

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: May 31, 2021  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Microsoft Teams

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

Staff Present	J. Acheson, Acting Chief Social Worker
	G. Brown, Chief of Mental Health Programming
	S. Balogh, Superintendent, Special Education Services
	J. Crowell, Superintendent, Curriculum Services
	K. Davison, Curriculum Consultant
	P. Daly, Director of Education
	O. Foese, Chief Psychologist
	D. Kollee, Chief Speech Language Pathologist
J. O'Reilly, Special Education Coordinator	

Members Excused M. Duarte

Recording Secretary A. Hughes

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### 1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order.

#### 1.1 Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.

#### 1.2 Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** S. Sweet

**Seconded by:** N. Guzzo

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

### 2. Presentations

#### 2.1 Special Education Summer Learning Program (J. O'Reilly and O. Foese)

B. Agnew introduced J. O'Reilly, Special Education Coordinator and O. Foese, Chief Psychologist who presented on the Special Education Summer Learning program. Staff concluded with answering questions. The presentation is included in the meeting package.

#### 2.2 Supporting Special Education Students in Destreamed Math (J. O'Reilly and K. Davison)

B. Agnew introduced J. O'Reilly, Special Education Coordinator and Kristy Davison, Curriculum Consultant who presented on the supports for special education students in destreamed math. Staff concluded with answering questions. S. Balogh will provide updates to SEAC when received. The presentation is included in the meeting package.

### 3. Action to be Taken

#### 3.1 Minutes of the April 19, 2021 SEAC Meeting

*Moved by: N. Guzzo*

*Seconded by: P. Moran*

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the April 19, 2021 SEAC Meeting be approved as presented.

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

### 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

### 5. Business Arising from Previous Meetings (Chair)

### 6. Special Education Board Policy Review (Chair)

There were no policies for review.

### 7. Action and Information Items

#### 7.1 Special Education Plan (S. Balogh)

The redline draft version of the special education plan, a summary of changes and SEAC member feedback on the plan was emailed to members before the meeting for review. S. Balogh thanked the members of the special education plan subcommittee and spoke to the updates to the plan. Questions were welcomed. S. Sweet, indicated that the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Hamilton (LDAHH) can not support the special education plan since the association feels there is no self-contained option, either partial or full (Level 4 and 5) for students with learning disabilities. According to the policies and procedures of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, who is the governing body of LDAHH, the association cannot support a special education plan if there is not a continuity of service from kindergarten to grade 12.

M. Lourenco stated that ABC stands by their feedback submission to Policy No. II-29 Inclusion and Range of Placement Options for Identified Exceptional Students. Although clustering was added to the special education plan, ABC believes there is currently no secondary placement option for gifted students and would like to see a regular class secondary clustered placement.

#### 7.2 Summary of Student Exceptionalities (S. Balogh)

Data on exceptionalities and placements for the school year 2020-2021 was distributed in the meeting package. Questions were welcomed. Staff concluded with answering questions.

#### 7.3 Nominations re: Autism Ontario (Chair)

B. Agnew announced that nominations had been received from Autism Ontario for L. Rojas-Silva to represent their association on SEAC and L. Anderson as the alternate representative. The Autism Ontario nomination will go to the June 1, 2021 Board meeting for trustee approval.

### 8. Communications to SEAC

#### 8.1 Superintendent's Report

S. Balogh provided updates on:

National AccessAbility Week in Canada: is May 30 to June 5, 2021. It is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities. This week, we also recognize the efforts of individuals, communities and workplaces that work to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion.

Summer Psychological Assessments: will be conducted this summer. Currently, Psycho-Educational Consultants are reaching out to parents to establish availability. We will conduct these assessments at select locations in Milton, Oakville and Burlington. Staff will review wait times continuously to ensure that any variability of wait times across the board that occurs as a result of summer assessments and other pandemic factors will be addressed in September.

Right-to-Read: As a result of the Ontario Human Rights Commission report on “The Right-to-Read” a committee was struck at the beginning of this year with the Special Education Consultants and Coordinator to begin looking at our current process around early screening and identification for students who are struggling to read. The report has since been delayed and is set to be released in Fall of 2021. The committee has been working on a study around using a reading readiness screening tool called the RRST. This tool is for use by classroom teachers to identify specific areas of reading readiness to provide meaningful and targeted intervention. The committee has since expanded to include the Chief of Psychology and Chief Speech Language Pathologist as well as Curriculum staff. Updates will be provided at a future meeting in the new school year as more information becomes available.

After School Skills Development Program: the Children Friendship Training is complete and PEERS is finishing up. Feedback on the program from parents and staff has been positive. The program will continue next year. SLPs, CDAs, BAs, Psychology staff, ISERTS, and some SERTS and CYCs participated in 3 days of training to be able to deliver PEERS, a social skill development program.

ABA Bonanza 2.0: the Bonanza has finished, including the panel discussions which have been completed. The Bonanza 2.0 will continue in the fall with some additional modules and panel discussions.

Project SEARCH: the launch held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> was very well received. Applications have been received, and the presentation has had over 600 views to date on the HCDSB YouTube channel. This school-to-work transition program for students with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities will commence in September 2021 at Milton District Hospital. The next step in the recruitment process is the interviews/assessment phase. Successful applicants will be notified the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>.

SEA Showcase: the Special Education Department hosted a virtual SEA Showcase on the HCDSB YouTube channel on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker was Carrie Anton, gold medal Paralympian from the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Summer Games and for the past 25 years has been an assistive technology and accessibility specialist. Video submissions of the Ignite Technology Grant winners were viewed and HCDSB students described the impact of assistive technology on their own lives and on their educational journeys. Thank you to Brenda Agnew, who spoke on behalf of SEAC, Rick Barreiro, who spoke on behalf of VOICE and Maria Lourenco and Jessica Lim, who spoke on behalf of ABC.

Mental Health: the video on Parenting During the Pandemic has surpassed 1000 views and people continue to watch the videos weeks after they were posted. We will continue to work on materials over the summer. Social workers and CYCs are continuing to work with students and families virtually during this period of school closure. For students that are requiring more intensive support, the social workers are providing support as well as liaising with community professionals to ensure that student and family's needs are being met.

## 8.2 Trustee Reports

N. Guzzo reported on:

- At the April 26<sup>th</sup> Special Board of Trustee meeting a motion was brought to the table, supporting our diverse school community, in regards to celebrating pride month. The result is it includes that mandatory training for senior staff be completed before the start of the 2021-2022 school year on the Catholic Social Teaching on loving and accompanying students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+. To be started in September of the 2021/2022 school year, all staff are to receive mandatory training on the Catholic Social Teaching on loving and accompanying students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, denominational rights and rights of students and staff under the Ontario Human Rights Code in schools. In addition, HCDSB is raising awareness around Pride month and each school will be mandated to have safe space signage.
- The 2021-2022 school year calendar has been approved.
- Meetings for multi-year strategic plan have been held. The mission and vision have been revised based on stakeholder feedback.
- Capital priorities program list report was presented.
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the official school name for the new Milton #3 Catholic Secondary School.
- The Bronte green school boundary review was approved for St. Mary and St. Joan of Arc.
- Religious education resource selection for the Grade 8 core religious is up for purchase for the complete print and digital series.
- The following policies were approved: Policy III-11 The Hiring and Promotion Policy Academic and Non-Academic Personnel and Policy II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education.
- Pre AP and pre IB programming will continue next year as per direction from Director Daly.

## 8.3 Association Report – Halton Down Syndrome Association (D. Hotopeleanu)

D. Hotopeleanu provided an overview on the Halton Down Syndrome Association virtual walk for Down Syndrome and an update on the HDSA's 7<sup>th</sup> annual World Down Syndrome Day school contest. The top three winning submissions were from HCDSB schools and a video of the first place submission was played.

## 9. SEAC Discussion/Questions

B. Agnew discussed writing a letter in support of Bill 172 similar to letters other SEAC's have written. B. Agnew called on T. Veale, FASworld Canada representative, to provide further information to members. T. Veale requested the support of SEAC to write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of Bill 172. B. Agnew asked members if they were in agreement. Members agreed to compose and send a letter of support.

**Moved by:** D. Rabenda

**Seconded by:** M. Lourenco

**RESOLVED**, that a letter in support of Bill 172 be sent to the Minister of Education. **CARRIED**

## 10. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

## 11. Next Agenda: Meeting June 14, 2021

The agenda will include a multi-year strategic plan update and the accessibility plan.

## 12. Adjournment

### 12.1 Resolution re Absentees (Chair)

**Moved by:** R. Barreiro

**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 9:06 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair.