



Approved Minutes

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: November 13, 2023 from 7:02 p.m.– 9:14 p.m. (Hybrid)
Chair: Jean-Paul Ngana
Vice-Chair: Michelle Aarts

A meeting of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee convened on November 13, 2023, from 7:02 p.m. to 9:14 p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street, with Jean-Paul Ngana presiding.

Attendance:

Members:

Melissa Rosen Association for Bright Children (ABC)
Julie Diamond (Alternate) Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)
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

Nerissa Hutchinson Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Trustee Michelle Aarts (Ward 16) – Vice Chair

Saira Chhibber (LC1)

Jean-Paul Ngana (LC2) - Chair

Jordan Glass (LC2)

Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof (LC4)

Tracey O'Regan Community Living Toronto

Stephanie Ragany

Kirsten Doyle (LC3)

Trustee Zakir Patel (Ward 19)

Trustee Liban Hassan (Ward 6)

Regrets

Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Beth Dangerfield CADDAC – Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada

Liban Hassan, Trustee

Staff

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Innovation and Equitable Outcomes

Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Katia Palumbo, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Mun Shu Wong (Audio/Video); Erin Pallet (Audio/Video Assistant)

Elizabeth Chalmers, Administrative Liaison (SOE)

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Item	Discussion	Action Items/Recommendation
Land Acknowledgement	Chair/Vice Chair	Read.

<p>Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>The Chair asked Members if there were any new items to be added to the agenda. An amendment of timing was proposed and adopted. Time for Item 1 was reduced by ten minutes to allow additional discussion time around /Refusal to Admit/Modified Day.</p>	<p>Moved to approve as amended by Steven Lynette</p> <p>Seconded by Bronwen Alsop</p> <p>Approved</p>
<p>Conflicts of interest</p>	<p>The Chair asked Members if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared.</p>	<p>No conflicts of interest were declared</p>
<p>Action Log Update</p>	<p>The Chair requested that staff update/review items on the Action Log.</p> <p>Some Associations still have not added their barriers/feedback online yet and were encouraged to complete this request.</p>	<p>SEAC (All members) Google drive had been shared with SEAC members prior to the meeting. The Action Log was shared and reviewed.</p>
<p>Budget Presentation - Craig Snider</p>	<p>The components that make up funding for Special Education relating to the 2023-24 school year were shared with SEAC members and information was provided on each component.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ø Special Education per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) - \$195,975,652</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ø Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) - \$123,181,618</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Craig Snider will send a link to the Technical Papers to share with members.</p> <p>Action Item:</p> <p>Craig Snider will return with detailed information from 2022-23 showing costs of programs as well as detailed</p>

	<p>Ø Special Equipment Amount (SEA) - \$11,764,489</p> <p>Ø Special Incidence Portion (SIP) \$15,049,034*</p> <p>Ø Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) \$15,747,764</p> <p>Ø Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA) - \$2,706,149</p> <p>Ø TOTAL FUNDING - \$364,424,706</p> <p>A request was made for an acronym dictionary in future presentations.</p> <p>Discussion around the following topics ensued:</p> <p>Paraprofessional supports are prorated between regular programs and special education programs</p> <p>Trends in funding over time would be helpful for SEAC members</p>	<p>information around how many teachers, EA's, etc.</p>
<p>Leadership Report</p>	<p>Leadership Report</p> <p>Discussion took place around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EQAO Data (gaps between special education students and regular students are decreasing) ● IEP Data (number of students with IEPs across Learning Centres) ● Professional Development around IEP's, ● Virtual Information Sessions for Parents/Caregivers (November 28 and 29). One session in the day and one 	<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Call for members for new Ad Hoc (short term) Working Group - Terms of Reference will be sent after the meeting to all members.</p> <p>Action Item:</p> <p>A request was made for Information that is shared with teachers and</p>

session in the evening. Two more sessions are planned later in the year

- Grade 8-9 Transition Information Session for Grade 8s with special education needs
- Parents and Caregivers as Partners - the sessions will become available online shortly
- ADHD Awareness and Capacity Building. An ad hoc SEAC working group worked with staff and provided feedback to create an ADHD fact sheet
- Twelve additional Educational Assistants will be working with students who are blind or significantly visually impaired.
- Topics for PA days were shared
- Monthly IPRC and Psychological Services data by Learning Centre

Members were asked to come up with key areas to help develop goals for SEAC. These can be added to the Google drive.

System Superintendent Nandy Palmer shared the PowerPoint presentation about the topics listed above.

A request was made for EQAO data over time.

Aged waitlist data will be shared three times per year from Psychological Services

It was clarified that the IEP Parent Consultation letter does include an option for parents to request an IEP meeting. If there are suggestions around the letter, members can send it by email for consideration

Curriculum staff have portions of curriculum to specifically address special education students

principals about Parent Engagement Sessions be distributed to SEAC members as well.

	<p>The SEAC calendar can be updated with reference to the PAAC on SEAC calendar. The timing of some items may be different based on when data is available in other TDSB departments</p> <p>There are five vacancies for teachers for Blind/low vision students. Two have been filled already. Teachers on leave can only be replaced with Long Term Occasional (LTO)</p>	
<p>4.Trustee Report</p>	<p>Capital Revitalization Strategy is being worked on and if SEAC members are interested in providing input, they are asked to contact the Vice Chair, Trustee Aarts</p> <p>Two policy consultations are coming up later this year for review (Accountability for Student Achievement and Student Use of Service Animals in Schools). SEAC members will be provided with an opportunity to provide feedback/consultation</p>	
<p>Refusal to Admit and Modified Day</p>	<p>Many of the comments from last month concerned students being asked to be on a modified day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The intention of a modified day is to have students attend full time as soon as possible. ● The Department is messaging to all Staff that students can be successful in inclusive environments and must be in school. ● In order for a student to be put on a modified day, the following must be considered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short term ○ All other solutions have been exhausted 	<p>Action Item: Request was made to see the reports on refusals to admit that are submitted to the Executive Council of the Board</p> <p>Action Item</p> <p>Share the process for modified day reporting</p>

- Principals need to involve their Superintendent and the student's family, along with special education and inclusion staff
- Is not punitive
- The goal is full time attendance
- Parents may identify reasons for a modified day (therapy, medical, etc.)
- A modified day cannot be used for staffing shortages
- Last year schools started to have to report monthly on any students who are on a modified day.
Superintendents are provided with this information in order to follow up.

- It is an area of shared concern that staff and SEAC members can work on together as a priority
- It is about changing attitudes in school personnel and making certain that parents understand that their child has a right to attend school

Concerns were raised about parents who continue to be called to keep their child at home. SEAC members were asked to inform staff directly if there are situations that they are made aware of

The suggestion was made to announce on the website so that parents are aware that their children have a right to have their children attend school

There is no attendance code specifically for modified day or refusal to admit

A comment was made by a SEAC member that if it was a question of race and not disability, the issue would be dealt with differently and that it would be higher profile and receive greater attention from the public.

	<p>At the end of the meeting, System Superintendent Nandy Palmer addressed the issue of race that was brought up by a member and reinforced how seriously the Department takes the over representation of racialized students in Special Education, She assured members that students are looked at as having intersecting identities that include race, and that everything that the Department does is for all students with special needs.</p>	
<p>7. Round Table Association and Community Updates</p> <p>Working Group Updates (on request)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● K-12 Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report was sent to staff and is included in the minutes ● Effective Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The suggestions made by the Effective Practices Working Group will be considered in the development of a Terms of Reference for SEAC ○ An Ad Hoc working group will be developed after the meeting to work on Terms of Reference. ● Special Education Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All members were asked to provide feedback on the plan ○ There are two ways to provide feedback - contact a member of the working group or use the link found on every section of the plan ○ Every month the group will highlight a section of the plan for feedback <p>Association Updates from Autism Ontario and Integration Action were shared by email</p>	

Other Business
Correspondence
Adjournment

No correspondence

Motion to Adjourn

Approved by David Lepofsky and
seconded by Leo Lagnato at 9:14 p.m.