



Statutory Committee

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 14 September 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on September 14 at 7:00 pm through electronic means, Vice Chair Diane Montgomery chaired the meeting.

Association for Bright Children (ABC)		Melissa Rosen
Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto		Lisa Kness
Community Living Toronto		Tracy O’Regan
Epilepsy Toronto		Steven Lynette
Down Syndrome Association of Toronto		Richard Carter
Easter Seals Ontario		Aliza Chagpar
Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)		Tania Principe
IEWS for the Visually Impaired		David Lepofsky
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children		Paul Cross
Learning Disability Association		Regrets
CADDAC		Juanita Beaudry
LC1	Aline Chan	Nora Green
LC2 Ngana	ordan Glass	Jean-Paul
LC3	Olga Ingrahm	Kirsten Doyle
LC4	Diane Montgomery	Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff,
TDSB Trustees	Alexander Brown	Michelle Aarts

Also present were:

Angela Nardi-Addesa, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

Wendy Terro, 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

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: Trustee Lulka, Patrick Smith (LDA)

Part A: Recommendations

None

Part B: For Information Only

Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Updates:

Acknowledgements

- A special acknowledgement to the SEAC Return to School Subcommittee: Kirsten Doyle, Nora Green, Aliza Chagpar, Aline Chan, Julie Diamond, Tracey O'Regan, Diane Montgomery and David Lepofsky for supporting the Special Education team over the summer months with planning and difficult discussions.
- The tireless efforts of the entire central special education team over the summer were acknowledged and appreciated.

Summer School Updates

TDSB had a very successful Summer School Program for our students with special education needs. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer school programs during July 2020 were offered remotely through Sunny View Public School, Park Lane Public School, Beverley Public School, York Humber High School and William J. McCordic School.

- Physical Disability classes grades 1 – 8;
- Deaf Hard of Hearing classes grades 1 – 8; and
- Developmental Disability classes grade 1 – 12

Each remote summer school program was supported by a principal, between 11-13 teachers and two child and youth workers. There were a total of approximately 360 students who participated.

After School Development Summer Program

The Summer School Skills Development Leisure Program was offered remotely to TDSB students, diagnosed with autism, who were going into Grades 4 -10.

Staff connected with students and families through Google Meet, emails and telephone conversations. The program ran twice weekly from July 6 – 30.

Ministry Funding and Student transitions

The Ministry of Education’s Guide to School Reopening directed school boards to provide a transition to support students with high special education needs within the first two weeks leading to school re opening. In support of this direction, TDSB schools were directed to contact families whose children were in an ISP class with high special education needs to invite them into the school for a transition opportunity.

Virtual School

Virtual School is starting September 22

- Teachers will be responsible to cover the Ontario Curriculum and/or Alternative Curriculum
- Delivery of the curriculum will be through the Digital Learning Platform Brightspace

Charts were shared showing the number of students with special education needs attending the TDSB VS and the number of teachers assigned to support them.

Virtual School	Enrolment as of September 7, 2020	Special Education VS
VS Elementary LC1	10,917	498 ISP 2,201 Resource
VS Elementary LC2	14,251	628 ISP 1,845 Resource
VS Elementary LC3	16,088	543 ISP 1,949 Resource
VS Elementary LC4	9,258	467 ISP 2,178 Resource
TOTAL elementary	50,541	2,136 ISP 8,173 Resource
VS Secondary	16,091	798 ISP 2,199 Resource
GRAND TOTAL	66,605 students	2,934 ISP 10,372 Resource

Virtual School will have a staff of:

- Over 2,200 teachers for Elementary
- Over 770 teachers for Secondary

ISP	Number of VS Teachers
ASD	26
BEH	10
DD	45
DHH	5
DIAG	10
Resource	107
LD	9.5
MID	22
PD	3
TOTAL	237.5

Staggered Start and Secondary Start

Elementary:

- All Intensive Support Programs will begin September 15th, 2020

Secondary:

- All Special Education ISP classes at congregated sites and students attending Developmental Disabilities (DD) Intensive Support Programs at integrated secondary sites will begin on September 15th, 2020 and will follow a semester model
- All other secondary programs will begin September 17th, 2020
- Students attending intensive Support Programs (Autism, PH, MID, LD, and Gifted) where they are integrated into classes and follow the quadmester model

Screening

Before leaving home in the morning, all TDSB staff and students must conduct a mandatory self-assessment to determine whether or not they should be coming to work/school, based on their health and exposure risk to COVID-19. A self-assessment for students can be verified in two ways:

- TDSB Health Pass (paper)
- TDSB Health Screening App

Professional Learning

- September 1-3 PA Days

The Professional Development topics for ALL staff were shared with SEAC as well as topics related specifically to Special Education.

PPE

Personal Protective Equipment for COVID-19 is required to be worn as directed by TPH. All staff must wear a medical grade mask level 1 at all times. A face shield is required to be worn when physical distancing cannot be maintained. The TDSB recognizes the unique challenges that staff may experience when assisting our exceptional students.

Special Education Plan

The Special Education Plan has been updated and submitted to the Ministry. We are looking forward to working with the SEAC subcommittee to ensure the voices of SEAC continue to be captured. As the subcommittee moves forward in their work, we will go through each section to discuss and collaborate.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership-Learning-and-School-Improvement/Special-Education/Special-Education-Plan>

Concerns around the accessibility of the plan will be explored by the Communications Department to ensure the Plan meets Human Rights and AODA compliance.

Other Business

This meeting was live streamed and posted on the SEAC website.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Lianne Dixon

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