



Approved Minutes

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 18, 2023, from 7:05 p.m.– 9:00 p.m. (Hybrid)

Chair: Jean-Paul Ngana

Vice-Chair: Michelle Aarts

A meeting of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee convened on September 18, 2023, from 7:05 p.m. to 9:00. p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street, with Jean-Paul Ngana presiding.

Attendance:

Members:

Melissa Rosen Association for Bright Children (ABC)

Leo Lagnado Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)

Richard Carter Down Syndrome Association of Toronto (DSAT)

Aliza Chaqpar Easter Seals Ontario

Steven Lynette Epilepsy Toronto

Nora Green Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community

Diane Montgomery (Alternate) Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community

Guilia Barbuto Learning Disabilities Association Toronto District

Aline Chan (Alternate), Community Living

David Lepofsky Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Dana Chapman (Alternate) Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Bronwen Alsop VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Stephany Ragany (Alternate) VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Beth Dangerfield CADDAC – Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada

Nerissa Hutchinson Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Tracey O'Regan Community Living Toronto

Trustee Michelle Aarts (Ward 16) – Vice Chair

Saira Chhibber (LC1)

Jean-Paul Ngana (LC2) - Chair

Jordan Glass (LC2)

Regrets

Kirsten Doyle (LC3)

Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof (LC4)

Trustee Liban Hassan (Ward 6)

Trustee Zakir Patel (Ward 19)

Staff

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Innovation and Equitable Outcomes

Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Katia Palumbo, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Deanna Cape, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Mun Shu Wong (Audio/Video)

Elizabeth Chalmers, Administrative Liaison (SOE)

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Item	Discussion	Action Items/Recommendation
Land Acknowledgement	Chair/Vice Chair	The Vice Chair read the land acknowledgment
Approval of Agenda	Meeting norms were shared.	On Motion by Steven Lynette, the agenda was moved, Seconded by Leo Lagnado. Agenda was adopted
Conflicts of interest	The Chair asked Members if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared	No Conflicts of Interest were declared
Approval of Minutes from June SEAC Meeting		On motion by Melissa Rosen to approve the minutes and seconded by Steve Lynette, the June minutes were approved

<p>Action Log Update</p>	<p>The Chair reviewed the Action Log. The following items were added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff provided an update on data requested through the previous SEAC motion. They clarified that they had provided data collected by the board in the spring and fall (now)● Staff will provide SEAC with which data is not currently being collected, and which data has started to be collected. A chart was provided last spring and can be sent out again.● Data on modified days is being collected currently. Data on number of safety plans was shared.● Staff will share the chart that was created last spring that shows what data is being collected and when it will be shared.● Staff will look into whether reports showing Refusals to Admit are available and can be shared - suggestion was shared that Refusal to Admit data is already collected so should be available.● TDSB SEAC Calendar was shared at June meeting. It is different than the PAAC calendar and members wanted to address items they feel are missing. Questions can be brought forward offline.	<p>Action Log was updated prior to the meeting and shared with members.</p> <p>Action Item: Share chart with data requested</p> <p>Action Item: Clarify PAAC vs SEAC calendar through an offline meeting</p> <p>Action Item: Catch up data was requested to be received when it is available</p>
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<p>Leadership Report</p>	<p>The following key items were highlighted from the Leadership Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Enrolment numbers for Elementary and Secondary ● AODA Update ● Special Education P.A.Days ● Power Schools Special Education Application ● Summer Transition for students with high special education needs ● Special Education and Inclusion Summer Program ● ECCP Summer Program ● Summer Skills Development Program (ASD) ● IPRC numbers ● Psychological Assessment numbers <p>SEAC Survey</p> <p>Associate Director Sirisko invited members to participate in small group discussions and followed up with a survey. Key points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terms of Reference update is considered very important ● Agenda setting, how meeting is run, creating balance between staff reports and discussions, motion development ● Expertise of SEAC members needs to be valued and rich discussion encouraged, standard Association report 	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>October - share priorities from Associations and collaboratively develop an Action Plan</p>
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template to build on member association expertise and insight,

- Collaboration was requested
- Tone of meetings at times is toxic and hostile
- Staff are committed to collaboration

After rich discussion, follow-up suggestions include:

Develop Terms of Reference

Onboarding training for members

Adoption of speaker timer and clear steps for agenda development

Develop Action Plan - every year collaboratively develop an action plan with themes and action tasks and goals along with data to see positive change

Suggestion to dedicate time in October to discuss and prioritize action areas. Between now and October, each member engages their association or community to ask what are the greatest barriers your families are meeting. Members are asked to prioritize the list for October to share data and develop action themes and what data is available. Through time, staff will be responding and giving updates on the action plan.

Concerns were raised about families being told that their child can't be supported at a school. Parents are encouraged to

	connect with their principal or superintendent, following the Parent Concern Protocol.	
Trustee Report	Budget Proccess is changing this year. It is going to occur earlier this year. The calendar needs to be approved by the board. The plan is to create a needs based budget prior to the announcement of the GSN (before the end of March). Consultation process will happen earlier.	

<p>Member Item (Autism Ontario)</p>	<p>Concern was raised that students with autism enrolled in ISP's are experiencing multiple transitions/transfers between schools. The impact on students is significant as consistency is very important.</p> <p>Staff responded that there are natural transitions between schools (k-6), (7-8), (Secondary). Students are not moved from one ISP to another is if the class is significantly undersubscribed or a student moves. Students are never moved to make room for a student who lives closer. Staff offered to look into this matter and come back next month with additional information.</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Staff will provide additional information around the decision making process next month.</p>
<p>Working Group Update</p>	<p>Effective Practices Working Group - Concerns about making sure that SEAC items of importance are presented to Trustees in the most effective way.</p> <p>Special Education Plan Working Group - no meeting has occurred yet - all members were invited to attend. Will be providing a different way of seeking input from members.</p>	<p>Action Item: Do all Working Groups have staff support?</p> <p>Action Item: Creation of Terms of Reference Working Group</p>

	K-12 Standards Working Group - will be having a meeting shortly and new members are encouraged to sign up	
Other Business Adjournment Next Meeting: October 16, 2023	Correspondence was shared Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm	

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<p>Other Business</p> <p>Adjournment</p> <p>Next Meeting: September 18, 2023</p>		<p>Motion to adjourn was made by Nora Green, seconded by Melissa Rosen.</p>