

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Name of Committee:** Special Education Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** May 3, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on May 3, 2021 from 7: 00 p.m. to 8:50  p.m. via Zoom with SEAC Chair Steven Lynette and VIce Chair Diane Montgomery

**Attendance:**

Melissa Rosen (Association for Bright Children (ABC)), Julie Diamond (Alt) (Autism Society of Ontario - Toronto) ,   Tracey Burrel (Black Parent Support Group), Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto) , Steven Lynette       (Epilepsy Toronto), Richard Carter (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto),  Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals Ontario),   Tania Principe (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)), David Lepofsky (VIEWS for the Visually Impaired), Shanna Lino VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children),  Nadia Persaud (Learning Disability Association), Juanita Beaudry CADDAC, Aline Chan  LC1, Nora Green  LC1,  Jordan Glass LC2, Jean-Paul Ngana LC2,   Olga Ingrahm LC3,  Kirsten Doyle LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Alexander Brown, Trustee Michelle Aarts (Alternate members in attendance: Julie Diamond - ABC, George Petrovic- LC4)

**Staff:**

Angela Nardi-Addesa, 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, Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC2, Cindy Zwicker-Reston, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC 3, Vanessa Pfaff, Accessibility Coordinator, Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education,  Joy Reiter, Centrally Assigned Principal, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Amie Presley, Research Department.  David Cameron, Research Department, Garry Green. Transportation, Lorraine Linton, System Superintendent, Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

**Regrets:**

Andrew Gold, Associate Director

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | Discussion | Motion | Recommendation |
| Call to Order - Quorum | Live stream announced | Quorum achieved |  |
| Land Acknowledgement | Read by Chair |  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | Addition to Other business - issue of students requiring in school learning - process | Motion to approve the agenda carried. |  |
| Approval of Minutes from April 19th | Error on date of meeting - corrected | Motion to approve minutes with amended date carried |  |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  |  |
| Comments from Chair | More time for SEAC discussion/sharing of concerns and less time spent on Leadership report |  |  |
| Leadership and Learning Report | **Specialized Programs** are programs that address the needs of groups of students with a particular curriculum or career interest (e.g., the arts, business studies, the environment, pure and applied sciences, technological education, etc.). The TDSB will establish two types of Specialized Programs:  a) **Local Specialized Program** refers to a program within a school with a specific focus (e.g., the arts, athletics, skilled trades, etc.) that is available to students registered at that school.   b) **District-wide Specialized School/Program** refers to a school/program with a specific focus (e.g., the arts, athletics, skilled trades, etc.) that is available to students from across the district.  [**https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations**](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations)  **Medication**   * Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings * TDSB Operational Procedure PR 580; Special Education Plan Section C: Inclusion Strategy pages 39 and 40   Oral medication is administered either by pupil, parent/guardian, aide or other personnel  Injection of medication is administered by pupil as authorized, parent as authorized or health professional.  Training is provided by the attending physician except for the Health professional who is trained by the Ministry of Health.  **Transportation**  - Covid Protocols - transportation follows TPH guidelines.  There are separate classroom and bus cohorts.  - Bussing concerns were raised including:   * training of drivers, * installation of harnesses, * access to community schools, * management of behaviour issues, * the need to teach the skill of taking the bus. * revision of current policy timeline |  | Further input is required from CAC’s, and SEAC.  Concerns were raised about the equity of specialized programs and the accessibility to these programs by students with special needs.  Further consultation is required and follow-up around this process will be shared with SEAC   members.    Discussion took place around the policies and the need for updates.  Follow up regarding when policy and procedures will be updated will be shared with SEAC members.  Follow-up:  The Medication Procedure (PR536) was reviewed in 2019, to align with the new P092, Student Health Support Policy, adopted in 2018. The Procedure review can be initiated at any time, but at least once every 4  years. The review of the Policy is scheduled for the 2023/24 school year. (Vitaliy Plotnkov)  Staff will follow up with TPH around Covid protocols  The need for an update of the TDSB Transportation Policy was discussed and the timeline will be shared  with SEAC members.  (Follow-up: The Transportation decision making points will be going forward to GPC in June and then will go out for consultation, including to all committees . Once completed the accompanying procedures will be reviewed in late fall.) |
| **Trustees Report**   * Trustee Aarts * Trustee Brown | - All education workers are eligible for vaccination  - Trustees do not know what the school reopening plan is  - When Trustees receive information on the budget, they will share it with SEAC |  |  |
| **Working Groups -**   * Budget/Communication/Sp. Ed. Plan/Action Plans | Special Education plan group - update - have been gathering feedback from SEAC members - feedback has been shared with staff | A motion to approved work done by the working group will be shared with SEAC members for approval. |  |
| **Revisions to SEAC Terms of Reference** | There are additional changes that are needed. | Subcommittee was formed to work on updating the Terms of Reference:  Members are:  Jean Paul Ngana  Kirsten Doyle  Jordan Glass  George Petrovic |  |
| SEAC Member Reports/ Input | Concerns were raised about students who need to be in school during school closure periods:  - trying to have remote learning if at all possible  - congregated sites open, Developmental Disability  classes in non-congregated settings are open   - if in discussion with the family and teacher, it is  felt that the student was not managing. accommodations are provided - if not successful, then consultation with principals and Superintendents take place to determine if the child should be placed in school.  IEPs - have to be revised so that they reflect changes due to remote learning |  |  |
| Other Business  Correspondence: | Follow up items:  Specialized Programs- Consultation/Policy update?  Administration of Medication - Policy update?  Transportation (Covid, Training, Harnesses, Behaviour, Access to community schools)  Terms of Reference |  |  |
| Adjournment |  | Meeting was extended by 15 minutes.  9:13 pm meeting was adjourned.  Next meeting June 7, 7 pm (Electronic) |  |