Special Education Advisory Committee March 1, 2016 Deputation to the TDSB Budget Committee

ONTARIO REGULATION 464/97 provides:

“11. (1) A special education advisory committee of a board may make recommendations to the board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board.

(2) Before making a decision on a recommendation of the committee, the board shall provide an opportunity for the committee to be heard before the board and before any other committee of the board to which the recommendation is referred.”

A core function of SEAC is to advise the Board on the special education budget. The same Ontario regulation also provides in section 12, among other things:

“(2) The board shall ensure that its special education advisory committee is provided with the opportunity to participate in the board’s annual budget process under section 231 of the Act, as that process relates to special education.”

At its February 1, 2016 meeting, the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee passed the following motion:

“The TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee recommends to the Toronto District School Board that:

1. In its budget for next year, the Toronto District School Board should not cut any positions of any staff who provide or directly supervise direct services to students with special needs, and

2. Before any cuts are contemplated to staff who provide or directly supervise direct service to students with special needs, the TDSB should first exhaust all other possible areas for budget reductions elsewhere within the TDSB, that address lower priority items than services to society’s vulnerable and disadvantaged children and youth, including thinning its layers of administrative bureaucracy.

3. TDSB should publicly report on steps it has taken to avert or avoid the need to cut staff who provide or directly supervise services to students with special needs.”