

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 25, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Microsoft Teams

Members Present	B. Agnew	J. Lim
	M. Arteaga	A. Louca-Ricci
	D. Bardon	M. Lourenco
	R. Barreiro	P. Moran
	N. Guzzo	R. Quesnel
	D. Hotopeleanu	D. Rabenda
	H. Karabela	T. Veale

Staff Present	J. Acheson, Chief Social Worker
	S. Balogh, Superintendent of Special Education Services
	P. Daly, Director of Education
	R. De Franco, Creative Design Officer
	A. Jones, Manager, Educational Assistants
	D. Kollee, Chief Speech Language Pathologist
	J. O'Reilly, Special Education Coordinator
	M. Pickett, Special Education Staff
A. Swinden, Manager, Strategic Communications	
L. Vacca, Special Education Consultant	

Members Excused	M. Duarte
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Members Absent	C. Parreira
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Recording Secretary	A. Hughes
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1. Call to Order

S. Balogh called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by S. Balogh.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: M. Lourenco

Seconded by: B. Agnew

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as received. **CARRIED**

2. Actions to be taken

2.1 Election of SEAC Chair

S. Balogh called for nominations for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2021 to December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: R. Barreiro

Seconded by: N. Guzzo

***That,** Brenda Agnew be nominated for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of January 2021 to December 2021.*

B. Agnew accepted the nomination.

S. Balogh called for other nominations; no other nominations were received.

Brenda Agnew was acclaimed Chair.

2.2 Election of Vice SEAC Chair

S. Balogh called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term January 2021 to December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: D. Bardon

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

***That,** Maria Lourenco be nominated for Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of January 2021 to December 2021.*

M. Lourenco accepted the nomination.

S. Balogh called for other nominations; no other nominations were received.

Maria Lourenco was acclaimed Vice Chair.

S. Balogh turned the meeting over to B. Agnew and M. Lourenco.

2.3 Minutes of the December 14, 2021 SEAC Meeting

Moved by: N. Guzzo

Seconded by: R. Barreiro

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the December 14, 2021 SEAC Meeting be approved as presented.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

3. Presentations

3.1 HCDSB Public Website (A. Swinden and R. De Franco)

B. Agnew introduced A. Swinden, Manager, Strategic Communications and R. De Franco, Creative Design Officer who presented a live presentation on the updated and responsive HCDSB public website. The website was updated to address accessibility standards. The presentation concluded with questions.

3.2 Pilot to Support Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities (L. Vacca and M. Pickett)

B. Agnew introduced Special Education staff L. Vacca and M. Pickett who presented on the Pilot to Support Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities. Staff concluded with answering questions. Members were sent an email after the meeting with a copy of the Family Transition Guide along with a questionnaire to submit feedback and suggestions. The presentation is attached.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings (Chair)

A discussion occurred on item #4 on the Business Arising chart regarding Transition Planning. A sub-committee was proposed. B. Agnew, M. Lourenco and D. Bardon volunteered to be on the Transition Planning sub-committee. B. Agnew will send a meeting invite for the first sub-committee meeting to all SEAC members. An update will be provided after the first sub-committee meeting.

6. Special Education Board Policy Review

There were no Board policies to be reviewed.

7. Action and Information Items

7.1 SEAC Goal Setting Chart Review (Chair)

The items on the goal setting chart were discussed. Responsibilities and next steps were discussed.

7.2 Nomination re: Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Hamilton (Chair)

B. Agnew announced that a nomination had been received from the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Hamilton for S. Sweet to represent their association on SEAC. The LDAHH nomination will go to the Board meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd for trustee approval.

7.3 PAAC on SEAC Survey Results (Chair)

The PAAC on SEAC survey results were shared with committee members before the meeting. The summary of the results were reviewed and discussed during the meeting. The Communications sub-committee will set a meeting and B. Agnew will update the group. A summary of the key points from the survey to take into consideration will be compiled by M. Lourenco and sent to members.

7.4 Association Report: Halton Down Syndrome Association (D. Hotopeleanu)

D. Hotopeleanu provided an overview of the 2021 World Down Syndrome Day contest. Information was distributed to all HCDSB schools. Details are outlined in the attached HDSA association report.

8. Communications to SEAC

8.1 Superintendent's Report

S. Balogh provided updates on:

Enhanced Autism Training: the Ontario government announced additional funding to Geneva Centre for Autism for a new Enhanced Autism training program. The objective of this program is to learn foundational Autism and Applied Behaviour Analysis skills and support techniques with an additional Live Practice Session.

Safe Management: we have started training our EA staff virtually in the theoretical component of the Safe Management intervention. We have added to our complement of Safe Management Train-the-Trainer and have trained an additional IEA.

ISERTs/SERTs: have participated in training in; Self & Match program, Trauma training and sending IEPs electronically. The ISERTs have extended their training to the virtual school to support the teachers in the virtual school with online learners.

SEA: 313 SEA AT devices have been distributed between October and December 31st.

Parent Training Sessions: two Read & Write Interactive Parent Training Sessions were hosted on the Board YouTube Channel. 335 parents registered over the 2 days. Parents were sent a follow up of FAQ's asked during the live stream, along with a Quick User Guide. The recordings are available on our board YouTube channel.

Kindergarten Registration for Students with Special Education Needs: Information has gone out to schools regarding kindergarten registration for students with special education needs as well as the kindergarten information evening which will occur on Wednesday, March 24th via Teams from 7 – 8:30. Information will be posted on each school website.

Bell Let's Talk Week: resources have been shared with the system and schools are promoting the event.

Mental Health & Wellbeing: an icon has been added to the new website landing page and is easily identifiable with a link to the return to school resources.

CYC's and Social Workers: continue to support students, staff and families and continue to deliver tier one supports to students. We have a new temporary ICYC position to support our schools and to focus on mental health support for specialized classes. Social workers continue to focus on supporting students and families regarding mental health especially during this time of lockdown. Multiple presentations have been provided to staff focusing on student mental health, wellness, and trauma sensitive classrooms.

Speech and Language Services: are being provided virtually. Tier 1 Speech and Language/Social Communication programs have been delivered in classrooms by our CDAs.

Psychology Services: staff continue to process psychological assessments and provide consultation to schools, as well as completing direct testing.

Behaviour Analysts: continue to provide their support to schools, and in person where deemed essential. Both Behaviour Analysts and Psychology Staff are preparing PD material for the ABA Bonanza. The ABA Bonanza interdisciplinary committee has met, and we are proceeding with planning and organizing this PD for the Board in the spring.

8.2 Trustee Reports

N. Guzzo reported on:

- The Directors Annual Report was presented at the last Board meeting and is also on the website.
- There was a change to the School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code Policy II-41. It allows for the families that have virtual elementary students to cast a vote on uniforms in their home school.
- The 5-year Strategic Plan is about to finish which means we are entering the next strategic planning process.
- The learn at home has been extended until an undefined time. Updates are provided at every Board meeting, along with being posted on the Board website and Twitter.
- There was a motion at the December 1, 2020 Board meeting to expand the Early French Immersion program. The current locations in Burlington and Halton Hills will allow for expansion. The Oakville and Milton locations will not allow for expansion. The new location in Oakville will be St. Marguerite d'Youville and in Milton will be St. Peter as a temporary site only for one year.

9. SEAC Discussion

A discussion occurred regarding PRO Grant funds available for school councils and possibly SEAC. P. Daly will follow up.

10. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Goal setting plans and sub-committees were further identified.

11. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, February 22, 2021

The agenda will include the Special Education Plan Review Discussion, Policy II-29 Inclusion & Range of Placement Options for Identified Students.

12. Adjournment**12.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)**

Moved by: N. Guzzo

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED, that M. Duarte be excused. **CARRIED**

12.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (Chair)

Moved by: M. Lourenco

Seconded by: N. Guzzo

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.

Pilot to Support Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities 2017-2020

Learnings and Best Practices

Lisa Vacca and Martha Pickett

Presentation to SEAC

January 25th 2021

Pilot Overview

The ***Pilot to Support Transitions to Postsecondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities (2017-2020)*** aimed to improve transition outcomes for students leaving school for community settings, work, or college (Community Integration through Cooperative Education – C-ICE) and support school boards in sharing and learning from one another.

Eight school boards were funded to participate:

- **Lead Boards (2)**

Conseil des écoles Catholiques du Centre-Est
Durham District School Board

- **Supporting Boards (6)**

Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
Halton Catholic District School Board
Lambton-Kent District School Board
Limestone District School Board
Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
Rainy River District School Board



Focus Areas of the Collaborative Project

- ❖ The Role of the Transition Coordinator
- ❖ Community Partnerships Including Integrated Transition Planning (ITP)
- ❖ Staff Training
- ❖ Student Portfolios/Career-Life Planning
- ❖ Working with Families
- ❖ Longitudinal Tracking
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Preparation for Work
- ❖ Working with Colleges (CICE Programs)



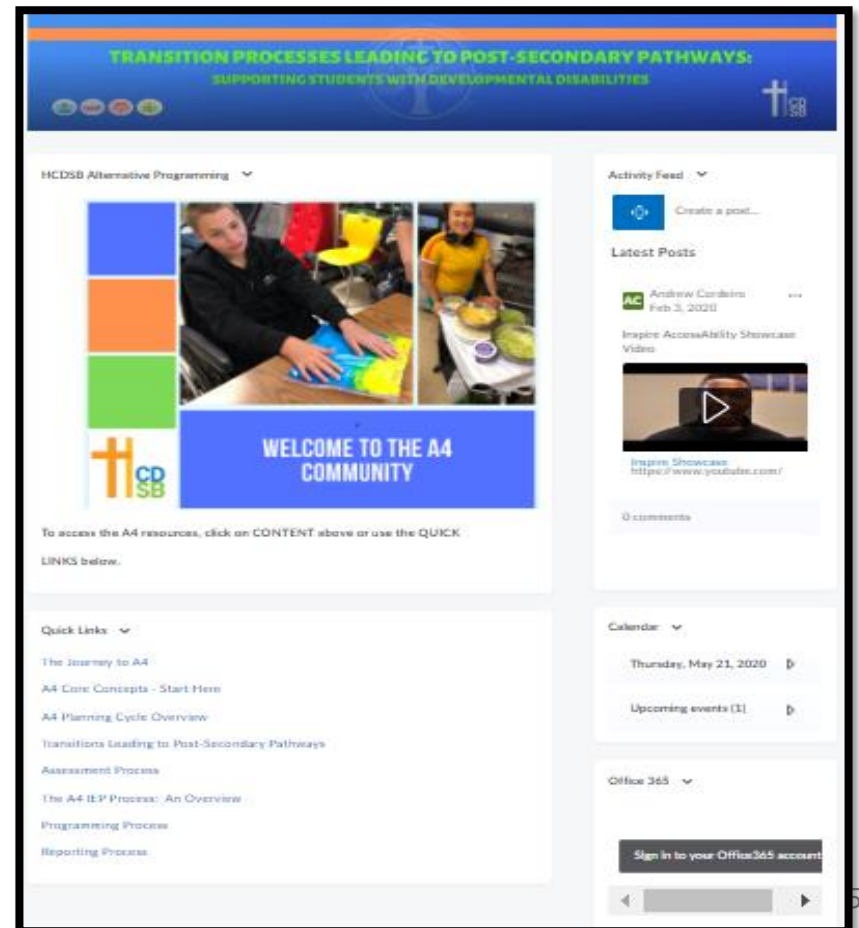
HCDSB Project Products



Staff Training and Resources

Electronic Transition Platform For Staff Use

We have completed transition and programming resources for staff. These are housed on D2L Brightspace and available to all SERTS. The main page of the platform is depicted here.



Below is a graphic of the D2L organizational structure:



Community Partnerships

Collaborative Endeavours

We continue to collaborate with our community partners through community events and various committee commitments



Student Portfolios/Career-Life Planning and Working With Families

Development of a *Community Pathways* section for HCDSB's *myBlueprint* platform. It has the following components:

- pathway information
- a family guide outlining transition processes to post-secondary pathways (currently in development and in draft form),
- a section outlining community events and helpful websites



The Halton Catholic District
School Board

Family Transition Guide



*Navigating the Journey to
Post -Secondary Pathways for
Students with a
Developmental Disability*



*All individuals will become self-directed, responsible, life-long learners,
developing and demonstrating their God-given potential
regardless of the pathway they choose.*

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Next steps:

- ❖ Solicit feedback on Family Transition Guide
- ❖ Continue to develop transition planning processes and resources that will be available online through *myBlueprint*
- ❖ Work on adding further resources and refine existing resources for the electronic D2L staff platform
- ❖ Training of all CLC/ STC/Life Skills classroom teachers on the use of the Community Pathways section of *myBlueprint*
- ❖ Continue to meet our commitments to collaborate with participating boards and the Ministry initiative for the 2020-2021 school year

Questions??

SEAC Goals 2021

Suggestions from the December 14, 2020 SEAC Goal Setting Exercise.

Reviewed and updated during January meeting and assigned tasks and timelines.


ITEM NO.	ITEM	SUGGESTED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATES
1	Board Wide Special Education Parent Survey for all Exceptionalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the purpose/intent of the survey and the data we want to collect and possibly embed a Special Education question in the strategic plan survey to parents.• Communicate with Research Department. Provide input on question for the survey.• Develop a Sub-Committee	Sub-Committee B. Agnew N. Guzzo M. Lourenco	Start the process. Proposed to have the Sub-committee to meet mid-February.
2	Self assessment process on SEAC meetings to measure effectiveness of the meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process at end of meeting to see what is working and next steps. Set up a self assessment process for the committee.• Do another start, stop and continue. Review of effectiveness of meetings.• Identify one or two achievable goals that SEAC own or control. Specific with dates, an achievable plan and a report.• Review SEAC goals and measure how did against the goals• Create a matrix. Measure how we did each year against our goals.• Set up a sub-committee.	All SEAC Members P. Moran agreed to lead and to discuss further with members and provide a draft outline.	Ongoing
3	Calendar for SEAC plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up a calendar that outlines every month what our plan is to see what is coming up and what to prepare.	Chair	Calendar emailed to all members December 17, 2020
4	Review the results of the PAAC on SEAC survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the results once they are received and then do a stop, start, continue. Review all comments and keep comment anonymous. Review PAAC on SEAC recommendation for agenda items.	All	Completed on January 25, 2021

5	Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring back SEAC Soundbytes and promote on Twitter • Each Association can provide an update • Create a sub-committee for writers 	Sub-Committee/All SEAC. A. Hughes emailed past SEAC Soundbytes to members on February 11 th for review.	Ongoing
6	Association Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations could report on how different Associations are coping with COVID-19 and adapting (i.e.: online games, parties, activities, etc). Association representatives can share their experiences and goals. 	All Associations are encouraged to share information at the monthly meetings or to provide information to share on Twitter.	Ongoing
7	Information from Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather requests for Staff Presentations • Survey SEAC members on what presentations they would like to have from staff and what information they want in the presentation. 	Staff/SEAC Members	<p>A survey will be sent to members in February with suggested topics and to provide feedback on presentations they would like to see.</p> <p>Survey results presented at February 22nd meeting.</p>
8	SEAC Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide time in SEAC meetings to have working groups/discussions 	All SEAC Members	Ongoing

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Association Report

Association:	Halton Down Syndrome Association
Representative:	Dan Hotopeleanu
Meeting Date:	January 25, 2021
Upcoming Events or Conferences	<p style="text-align: center;">Share the Joy of Down Syndrome: 7th Annual World Down Syndrome Day School Contest</p> <p>HDSA is thrilled to officially launch our Seventh Annual World Down Syndrome Day (WDSB) School Contest! Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have made some changes.</p> <p>The WDSB School Contest encourages schools to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, which takes place on March 21st, by showing their creativity and spreading awareness about Down syndrome throughout their community. This year's theme is: Share the Joy of Down Syndrome!</p> <p>Schools and students are encouraged to celebrate WDSB in February and/or March by sharing the joy of Down syndrome: it could be an act of kindness, a loving memory, a piece of art, a favourite activity, or more! Submissions can then be posted to social media by April 16th, 2021.</p> <p>We understand that this school year is unlike most, but we hope you can reach out to the Principal, Teacher and/or SERT of your children's school and invite them to join the contest. This is a great opportunity for them to foster diversity and inclusion in their school community, have fun and win prizes! Because of the nature of this school year, students can also enter the contest as individuals!</p> <p>Please keep in mind that schools or individuals must register for the contest by January 31st, 2021!</p>

<p>Website links/Brochure /Flyer attachments:</p>	 <p>. For more information about the Contest, please visit: https://www.haltondownsyndrome.com/world-down-syndrome-day/wdsd-contest/</p>
<p>New Initiatives:</p>	<p>Life under lockdown: HDSA is employing a range of initiatives to keep the level of engagement of children on peer activities online. We had a number of enjoyable holiday related activities in December and for the first quarter of 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book club – Monday afternoons - Workouts – Tuesday and Thursdays - Cooking – Tuesday evening - Music – Wednesday evening - Beyond Writing – Thursday evening - Friday movie club - Saturday Night social - Bingo, Trivia, Music and more! - Virtual Dance Program with The Dance Ability Movement! 8 week program <p>Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tots Creative Movement (Ages 2-6) - Saturdays from 9:30-10:00 AM Kids Hip Hop (Ages 7-10) - Saturdays from 10:05-10:35 AM Tweens Hip Hop (Ages 11-17) - Mondays from 6:30-7:15 PM Teen/Adult Hip Hop (18+) - Mondays from 7:20-8:05 PM - Workshop: Fostering & Maintaining Friendships - tips or advice on how to foster and maintain friendships with typical children - Virtual Parent Support Group. The goal of this will be for our parents to come together, ask questions, vent, provide feedback, etc. in a safe space with other HDSA Parents/Caregivers <p>In terms of technology we found Zoom to be the most intuitive and reliable for use of all ages.</p>

Other Information:	<p>2021 Halton Walk for Down Syndrome will take place on Saturday, June 19th 2021!</p> <p>It looks likely to be a virtual walk similar to 2020. More details to be available after January board meeting.</p>
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