**SEAC Meeting**

**Date: February 3, 2020  Location: Board Room, 5050 Yonge St.**

**Time: 7:10**

**Committee Chair:**

**Committee Vice-Chair:  Diane Montgomery**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Association for Bright Children (ABC)                        Melissa Rosen

Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto                          Julie Diamond (phone)

Community Living Toronto                                        Regrets

Epilepsy Toronto Steven Lynette

Down Syndrome Association of Toronto                   Richard Carter

Easter Seals Ontario  (pending approval)                   Aliza Chagpar (phone)

Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)                            Tania Principe

VIEWS for the Visually Impaired                               David Lepofsky

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children                         Kara Stewart-Agostino

Learning Disability Association Regrets

CADDAC Juanita Beaudry

LC1                                                Aline Chan

LC2                                                Jordan Glass         Jean-Paul Ngana

LC3                                               Kristen Doyle (phone)         Olga Ingrahm

LC4                                               Diane Montgomery              Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff

TDSB Trustees                             Alexander Brown Michelle Aarts

Also present were:

Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

Angela Nardi-Addesa, System 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

Michelle Munroe, Coordinator, Parent Engagement Office

Ron Felsen – Centrally Assigned Principal, Secondary School Review

Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Finance

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: Trustee Lulka, Nora Green, Tracey O’Regan,

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|   | **Item** |  | **Recommendation/****Motion** |
| 1. | Call to Order (quorum) - Acknowledgement and Welcome and Introductions, TDSB Staff, Guests and Observers; announce call-in attendees and audio recording of meeting, new members | Chair | Quorum reached at 7:10 pm |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda (including time allocation)  |  Vice Chair | Approved |
| 3. | Declarations of Possible Conflict of InterestsApproval of SEAC Meeting Minutes for Jan. 13, 2020  | Vice Chair | Approved with adjustment to numbering of appendices |
| 4. | Leadership and Learning Department Staff updates, outstanding motion(s) status at PSSC/Board and requests for SEAC input |  | Angela Nardi-Addessa asked and answered clarification questions regarding the Staff Updates. **(Appendix A)**Craig Snider shared the updated GSN document that has been adapted to reflect feedback provided by SEAC **(Appendix B)** |
| 5. | PO23 Parent and Community Engagement Policy |  | Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, Parent and Community Engagement* Currently reviewing P023
* Looking for consultation on the key areas. Are there any gaps? Is the language clear?
* SEAC members were given the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the different themes.

**(Appendix C)**Question was posed suggesting that there should there be a position for parents of special needs students on each school council – can we ask for that to be changed at the Ministry level?SEAC feedback included a concern that the proposed materials were written in far too much technical jargon that parents and families would not be able to understand – need to examine wording so it is accessible and clear to everyone. Referenced the SEAC Parent Survey as a example of wording.SEAC members were invited to contribute their thoughts to Michelle Munroe directly. |
| 6. | Secondary Review – Consultation | Ron Felsen | **(Appendix D)**Ron Felsen, Centrally Assigned Principal, School Operations and Service Excellence, presented information around the Secondary Review.Background:Currently 111 high schools – were built for a baby boom and large student population. Over 20 000 unused spaces are in secondary school Each school is about 1000 students – so equivalent of 20 high schools with unused spaceConsidering consolidating schools. Looking at possibly consolidating congregated sites and/or moving congregated sites into mainstream schools.Questions were shared with SEAC for input:* What are the positive aspects of the school your child currently attends?
* What challenges has your child experienced at your current school?
* Do you see benefits to consolidating congregated sites or the relocation of programs within existing secondary/elementary schools? If so, what? If not, please explain.
* What impact will consolidation have for CTCC (Care. Custody, Corrections, Treatment)?

SEAC feedback included the fact that at its June 2016 meeting, SEAC passed a motion with recommendations on measures needed to ensure that TDSB has barrier-free schools for people with disabilities. It included the following: “6. Where possible, TDSB should avoid throwing good money after bad, i.e. by renovating an existing school that lacks disability accessibility, unless TDSB has a plan to also make that school accessible. For example, TDSB should not spend public money to renovate the second storey of a school which lacks accessibility to the second storey, if TDSB does not have a plan to make that second storey disability-accessible. Health and safety concerns should be the only reason for any exception to this. 7. When TDSB decides which schools to close due to reduced enrollment, a priority should be placed on keeping open schools with more physical accessibility, while a priority should be given to closing schools that are the most lacking in physical accessibility, or for which retrofitting is the most costly. For example, none of the 85 TDSB schools that are now accessible should be closed.”It is not sufficient for TDSB to simply “take into account” accessibility when deciding which schools to close.Many SEAC members offered feedback and expressed concerns about making sure that accessible sites are not closed and that consideration is made to the very special needs of students in congregated classes. Ron will send the link for consultation and feedback. |
| 7. | Trustees’ Report(s)* PSCC update
 | Trustees Brown, Lulka, Aarts | Mid year Inclusion Report from Jan. 16th – was shared with SEAC **(Appendix E)**Budget process is starting up – Finance and Budget Committee meetings will deal with housekeeping items quickly so that trustees can get to the budget design.Lots of Trustees are doing consultations around the Parent engagement policy. Trustee Brown will share dates. |
| 8. | Working Groups* Action Plan
* Budget
* Communications
* Special Education Plan (monthly review)

Discussion of Committee Priorities |  | Special Education Working Group presented information that had been gathered through consultation with SEAC members and by looking at Parent Survey and previous SEAC motionsThere is an IEP Review taking place and this feedback will be taken into consideration in the review. |
| 9. | SEAC Member Reports | Association / Community Representatives | Association update provided by David Lepofsky via email.Views for the Visually Impaired is an organization representing parents and guardians of children who are blind, low vision or deaf-blind. We have decided to retain our corporate name – Views—but will aim to operate day to day under the name of Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children OPVIC as it conveys a better message about who we are. If you know any parents or guardians of visually impaired children of any age, encourage them to join OPVIC. Membership is free. Sign up at[www.viewson.ca](http://www.viewson.ca)  |
| 10. | Other business10.1 Parents As Partners Conference Workshops10.2Correspondence* Email from TFN
* Letter from Bluewater District S.B. SEAC
 |  | If Associations would like any materials on display, please let Lianne know prior to conference on March 28thEmail from TFN was shared. Question from the floor was asked about the sharing of emails/correspondence with SEAC members.Correspondence that is received by the chair of SEAC can be shared with the group directly and/or is posted in the correspondence binder that is shared with members. In addition, the correspondence is referenced in the following meeting’s agenda. The current SEAC correspondence protocol will be shared again with all members at the next meeting. |
| 11. | AdjournmentNext Meeting: March 2,  2020 @ 7 pm  | Chair | Adjourned 9:15 |

Appendix A

[StaffReportFebruary3.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdixon%5CDownloads%5CStaffReportFebruary3.pdf)

Appendix B

[Response to Ministry of Education funding consultation ..\_ (2).docx](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdixon%5CDownloads%5CResponse%20to%20Ministry%20of%20Education%20funding%20consultation%20.._%20%282%29.docx)

Appendix C

[../Documents/ParentEngagementPresentation3.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdixon%5CDocuments%5CParentEngagementPresentation3.pdf)

Appendix D

[SecondaryReviewPresentation.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdixon%5CDownloads%5CSecondaryReviewPresentation.pdf)

Appendix E

[Inclusion Update Jan16.docx](file:///%5C%5Ctdsbshares%5Chomeadm%24%5C001391%5CSEAC%5CInclusion%20Update%20Jan16.docx)