**SEAC Meeting**

**Date: April 6, 2020  Location: Electronic via Google Meet**

**Time: 7:00**

**Committee Chair:   Nora Green**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on April 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm through electronic means, Chair Nora Green.

Association for Bright Children (ABC)                        Melissa Rosen

Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto                          Lisa Kness

Community Living Toronto                                       Tracy O’Regan

Epilepsy Toronto Steven Lynette

Down Syndrome Association of Toronto                   Richard Carter

Easter Seals Ontario  (pending approval)                   Aliza Chagpar

Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)                            Tania Principe

VIEWS for the Visually Impaired                               David Lepofsky

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children                         Paul Cross

Learning Disability Association Patrick Smith

CADDAC Juanita Beaudry

LC1                                                Aline Chan Nora Green

LC2                                                Jordan Glass         Jean-Paul Ngana

LC3                                               Olga Ingrahm                      Kirsten Doyle

LC4                                               Diane Montgomery              Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff,

TDSB Trustees                             Alexander Brown Michelle Aarts

Also present were:

Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Wendy Terro, Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Jennifer Newby, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC4

Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC1

Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: Trustee Lulka,

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|   | **Item** | **Facilitator/Presenter** | **Recommendation/****Motion** |
| 1. | Approval of Agenda (including time allocation)  | Chair | Approved |
| 2. | Declarations of Possible Conflict of InterestsApproval of SEAC Meeting Minutes for February | Chair | No conflicts of interest were declaredMinutes were amended and approved |
| 3. | Leadership and Learning Department Staff updates | Angela Nardi-AddesaKathy Witherow | * In TDSB, we are using the term Remote Learning – doesn’t mean just virtual, online learning – using non-digital as well
* Ministry gave specific hours of expectations for student engagement – that doesn’t mean facetime with the teacher – more of a guideline for suggested hours per student per week divided by grade level/division
* Information from Ministry is linked on TDSB website
* Assessment expectations also posted - there will be a final mark and report card. Details are on the TDSB website.
* TDSB website was presented – both internal for staff and external for parents.
* Remote Learning for families and educators’ section continues to be updated
* There are webinars for staff from TDSB and Ministry that are not accessible to parents/families
* There are many resources for parents including live links to community agencies, stem resources, a variety of apps and online programs
* There is a section for teachers on Special Education Support for Remote learning – teachers have created a Google Plus community to provide access to resources. Teachers teaching similar classes can come together and share resources and exchange ideas.
* There is a team working on creating non-digital packages for families that request them. They will be delivered to students’ homes if they have requested them. Next step is the creation of more individualized packages based on IEP’s.
* Board is supporting Google Classroom and Brightspace, but teachers can use different programs if they have already been using them
* For Special Education students on IEP’s, conversations will take place between staff and parents and goals will continue to be developed based on what is possible and helpful to the family. For students on alternate curriculum, conversations need to take place to help meet the needs in the best way possible. Teachers have access to IEP program.
* Some students will require support staff to assist with remote learning as well.
* SEA equipment has been distributed to most students with personalized equipment - two thousand special education students needed their equipment retrieved from schools
* Students who do not have access to technology, equipment is also being distributed.
* Twenty-two thousand students had no technology at home and the board is working to courier equipment to them
* Other SEA speciality items can be picked up and sent to students – board is working with parents to support delivery of equipment that can be sent home
* Teachers can live stream/video conference if they are comfortable and privacy is protected for both students and teachers. TDSB has guidelines and supports in place.
* Independence level of students and skill level of parents are taken into consideration.
* TDSB has not put a schedule for the day in order to be responsive to the needs of families
* Principals have been reaching out to families that are difficult to contact in order to make sure that all students have been contacted and to make sure that there is enough technology for the family
* Families that are living in poverty are being supported by Food cards and additional supports.
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| 4. | Trustees’ Report | Trustees Brown, Trustee Aarts | * Trustees are liaising with communities/elected officials and staff to support families
* Looking at 50-million-dollar gap between what the Ministry is providing for Special Education and what the Board needs to spend
* Key budget resource is question and answer section on the website – consider adding a link to the SEAC website
* On April 7th, at Committee of the Whole Meeting there is a report coming forward around Secondary School Review which will include information around specialized schools. Timelines will be changed, but it is going forward. Concerns around going forward when many people could not contribute their thoughts. Draft policy is available on the website.
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| 5. | AdjournmentNext Meeting:,May 4, 2020 @ 7 pm  |  | Adjourned at 8:50 |