs congruent with Trustees, and as such, the current SEAC will be dissolved at the end of November. Members were encouraged to have their associations submit their nominations to form the next SEAC committee in a timely manner.

A recruitment process will take place in the Fall for members at large and other associations. HCDSB continues looking at other associations to be represented at the table; B. Browne connects regularly with the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton and the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP) has expressed interest in joining HCDSB's SEAC; B. Agnew will pursue next steps with OFCP.

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 Superintendent's Report

B. Browne provided updates on:

- Psychology: HCDSB will be providing summer assessments again this year and are looking to fill psychology staff positions. The position is currently in high demand
- Mental Health and Addiction Nurses (MHAN): beginning in September, they will support cases from JK to grade 12; this additional Mental Health support for students follows the removal of Regional Nurses from schools last year
- CYCs, Social Work staff, Special Education Consultants and Psychology staff: trained in trauma informed schools level 1 and level 2
- Social Work staff are now all trained in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)
- Speech Language Pathologists: hired temporary 0.5 FTE until end of June to help with assessments
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Girls Inc. will be running camps at our schools again this summer
- Blind Low Vision staff will be attending PD on Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) at Ross McDonald School for the Blind on June 15
- Educational Assistants (EA): the CUPE 5200 President will be changing as the current president will be taking on a new role provincially; significant efforts are being made to have schools staffed effectively for September within our EA needs; EA Managers continue to work with our HR Department on EA recruitment
- Professional Development (PD): Day 3 sessions for ABA for All were completed at the beginning of May, the Minister of Education attended the first Day 3 ABA for All session; sessions involved collaborative professionalism between academic and clinical staff and included teachers, SERTs, and support staff; HCDSB's work in moving forward the principles of ABA is at the forefront of the provincial work to support students
- Project Based Learning: Staff provided PD and support for Gifted teachers and SERTs on project based learning; HCDSB is also providing opportunities for Gifted Teachers and SERTs to go further with this learning during the summer, staff have been signing up to participate in summer sessions
- Special Education Consultants: two of our consultants V. Goodwin–Duncan and M. Pickett will be retiring at the end of this school year and will be missed; both educators have a particular passion and heart for special education and a combined 70 years of experience have made a tremendous impact across the

system. B. Browne explained the succession planning and welcomed L. Vacca, J. Mauth-Arseneault, and N. Boucher to the role.

- Upcoming Events - Members are invited to participate in:
 - i. The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics in collaboration between the Halton Police and both district school boards. The event takes place on Wednesday, June 6 at Sixteen Mile Sports Complex, 3070 Neyagawa Boulevard, Oakville from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 - ii. Special Olympics Track and Field Meet takes place Friday, June 8, 2018 (Rain date: Monday, June 11, 2018) at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, Milton from approximately 9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- Recent Events - B. Browne shared photos from:
 - i. Team Unbreakable Run for Mental Health took place on Saturday May 12th at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington; the run is the culmination of programs running in schools that are focused on mental health and well-being connected to physical fitness
 - ii. Deaf Hard of Hearing (DHH) Picnic on May 16 approximately 40 students participated at our DHH picnic; a great time was had by all
 - iii. Roots of Empathy our “tiny teachers” and their moms and dads were celebrated at St. Gregory CES on May 18th where we welcomed Mary Gordon, founder of the Roots of Empathy Program; we have 34 trained staff, mostly CYCs, running 44 programs in the system; to date we have had 5000 students participate in the program
 - iv. Best Buddies Life Skills Prom took place at Jean Vanier CSS on May 17th; students from all 9 high schools’ Best Buddies and Life Skills program participated; Teachers, EAs, principals, DHS, and Vanier staff were all there to support and help make the evening a success.

7.2 Trustee Reports

D. Rabenda provided updates on board happenings: the School year calendar; budget, feedback from stakeholders on Sanctity of Life. Trustee elections will take place in October; nominations will be open until July 27th.

7.3 Association Report – Halton Downs

D. Hotopeleanu explained that World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) raises awareness for Down Syndrome and reported that the WDSD School Contest was amazing this year; the contest was opened up to schools in Halton as well as any school outside of the region who has a VIP with HDSA. A total of 21 schools entered either the Digital Media or Photo Contest. The submissions went above and beyond expectations, making the judging very difficult. HDSA reached almost 15,000 students in & around the Halton region with this year's contest.

D. Hotopeleanu played the video for the second place digital media for elementary: [École élémentaire catholique Sacré-Coeur](#)

D. Hotopeleanu also discussed the Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) Conference highlights.

7.4 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings

B. Agnew provided updates from CPIC and the Council of Chairs meetings.

8. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, June 18, 2018
Members discussed the two meetings scheduled for June 18 and determined with a show of hands, to incorporate the 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm meeting's Mental Health Presentation (postponed from December) into the 7:15 pm meeting's 'Year in Review'. The combined meeting takes place Monday June 18, 2018 beginning at 7:00 pm.

9. Adjournment

9.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that R. Barreiro, K. Bivand, L. Currie, A. Iantomasi, H. Karabela, M. Lourenco, L. Stephenson be excused. *CARRIED*

9.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

Moved by: L. Cipparrone

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn. *CARRIED*

The meeting adjourned 8:51 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.