



# Statutory Committee

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

**Meeting Date:** 9, September, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on September 9, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Board Room at 5050 Yonge Street with Chair Richard Carter presiding.

**Attendance:**

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|---|------------------------|
| Down Syndrome Association of Toronto      | Richard Carter (Chair) |
| Association for Bright Children (ABC)     | Melissa Rosen          |
| Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto       | Lisa Kness             |
| Community Living Toronto                  | Tracy O’Regan          |
| Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)     | Tania Principe         |
| Learning Disability Association (Toronto) | Regrets                |
| VIEWES for the Visually Impaired          | David Lepofsky         |
| VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children       | Paul Cross             |
| Epilepsy Toronto                          | Steven Lynette         |
| Easter Seals Ontario                      | Ade Adenowo-Akpan      |
| Community Representative LC1              | Nora Green             |
| Community Representative LC1              | Aline Chan             |
| Community Representative LC2              | Jean-Paul Ngana        |
| Community Representative LC2              | Jordan Glass           |
| Community Representative LC3              | Olga Ingrahm           |
| Community Representative LC3              | Kirsten Doyle (phone)  |
| Community Representative LC4              |                        |
| Community Representative LC4              | Diane Montgomery       |
| TDSB Trustees                             | Michelle Aarts         |

**Also present were:**

- Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement
- Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent, Special Education
- Helen Fisher, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education
- Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC1

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

**The following participated by electronic means:** Kirsten Doyle,

**Regrets:** Trustee Brown, Trustee Lulka, Patrick Smith (Learning Disability Association)

**Part A: Recommendations**

**New Alternate Member for Autism Ontario**

**Whereas there is a vacancy for the alternate representative for Autism Ontario on the Toronto District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and**

**Whereas SEAC has received nominations from the executive officer of Autism Ontario for Julie Diamond to become the Alternate Representative, and**

**Whereas the named applicant meets the Ministry of Education and board criteria for eligibility, therefore,**

**Therefore, be it resolved that the board appoint Julie Diamond as the Alternate Representative for Autism Ontario for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 term.**

**Part B: For Information Only**

- Working groups were established for 2019/20 (Special Education Plan, Action Plan, Communication and Budget)
- Changes to Senior team that affect SEAC were explained and new staff were introduced to SEAC (Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent, Special Education and Helen Fisher, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education)
- Changes to the 2019 Special Education Plan were shared with SEAC
- Changes to SEA claim process and training were outlined
- SEAC members raised the question of whether SEAC motions need to go to PSSC prior to going to the Board and raised a concern about delays in feedback around motions. Associate Director, Kathy Witherow, will share PSSC and board decisions that relate to SEAC motions with SEAC
- On the Toronto District School Board SEAC, there are 12 positions for Local association memberships. Each local association has a representative and an alternate. Autism Ontario has a vacancy for alternate member. SEAC unanimously passed a motion to approve Julie Diamond as the Alternate Member for Autism Ontario

**Part C: Ongoing Matters**

SEAC requested presentations from the Transportation Department and Budget at the October meeting.

**Report Submitted by:** Lianne Dixon