



**Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Draft Minutes**

February 11, 2013
Boardroom, 5050 Yonge St.

Members Present: Diana Avon, Ginny Pearce, Dr. Robert Gates, Clovis Grant, Richard Carter, Heather Breckenridge, Steven Lynette (Chair), Paul Cross, Yama Arianfar, Christina Buczek, Phillip Sargent, Jean-Paul Ngana, Aline Chan, Nancy Ann Turner Wright, Debra Hayden, Najia Shafi, Raegan Delisle, Michelle Brick, Deborah Fletcher, Nora Green, Nancy Turner-Wright, Trustee John Hastings, Trustee Howard Kaplan, Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos.

Staff Present: Cindy Burley, David Johnston, Margo Ratsep, Ken Jinkenson

Regrets: Gal Koren, Loris Bennett, Tammy Simon, Elaine Dodsworth-Lever, Melissa Melnitzer, Olga Ingrahm.

Recorder: Linda Mendonca

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1. Call to Order	A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was convened at 7:07 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2013, in the Board Room, 5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, with Steven Lynette presiding.	
2. Approval of the Agenda	Jean-Paul Ngana moved that the agenda be approved.	The motion carried
3. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest	Steven Lynette noted a conflict of interest under Item # 15, the Election of Chair/Vice Chair. He indicated he would be stepping down from the chair, with Cindy Burley assuming the chair for the election.	
4. Confirmation of the Minutes	Members received the complete Minutes on January 29 th . An earlier, preparatory draft of the January Minutes was inadvertently attached to Friday's agenda mail out, so members were unable to confirm the minutes.	Confirmation of the January Minutes will be addressed at the March meeting.
5. Delegations/Presentations	a.) ASSIST Webinar and the TDSB Mental Health Strategy (Catherine Bancroft, Focused Intervention Co-ordinator, TDSB Mental Health and Wellbeing Program Support & Focused Intervention) Catherine provided a brief overview of the Mental Health Strategy. Members watched a Webinar and Catherine answered questions.	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>The Webinar can be accessed at the following link: http://smh-assist.ca/school-mental-health-awareness-webinar/</p>	
<p>6. Business Arising from the Minutes a) Calendar of SEAC Meetings b) School Climate Survey</p>	<p>a) Calendar of SEAC Meetings (Steven Lynette) The draft 2013 calendar was circulated. The draft schedule was developed based on member preference for the first Monday of the month. Conflicts with Trustee Committee Meetings were raised. Steven Lynette moved that SEAC keep the March date as planned.</p> <p>b) School Climate Survey (Philip Sargeant) Philip Sargeant reported on the School Climate Survey, which is mandated by the MOE every 2 years. This year, they are seeking input from students in grades 4-6. Next year will be grades 7-12. They will use input to create better guidelines for anti-bullying initiatives. Cindy Burley highlighted that exceptional students are more prone to bullying and less able to advocate. The survey is being geared towards them and students with special education needs will be provided with accommodations to complete the survey. Questions were raised about existing programs in place for peer mentoring and student leadership in anti-bullying. Cindy Burley confirmed that TDSB has many kinds of programs, such as Student Ambassadors and Best Buddies. David Johnston confirmed that Peer Mediation Programs and Peer Counselling are part of Positive School Climate initiatives. Sandy Spyropoulos and Ted Libera are leads in this area and can provide more information if members are interested.</p>	<p>Motion to keep the March 4th date carried.</p> <p>Margo Ratsep volunteered to provide an optional calendar for SEAC consideration at the next meeting, to ensure all meetings happen in time for input to board meetings.</p>
<p>7. Membership Change</p>	<p>Steven Lynette received a letter from the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada resigning from SEAC, due to inability to secure a volunteer to attend meetings. This has created an Association vacancy. There is also an Alternate Community Representative vacancy.</p>	<p>Margo will check with Board services as to how the board will proceed to fill the vacancies.</p>
<p>8. Trustees' Report</p>	<p>Trustee Hastings reported that the Community Living Ontario Conference is coming up on February 27th. The Rotary Club donated \$20,000 towards VOICE. VOICE has a video that is worthwhile viewing. Queens/UWO researchers are doing research on dietary connections to Autism.</p> <p>Trustee Kaplan reported that the Budget Committee had their first meeting of the year today. One of the issues they are looking into is Special Education Funding. The Special Assistance Team is here for 6 months, looking specifically into TDSB Capital projects spending. They report to the Ministry and TDSB will receive recommendations for board consideration.</p>	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
9. Chief Academic Officer's Report	Cindy Burley presented the Chief Academic Officer's Report on behalf of Sandy Spyropoulos. <i>(See Appendix 1, page # 5)</i>	
10. System Superintendent's Report	Cindy Burley presented a report. <i>(See Appendix 2, page #6)</i>	
11. Professional Support Services Report	David Johnston presented a report. <i>(See Appendix 3, page 7-8)</i>	
12. Correspondence Received by the Chair	<p>Steven Lynette reviewed correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailed letter dated January 30, 2013 from Lynn McLarnon, Executive Director, Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada re: resignation from Association membership on TDSB SEAC • Copy of letter dated January 16, 2013 to Minister of Education Laurel Broten from Durham District School Board SEAC Chair, John Watkins re: Developmental Services of Ontario the impacts of DSO imposed delays and underfunding on individuals with disabilities who seek assistance • Emailed copy of letter dated January 14, 2013 to Minister of Community and Social Services , John Milloy, from Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board SEAC Chair Dr. W Mahoney re: DSO, underfunding and regressive new policies causing hardship for families of developmentally disabled adult children • Letter dated January 9, 2013 from Bill Quesnel, Chairman of the Board – VOICE Ontario re Input for consideration during budget deliberations 2013/14 	
13. Updates from SEAC/other TDSB Subcommittees	<p>PIAC/SEAC Combined Work Group on Special Education (Jean-Paul Ngana) Jean-Paul, Clovis Grant, and Yama Arianfar attended an exploratory meeting with PIAC Reps regarding hosting a Special Education Conference in April and PIAC's request to have SEAC co-organize the conference with PIAC.</p> <p>MOTION: Jean-Paul Ngana moved that the SEAC reps on this committee meet with PIAC reps to establish Terms of Reference for SEAC/PIAC collaboration on organizing a Special Education Conference.</p>	The motion carried
14. Local SEAC Association Reports	There were no Association reports.	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
15. Election of 2013 SEAC Chair and Vice Chair	<p>The SEAC Guidelines for the Election of Chair/Vice Chair was reviewed. Cindy Burley conducted the election. Richard Carter nominated Steven Lynette as Chair.</p> <p>Dr. Robert Gates nominated Trustee Kaplan as Vice Chair. Ginny Pearce nominated Dr. Robert Gates as Vice Chair. Dr. Gates did not accept the nomination.</p>	<p>By acclamation, Steven was elected as Chair.</p> <p>By acclamation, Trustee Kaplan was elected as Vice Chair.</p>
16. New Business	<p>There was no new business.</p>	
17. Adjournment	<p>Steven Lynette moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>

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SEAC Report – February 11, 2013

Submitted by Sandy Spyropoulos (per Cindy Burley)

New Acting Director – Donna Quan

Donna Quan has moved into the Director's role, with a commitment to maintaining stability and increasing public confidence in the Toronto District School Board. Moving forward, the main focus of the board continues to be on teaching and learning and financial responsibility. Five TDSB principals were recognized by the Learning Partnership.

Ministry of Education PPM 156 – Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Needs

SEAC members received an e-version of the PPM 156 with the agenda. Central staff is working to provide guidance to schools in meeting the September 2014 operational date.

Staff Allocation

Meetings have been on-going. We are looking at realizing savings to address the deficit. We anticipate an increase in the need for Autism and Kindergarten Diagnostic programs, with decreases in programs for students with a behaviour exceptionality and with mild intellectual disabilities.

Special Education Program Recommendation Committee (SEPRC)

We created this process last year to provide a mechanism by which we can appropriately and immediately support students arriving in the TDSB, whose program needs cannot be met in a regular school program. Our SEPRC practice was vetted with the Ministry of Education and information about the process was added to this year's Special Education Report and Parent Guide to Special Education. We are using this year's SEPRC experience to collect recommendations for fine tuning the process.

The Annual IPRC Review Process

As reported at the last meeting, this process is now underway. Our web-based application allows us to quickly gather data that was never readily available to us before. For example, we know that through December and January of this school year, 2500 Reviews have taken place. Of these, almost 2400 were school based Reviews, with the balance Family of School or Central IPRCs. Special Education Consultants have been actively involved in the majority of these IPRCs as they have helped to ensure smooth transitions for students moving from Grade 8 to 9. Special Education Coordinators will begin to send offers of for Intensive Support Program placement during the week of February 4th, for those students transitioning to Grade 9. On February 7th, the Special Education Department will offer professional development for administrators on the Review process. This session is presented annually to assist administrators with their various responsibilities associated with planning and organizing the Review IPRCs for their students.

Parent Information Nights on the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

On Tuesday January 15th, the Special Education Department hosted the second of two information nights for parents outlining the processes involved with the IEP and IPRC. Again, this time, approximately 120 people attended the sessions, held in the East and West. We continue to be encouraged by the positive responses we get from parents. They specifically appreciate the format, which provides an opportunity, for those who wish, to discuss their own personal situations in a one-to-one Q & A at the end of the evening. To encourage attendance and promote parent engagement, child minding and interpreters are available on request.

**SEAC Report – February 11, 2013
Submitted by Cindy Burley**

Target Ten and Focus Five: Special Education Component of the Board Improvement Plan

We continue to promote the Target Ten and Focus Five initiatives. Central staff have analyzed each school's submissions to determine best practices, as well as areas requiring follow up. Family of School's consultants are providing differentiated professional learning and support to schools based upon their local needs. Topics have included: assistive technology and EQAO, the implementation of the secondary modifications project, self-advocacy, addressing test anxiety, kindergarten strategies, etc.

Agency Information Session

On January 16, the Low Incidence Team held their annual information session to assist the transition into school. Twenty agencies attended this session to learn key facts about navigating within the TDSB. These professionals also received an information package that they can share with parents. These agencies all support our students with very high physical and/or cognitive needs. This session helps to ensure that agencies are giving parents consistent messages about our policies, procedures and general management of school entry. It is also helpful to get feedback from the agencies about what school board personnel can do to enhance these partnerships in our collaborative support of parents and children with special needs entering the system.

APPENDIX #3: Professional Support Services Report

SEAC Report Submitted by David Johnston

Social Work and Attendance Services

To support the implementation of Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL), the Ministry of Education is identifying pilot projects to explore effective practices and develop templates related to achievements of SAL students in non-credit components of their SAL plans.

The Social Work and Attendance department submitted an application for a grant with the Ministry of Education to fund a pilot project. They have received approval for their proposal and will be meeting with students, parents and staff in these programs to determine the effectiveness of academic and non-academic supports offered to students. Through this process they plan to develop a screening tool to assess the needs of students applying for Supervised Alternative Learning.

Mental Health and Addictions Nurses

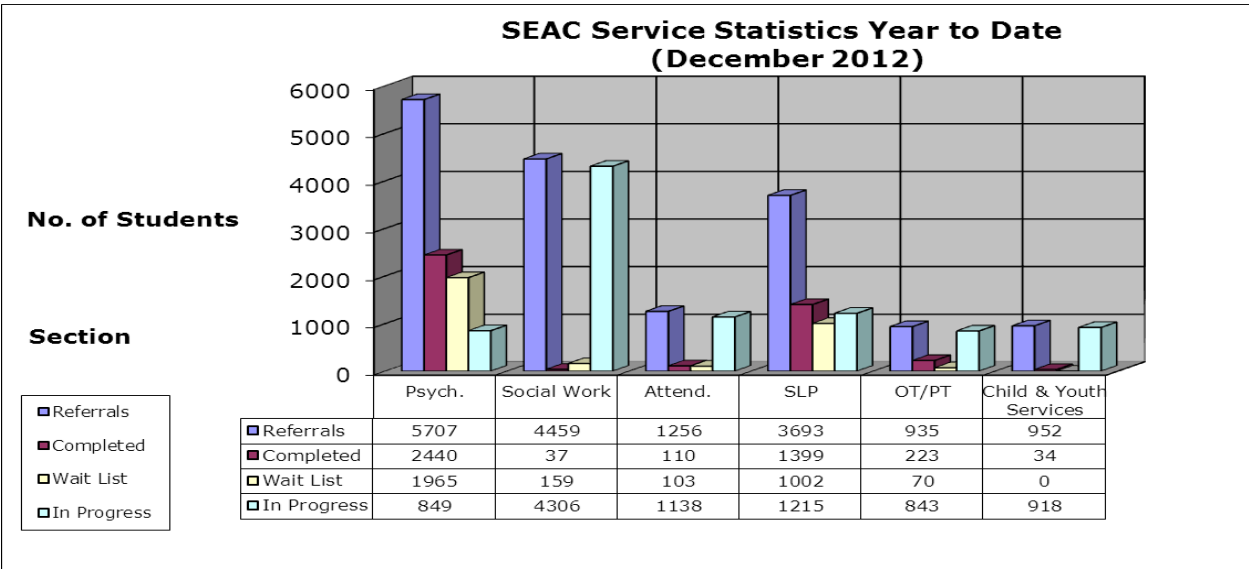
In the 2011 Provincial Budget, the government announced the “Open Minds, Healthy Minds: Ontario’s Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy”. This strategy focuses on children and youth in the first 3 years. As part of this program, the TDSB was informed that they would be receiving 6 Mental Health and Addictions Nurses during this school year.

These nurses are hired and supervised by the Toronto Central, Community Care Access Centre (TC-CCAC). Meetings were held over the summer with CCAC staff who were overseeing the “Mental Health and Addictions Nurses in Schools” program. These nurses will provide support to our staff and students.

After much consultation and co-ordination with other partners (Toronto Public Health and the Toronto Catholic District School Board), the TDSB is in the final stages of completing a partnership agreement with the TC-CCAC. It is expected that the Mental Health and Addictions Nurses will: provide system navigation (help to access appropriate mental health and addictions services); provide support and services for students with concurrent disorders (referrals, support and services); provide transition support (for students returning from Section Programs, hospitals, emergency departments and other sectors); support our work on specific initiatives (e.g. Suicide Prevention and Intervention).

Service Statistics December 2012

	Psych.	Social Work	Attend.	SLP	OT/PT	Child & Youth Services
Referrals	5707	4459	1256	3693	935	952
Completed	2440	37	110	1399	223	34
Wait List	1965	159	103	1002	70	0
In Progress	849	4306	1138	1215	843	918



January 2013

	Psych.	Social Work	Attend.	SLP	OT/PT	Child & Youth Services
Referrals	6427	5207	1549	4233	1012	1122
Completed	3098	85	208	1739	275	53
Wait List	1988	203	112	1048	55	0
In Progress	1000	5122	1333	1343	925	1069

