**SEAC Meeting January 16, 2017**

**Topic: Smoothing SEAC's Dealings with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)**

**BACKGROUND**

TDSB's Special Education Advisory Committee includes over 20 members from the community, all volunteers, as well as three trustees. They devote extensive time to reviewing the needs of some 46,000 TDSB students with special education needs. Their core role is to make recommendations to TDSB on how to improve its services for those students. SEAC has for the past 18 months been conducting a major top-to-bottom review of the delivery of education to students with special education needs. It has made several substantive recommendations to TDSB. It is working on more recommendations. Formally and informally, SEAC has received a warm reception from individual trustees. However, SEAC has encountered several frustrating procedural roadblocks in its dealings with the TDSB at the Board level over the past year.

***\*\*\*MOTION*** On motion of David Lepofsky and seconded by Paula Boutis

***SEAC recommends to the TDSB Board as follows:***

***1. When SEAC makes a recommendation to the TDSB Board, this recommendation should be immediately distributed to all trustees, and not just members of the Program and School Services Committee.***

***2. When SEAC makes a recommendation to the TDSB Board, if the TDSB Program and Student Services Committee will not be meeting over the next four weeks (excluding July and August), SEAC should be afforded an opportunity to present that recommendation either directly to the TDSB Board or to another Board committee that will be meeting in the next four weeks, unless SEAC or the SEAC Chair agree to await the next meeting of the TDSB Programs and School Services Committee.***

***3. If SEAC has made a recommendation to the TDSB, and the TDSB Board or one of its committees proposes to rule that recommendation out of order for any reason, SEAC should be given prior notice of this and the reasons for it, and an opportunity to discuss the matter, before any ruling on whether it is out of order.***

***4. When SEAC makes a major recommendation to the TDSB Board, which SEAC cannot effectively address to the entire TDSB Board or one of its committees in a five minute deputation, SEAC should have the opportunity to request and make a longer and fuller oral presentation to the TDSB and to its committees.***

***5. Before the TDSB Board or any of its committees proposes to pass a motion or make any decision that would directly affect SEAC's operations or work (apart from a Board or Board committee motion to refer a matter to SEAC for its input), the TDSB Board or its committee should alert SEAC or its Chair of the matter in advance, seek SEAC's input, and afford SEAC an opportunity to speak to the Board or its committee on the topic of that matter.***

***6. If any TDSB trustee wishes to raise any issue relating to SEAC's operations, that trustee should first raise the issue directly with SEAC or its Chair, to afford SEAC an opportunity to consider and address it.***

***7. TDSB Board leadership should meet with the SEAC Chair to discuss other ways to ensure that when SEAC makes a recommendation to the TDSB Board, this is communicated to all TDSB trustees more quickly, and is addressed more quickly.***

The motion carried.