

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: September 30, 2019
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
 802 Drury Lane
 Burlington, Ontario

Members Present	B. Agnew (Chair)	H. Karabela
	D. Bardon	J. Lim
	R. Barreiro	A. Louca-Ricci
	T. Beattie	M. Lourenco
	M. Duarte	R. Quesnel
	D. Hotopeleanu (Vice Chair)	D. Rabenda

Staff Present

C. Cipriano, Superintendent of Special Education Services
 P. Daly, Director of Education
 A. Jones, Manager, Educational Assistants
 D. Kollee, Chief, Chief of Speech Language Pathologist
 W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator
 A. Swinden, Manager, Strategic Communications

Members Excused

M. Arteaga
 P. Moran
 C. Parreira
 Y. Taylor
 T. Veale

Members Absent

M. Arnold
 N. Guzzo

Recording Secretary(s) A. Hughes

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Commissioning of SEAC

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair and C. Cipriano.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: M. Duarte

Seconded by: D. Rabenda

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as received.

CARRIED

1.3 Welcome Back

The Chair welcomed SEAC members back after the summer break.

2. Presentations

2.1 Autism Ontario

B. Agnew introduced L. Boyd, Service Navigator Central Team Lead for Autism Ontario - Halton, Waterloo, Wellington region. L. Boyd provided information on Autism Ontario's new roles and the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP). The presentation is attached.

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Minutes of the June 17, 2019 SEAC Meeting

Moved by: D. Bardon

Seconded by: M. Duarte

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 17, 2019 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

C. Cipriano informed members that an electronic copy of the Roots of Empathy flyer would be shared as discussed with members. ABA postcards were distributed.

6. Action and Information Items

6.1 SEAC Communications Plan (B. Agnew/A. Louca-Ricci)

B. Agnew informed members that the first SEAC Communications Sub Committee meeting was held prior to tonight's meeting. A. Louca-Ricci provided an update on recommendations from the sub committee. A SEAC Twitter account will be created. A SEAC event with a speaker and road show to go to the School Parent Councils was proposed.

B. Agnew suggested putting a communication plan for SEAC Events on the next agenda.

6.2 Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy

C. Cipriano provided an overview of Policy No. II-52 Student Use of Service Animals in Schools which was recently passed by the Board of Trustees. The policy is a result of the Ministry of Education drafting a PPM requiring all school boards to create a policy on service animals in schools. The Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Procedure will be shared at the Board of Trustees October 8th policy meeting.

6.3 Clustered Classes and Accelerated Learning Opportunities Board Report

C. Cipriano shared a Board Staff Report on Clustered Classes and Accelerated Learning Opportunities. This report was a collaboration of Program Services (Special Education, Student Success, Curriculum), Research Development Services, Business and Planning Services and Academic Services. The report was in response to a motion passed at the June 18th, 2019 Regular Board meeting, requesting that "Senior Staff examine the feasibility of clustered classes and/or accelerated learning opportunities in secondary schools that currently have the Advanced Placement (AP) Programme and prepare a staff report to the Board in September 2019". Members discussed various details of the staff report.

7. Communications to SEAC

7.1 Superintendent's Report

C. Cipriano provided updates on:

New SERTs: attended our first new SERT Catholic Learning Community meeting on September 17th. Topics included the IEP Engine, SEA and Alternative Programming students.

Stay, Play Talk Training: took place on September 25th. Additional classrooms are participating this term with SLP/CDA support. HCDSB is piloting an experienced Stay, Play, Talk educator mentoring/coaching for other staff to deliver the program to help increase the number of classrooms we can support. Digital resources will also be available to schools for Stay, Play, Talk kits.

NEW IEP Writer: is live and staff development is ongoing. New training is beginning for Essential Skills Class teachers to support their use of technology in the classrooms. Training for Structured Teaching Classes and Life Skills teachers will continue in order to support the use of technology as a teaching tool in these classrooms.

Mental Health Strategy Committee Meeting: took place on September 17th. Representations included community members, elementary and secondary administrators, various HCDSB staff, parents and students. The mental health strategy will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the October 15th Board meeting. HCDSB is in year three of the three-year mental health strategy plan and currently developing the new three-year plan.

Psychological Assessments: were conducted over the summer. Wait time has been reduced from just over 1 year to just under a 10 month wait time for a Psychological Assessments.

Mary Mother of God Parish in Oakville: will be having Sensory Friendly Masses beginning on November 10th. The Masses will take place once a month, on the second Sunday at 3:00 pm. The Mass will include lower lights, softer music, shorter and more literal homilies, low gluten hosts, small host portions and the freedom to move around as necessary. Flyers were distributed and will be sent electronically.

Professional Development: sessions have been run for SERTs, Special Education Department Heads, New SERTs, Empower Reading teachers, and Essential Skills Class teachers. The launch of Professional Development for Structured Teaching, Community Living Classes, and Life Skills SETs as well as Gifted SETs, will occur over the next couple of weeks.

Program Services Department Meeting: the first meeting took place on September 13, 2019, the topic was Trauma Sensitive classrooms.

HCDSB Special Olympics Elementary Cross-Country Meets: have been planned on the following days, according to municipality: Tuesday October 8th (Oakville schools), Wednesday October 9th (North Halton schools), Thursday October 10th (Burlington schools). The event runs from approximately 9:45 am to 2:00 pm at Kelso Conservation Area.

C. Cipriano will be attending the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton-Hamilton Corporate Breakfast on October 1st in Hamilton. This is the first annual breakfast to benefit children, youth and adults living with learning disabilities and ADHD/ADD.

P. Daly provided an update on CUPE's legal job action and explained that CUPE for our Board includes Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, Custodians, Library Technicians, Information Technology Staff and School Office Secretaries. It was noted that our Board is different from our co-terminus Board

whose Educational Assistants are not in CUPE. There is a live tap that is updated on the HCDSB website. Communication updates will be provided via the website, emails and social media.

7.2 Trustee Reports

M. Duarte reported that trustees have attended two Board meetings this school year. Highlights from the meetings are:

- Delegations on French Programming
- A Staff Report on French Programming will be presented at an upcoming meeting
- The 2018-2019 parent satisfaction survey report was presented; the full report is available online
- Policies approved include Student Use of Service Animals in Schools, Optional French Programming

7.3 Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association of Halton-Hamilton (T. Beattie)

T. Beattie provided information on the first Learning Disabilities Association of Halton-Hamilton (LDAHH) Corporate breakfast on October 1st and noted it was to celebrate the expansion of the chapter and the associations new name. Information was also provided on LDAHH's lecture series: Decoding the Psychoeducational Assessment and Parent Advocacy Workshops. Registration can be done on the website.

October is LD awareness month. Posters have been shared electronically with the Board and to our families. Details are outlined in the attached LDAHH association report.

8. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, October 28, 2019

9. Adjournment

9.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)

Moved by: M. Duarte

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED, that M. Arteaga, P. Moran, C. Parreira, Y. Taylor, T. Veale be excused. **CARRIED**

9.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

Moved by: D. Rabenda

Seconded by: M. Duarte

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. with a prayer led by the Vice Chair.