tdsb | Special Education and Inclusion

Approved ~~Draft~~ Minutes

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

via Zoom

Chair: Jean-Paul Ngana; Vice-Chair: Michelle Aarts

7:00 pm– 9:39 pm

Attendance:

A meeting of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee convened on April 11, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:39 p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street, with Jean-Paul Ngana presiding.

Attendance

Members

Melissa Rosen   Association for Bright Children (ABC)

Julie Diamond   Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)

Leo Lagnado (Alternate)   Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter)

Richard Carter   Down Syndrome Association of Toronto (DSAT)

Tracey O'Regan   Community Living Toronto

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
David Lepofsky	Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
Dana Chapman (Alternate)	Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
Bronwen Alsop (Alternate)	VOICE for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children
Beth Dangerfield	CADDAC – Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada
Nerissa Hutchinson	Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support
Saira Chhibber (LC1)	
Jean-Paul Ngana (LC2)	Chair
Kirsten Doyle (LC3)	
Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof (LC4)	
Jana Girdauskas (LC4)	

Staff

Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Audley Salmon, Associate Director

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director

Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Elizabeth Chalmers, Administrative Liaison (SOE)

Elizabeth Schaeffer, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Katia Palumbo. Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Lianne Dixon. TDSB SEAC Liaison

Mun Shu Wong (Audio/Video)

Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Regrets:

Aline Chan (Alternate), Community Living. Jordan Glass (LC2), Trustee Michelle Aarts (Ward 16), Liban Hassan (Ward 6), Zakir Patel (Ward 19)

Item	Discussion	Action Items/Recommendation
Call to Order - Quorum	Chair Announcement of Live Stream	Quorum achieved

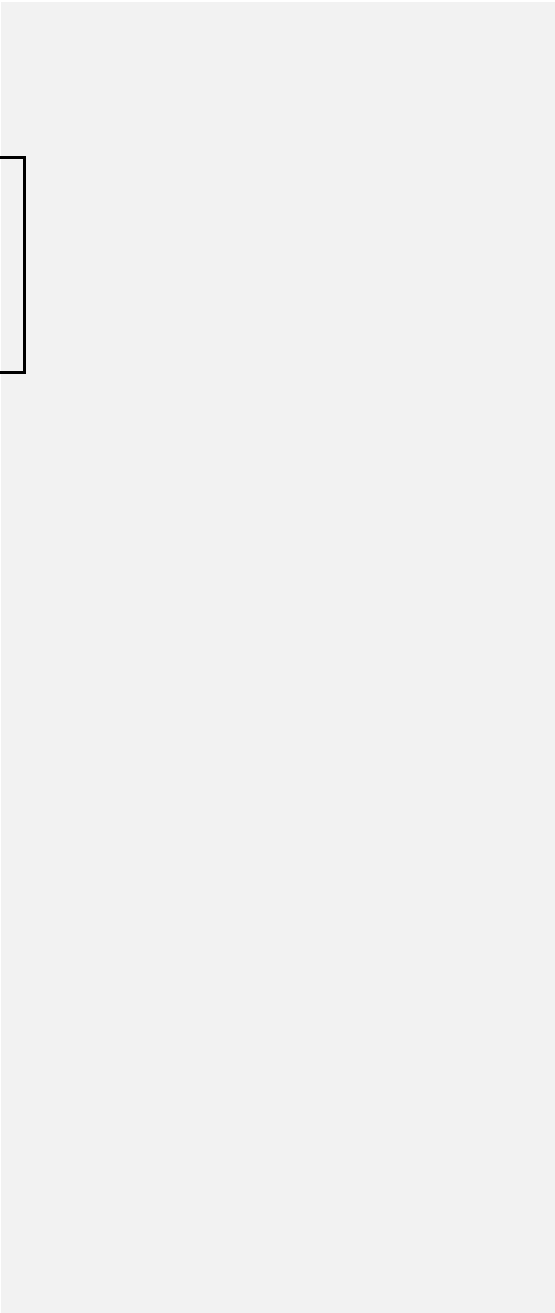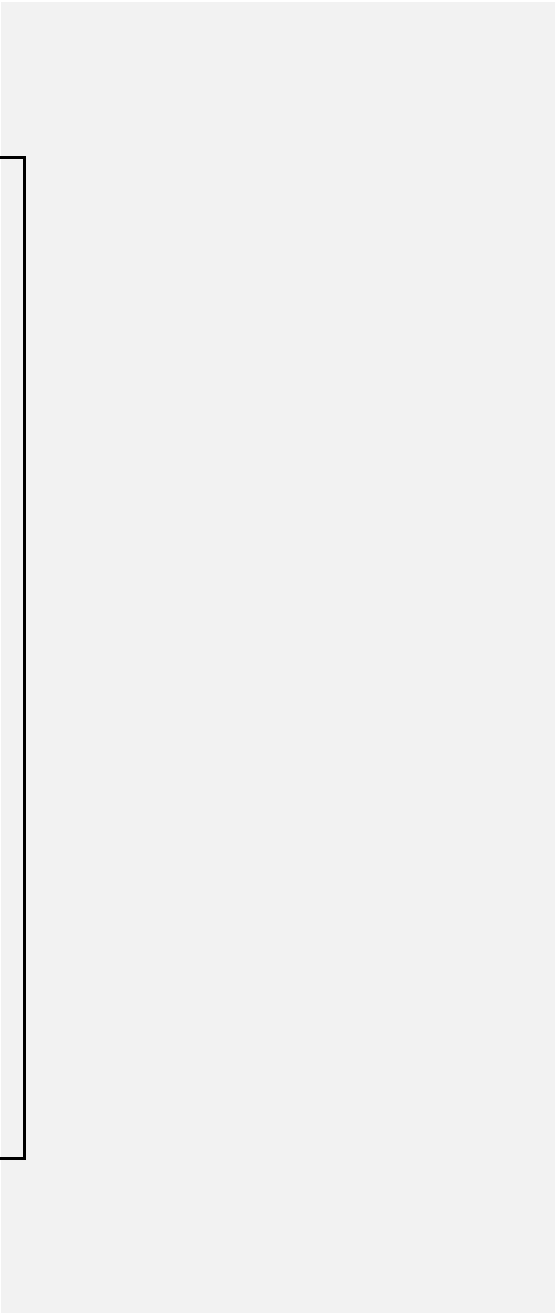| Land Acknowledgement	Chair/Vice Chair	The Chair read the land acknowledgement
Approval of Agenda	The Chair asked Members if there were any new items to be added to the agenda. A request was made to add an explanation about the different types of support staff.	On Motion by Richard Carter, the agenda was approved as amended. Seconded by Nora Green A request was made to add an explanation about the different types of support staff.
Conflicts of interest	The Chair asked Members if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared	No Conflicts of Interest were declared
Approval of Minutes from SEAC Meeting March 20, 2023	Minutes were adjusted to include the request for ONSIS data. "ONSIS data was requested to be presented at a future meeting.	On Motion by Nora Green, the Minutes of March 20, 2023 as amended were approved. Seconded by Melissa Rosen

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Action Log Update	The Chair shared updates from the Action Log.	**Action Item:**
	Items that have been completed and are still outstanding were shared	Follow up ONSIS data was requested to be presented at a future meeting, with report for April FBEC and for the fall.
	Follow-up to Motion brought forward requesting that Special Education become a strategic driver.	
	The Budget Working Group needs new members.	Follow-up to Motion brought forward requesting that Special Education become a strategic driver.
	Nora Green provided feedback on the motion presented last month. The motion asked for indicators from staff about service level delivery that is being experienced. Since Special Education is not a strategic driver, the motion was to provide information so that cuts would not be made merely just on the number of special education students. The motion went to the Finance Subcommittee. A number of trustees had questions, and there was a discussion about whether the information was accessible before budget. The motion was reworded to say that staff would provide information that is readily available in a timely manner before an April meeting of the Finance Committee. Information that is not easily available, but is collected by the board, will be prepared to present in the fall.	The Budget Working Group seeks new members.
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	Question was raised about what happens after motions are presented to committees (PSSC or FBEC). A response back to SEAC was requested.	Staff to provide information to SEAC that is readily available in a timely manner, which information is also to be provided to Trustees before an April FBEC meeting.
	It was noted that any motions or reports that are approved by a committee are sent to all trustees.	Information that is not easily available but is collected by the board will be prepared to present to SEAC and to FBEC in the fall.

		Staff to respond to SEAC about what happens after motions are presented to Trustee Committees (i.e. PSSC, FBEC, etc.)

Census	Amie Presley presented information around the Student Census.	
	● Consultations with TDSB Communities to develop survey questions (Spring 2021- Winter 2022)	
	○ Community feedback helped us decide what types of questions / survey topics should be included on the Student Census	
	● The Census team first spoke to CAC members in the fall of 2021 and early winter of 2022, where topics for the Student Census were discussed.	
	○ Those discussions informed the survey items that were then reviewed internally in the winter of 2022.	
	● Survey was to launch in November 2022, but implementation was paused for further review.	
	Where we are now	
	● Kindergarten to Grade 3: Parents/guardians/caregivers receive an email link to complete the census at home on behalf of their child(ren).	
	● Grades 4 to 8: A new consent process for students provides parents/guardians/caregivers the choice of	

	having their child complete the Census themselves at school or at home ● **Grade 9 to 12:** Students will receive an email link to complete the census during class time. ● **Intensive Support Programs:** Parents/guardians/caregivers with children in a Developmental Disability (DD) or Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) program will receive an email link to complete the census, in part or in full, on behalf of their child. ● Parents/guardians/caregivers have option to opt out of the census for their child in all groups. Implementation supports for students and families ● Special Education Students are supported to complete the Census the same way they are supported in class. ● The survey does not need to be completed in one sitting. ● Adapted versions for students in MID and DD programs ● Survey design considerations. Identity questions are weaved in with perception questions ● Qualtrics is compatible with TDSB accessibility software / devices	

	● Parent letters/communication and surveys available in 21 languages ● CSW support for families (JK to grade 3) ● Encourage schools to provide technology access and support for families ● Paper process available for families without an email ● All surveys are on web for parents to view before students complete the survey. Inclusion Action Ontario expressed concerns regarding the lack of consideration for an adapted version of the census for students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities and Development Disabilities in regular class placements. They consider this a form of discrimination since they are not receiving the same accommodation due to their placement option Concerns were raised about the way that the survey is distributed and explained. The presenter offered to answer additional questions/concerns through direct emails to her. Request was made that presentations be shared with SEAC prior to the meeting.	SEAC has asked that the written version of all presentations be shared with SEAC before SEAC meetings. SEAC also asked to receive a written version of this presentation.

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| PAAC on SEAC | Introduce PAAC on SEAC and present the objective of the item i.e., leveraging the PAAC on SEAC's toolbox to support SEAC work. The proposed motion would enable that.

See Appendix A for the proposed motion

A motion was brought forward to adopt the PAAC on SEAC calendar and to request that the information that is requested throughout the calendar for the year be received by the end of this school year.

Each month on the calendar, there is data to be shared, and topics to be addressed.

There was a suggestion to use PAAC on SEAC calendar as a touchstone to base a TDSB calendar on in order to assure that it aligns with when data is available and what data is collected.

Another suggestion was to write to the board chair bringing voice to concerns around SEAC's frustration about receiving data, or add developing a calendar as an agenda item for next month.

There was a suggestion that the adoption of the PAAC on SEAC calendar could include flexibility around timelines and be collaborative.

There was support for creating a TDSB SEAC calendar as some items on the PAAC on SEAC Calendar may not match TDSB's timeline. | Motion was moved by Melissa Rosen, seconded by Bronwen Alsop.

The motion passed as amended.
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| | Concerns were raised about the process regarding how motions are dealt with. It was clarified that SEAC makes recommendations, not orders and does not have the authority to direct the staff to generate any reports. It was suggested that the motion be changed to be high level – such as recommending that a reporting plan be developed that spans the year in collaboration between staff and SEAC members, however this suggestion was not accepted. It was also noted that it's important that motions align with the SEAC mandate.

Efforts have been made this year to develop a roadmap calendar for SEAC. SEAC can create its own calendar and request data from staff using the calendar.

Suggestions to amend the motion were made to the wording of the motion and adopted "referred to the TDSB to be used by SEAC as a tool"

Staff clarified that they have been collecting data based on SEAC's February motion seeking information and the subsequent direction from the FBEC meeting to present to SEAC, and that they have been in discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair around what data streams need to be collected and when. Staff expressed concern about the accuracy of point 3 in the motion in regard to the six months wait for information. There was reference to verbal requests in SEAC meetings since at least the EPWG's November 2022 update.

 It was noted that this motion if it passes, has logistical problems regarding timing as the motion will not be presented until after the May 8 SEAC date, and therefore the | |

	request for data for the May 8 meeting is not realistic. In fact, the next Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) meeting is May 10th, so staff will not be able to bring back information requested by the motion on May 8th.	

Trustees Report	Nil Report	
Other Business Adjournment Next Meeting: May 8, 2023	The Chair reminded the members of the role and the discussions in the working groups versus the discussions at the SEAC meetings. He then suggested that much of the conversations/comments that are occurring at the SEAC meeting and by email prior to the meeting can be covered by working groups and shared through working group updates. The Chair reflected on some negative comments by email and/or in the chat, and noted that it was really unfortunate that these are happening, and hoped that these won't happen again. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:39 pm	Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes was made by Melissa Rosen and seconded by Nora Green Motion to adjourn by Richard Carter, seconded by Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof

Appendix A (amended)

Motion brought forward by Melissa Rosen.

WHEREAS the Special Education Advisory Committee ("SEAC") has a legislated mandate to provide advice and recommendations to the Board to help better support the education of Special Education ("SE") students;

AND WHEREAS to fulfill this legislated mandate SEAC must have information and data about SE students and policies related to SE;

AND WHEREAS in the past SEAC has obtained sporadic and variable SE information from staff, and SEAC seeks to improve efficiency, transparency, and timeliness in obtaining relevant SE information;

AND WHEREAS the very highly regarded "PAAC on SEAC" (= the "Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee on SEACs") was formed decades ago to help SEACs and their boards function more effectively to better support the education of Special Education students;

AND WHEREAS PAAC on SEAC supports this mission in a variety of ways, including advocacy and engagement with provincial Ministries, and by providing a variety of Resources to SEACs across the province to help them operate more effectively;

AND WHEREAS the "PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar" http://www.paac-seac.ca/paac-on-seac-annual-calendar-2020-2021/ (the "PAAC Calendar") is one of these Resources and provides automatic structure so that a category or a few types of relevant SE information (already available or necessary to staff to support SE) will be provided to SEAC by staff automatically every month;

AND WHEREAS SEAC has been requesting this type of information from staff and referencing the PAAC Calendar since at least November 2022, but has not yet received any of this information or data;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED AND MOVED THAT:

1) The "WHEREAS" statements above are incorporated as part of this motion.

2) The PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar http://www.paac-seac.ca/paac-on-seac-annual-calendar-2020-2021/ is hereby immediately adopted by SEAC and referred to the TDSB to be used by SEAC as a tool and structure to help us all more effectively support the education of TDSB Special Education students.

AND

3) Since some individual items (including OnSIS data and EQAO data) have been requested for many months throughout this full school year and previously, and the full suite of these PAAC Annual Calendar requests have been discussed and raised repeatedly since November 2022, it is requested that **as much of this past year's full-year PAAC Calendar of annual data as possible, including in particular the OnSIS and EQAO data,** be provided to SEAC before the May 8 SEAC meeting and to provide the balance of the PAAC Calendar's annual (September through June) information before the June 12 SEAC meeting.