



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting MINUTES

March 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom

Members Present: Diana Avon, Heather Breckenridge, Michelle Brick, Richard Carter, Aline Chan, Paul Cross, Clovis Grant, Trustee John Hastings, Olga Ingrahm, Trustee Howard Kaplan, Steven Lynette, Jean-Paul Ngana, Ginny Pearce, Phillip Sargent, Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos, Cynthia Sprigings, Nancy Turner Wright

Alternates Present: Nora Green

Regrets: Yama Arianfar, Christina Buczek, Debra Hayden, Gal Koren,

Staff Present: Uton Robinson, Anne Seymour, Cindy Burley, Margo Ratsep

Recorders: John Manalo, Margo Ratsep

Item	Business
1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was convened at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2014 in the Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario with Chair Michelle Brick presiding.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>***Motion: Steven Lynette moved that the Agenda be approved. The motion carried.</p>
3.	<p>Declarations of Possible Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were noted.</p>
4.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of February 3, 2014</p> <p>***Motion: Aline Chan moved that the Minutes of February 3, 2014 be approved. The motion carried.</p>
5.	<p>Introduction to New Senior Management of Special Education and Section Programs:</p> <p>Michelle Brick welcomed and introduced newly appointed Uton Robinson, Executive Superintendent of Special Education and Section Programs, and Anne Seymour, Coordinating Superintendent, Special Education and Section Programs to SEAC. She also welcomed Cynthia Sprigings, new representative for the Brain Injury Society of Toronto</p>
6.	<p>Member Presentation</p> <p>Mia McGowan, Education Outreach and Spinclusion Coordinator gave a presentation about Community Living.</p> <p>Brochures about services were distributed. A new website www.connectability.ca was highlighted. Discussion covered member concerns regarding the difficulty of those over 16 accessing services through DSO (resulting in wait lists, with limited resources for those on wait lists) and the role of improved transition planning (as per PPM 156) to assist families in accessing services.</p>
7.	<p>Budget Presentation and Consultation</p> <p>Craig Snider, TDSB Comptroller, Budget, Revenue and Financial Reporting gave a presentation on the 2014-2015 Special Education Budget. Focus of the presentation was on the Operating Budget.</p> <p>Two documents were distributed to members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDSB Financial Facts: Revenue and Expenditure Trends – January 2014

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the 2014-2015 Operating Budget – Ward Forum Presentation
8.	<p>Open Discussion and Consultation</p> <p>Executive Superintendent Uton Robinson spoke about the TDSB Enrolment Work Group. SEAC is invited to appoint a member representative to participate.</p> <p>***Action: SEAC members were asked to consider the request, with a decision to be made at the April meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Business Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>Michelle Brick and Nora Green led discussion about the proposed Communication Tracker. Nora reported that Community Living had given extensive input about a variety of concerns. Data analysis of shared concerns will provide SEAC with information about trending issues.</p> <p>****Staff undertaking: Margo Ratsep and Nora Green will work together on improving the tracker to make systemic issues, as opposed to individual concerns, easier to identify.</p>
10.	<p>Trustee Reports and Follow-up on Previous Action Items</p> <p>John Hastings highlighted a Parent Conference held at Etobicoke CI, and expressed thanks to System Superintendent Cindy Burley and Dr. David Schwartzbein, TDSB Chief Psychologist, for their participation as presenters. He also commended Superintendent Mary Jane McNamara for her assistance with parent concerns about a planned school move of a gifted program.</p>
11.	<p>Reports/Updates from Active SEAC Subcommittees</p> <p>Jean-Paul Ngana reviewed information previously shared with SEAC, on the terms of the working relationship for the agreed upon PIAC/SEAC Special Education Work Group. He described his own participation as SEAC Community Representative at quadrant Ward Forums, suggesting this as a good way to collect input from parents to identify systemic issues. The information gained will be presented to SEAC at a future meeting. The members of the workgroup are only members of SEAC and PIAC and would welcome staff to the table.</p> <p>***Staff undertaking: Margo Ratsep will attend the next workgroup meeting with Jean-Paul Ngana.</p>
12.	<p>System Superintendent's Report</p> <p>Cindy Burley submitted a report for inclusion in the minutes <i>(See page 4)</i></p>
13.	<p>Correspondence Received by the Chair</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Email dated February 2, 2014 from Toronto Family Network re: Toronto and Area Region Internal Audit Email dated February 4, 2014 from Michelle Munroe, TDSB Parent and Community Engagement re: SEAC Representation on the AODA Working Group Email dated February 20, 2014 from Lorene Bodiam, Metrolinx Regional Accessibility Policy, Planning and Innovation re: Membership on Metrolinx Accessibility Advisory Committee Letter dated February 18, 2014 to SEAC from Mara Boedo, Educational Assistant at Nelson A Boylen CI re: Invitation to a "Tea Party" celebration on April 24, 2014, involving dance performances by special needs students
14.	<p>New Business</p> <p>SEAC members requested WiFi Internet access during meetings .</p> <p>***Staff undertaking: Margo Ratsep will make the necessary arrangements for guest WiFi use at future meetings</p>

15.	<p>Agenda Setting for Future Meetings</p> <p>Suggestions for future agendas include the following:</p> <p>April: Member Presentation – Association for Bright Children (Diana Avon) Staff Presentation – follow-up on plain language parent information on LD Bussing RFP Questions (Nora Green) Implementation of PPM 156</p> <p>May: Capital Budget and Proposed long term budget plan Secondary work on Executive Function; accommodations; transition planning (including coordination with Community Living)</p>
16.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>***Motion: Trustee Kaplan moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>

**System Superintendent
SEAC Report
March 3, 2014**

Submitted by Cindy Burley

Early Reading Intervention

On February 11, Educational Assistants from 20 schools received their initial ERI training, bringing the number of trained EAs to over 140. The training binder has now includes even more resources and tools that facilitate program implementation and it is set up so that it is ready for participants to use the next day.

Professional Learning for Central Special Education Staff

On February 21, our central Special Education staff held a joint department meeting that focused on the a presentation by Associate Director Gen Ling Chang about t the TDSB Years of Action, as well as more information about the new PPM 156 about transitions for students with special education needs.

Professional Learning for the System

In February, there was a meeting for Assistant Curriculum Leaders and Curriculum Leaders of Special Education. Topics included the use of appropriate accommodations including assistive technology.

On February 27, MARTs participated in a variety of small interactive sessions across the system, including focus on math, positive behaviour supports and assistive technology.