TDSB logo


Draft Minutes

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

**Meeting Date: October 17, 2022**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on October 17, 2022, from 7: 00 p.m. to 9:02 p.m. via Zoom with SEAC Vice-Chair Diane Montgomery

Attendance:

Melissa Rosen (Association for Bright Children (ABC), Steven Lynette (Epilepsy Toronto), Richard Carter (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto), Nora Green (Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI), Tracey O’Regan (Community Living Toronto), Aliza Chagpar (Easter Seals), David Lepofsky (OPVIC), Shanna Lino (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children)Julie Diamond (Autism Ontario), Beth Dangerfield (CADDAC), Nerissa Hutchison (BPSG)., Judi Coulson (CADDAC), Aline Chan  LC1, Jean-Paul Ngana LC2, Jordan Glass LC2, Olga Ingrahm LC3Kirsten Doyle LC3, Diane Montgomery  LC4,  Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff LC4, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Dan MacLean, Trustee Alexander Brown

Staff:

Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion, Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Andrea Roach, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Effie Stathopoulos, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Susan Moulton, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Alison Board, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education, Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health and PSS, Mun Shu Wong, Media Services, Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison,

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| Item | Discussion | Motion | Recommendation |
| Call to Order - Quorum | Live stream announced |  | Quorum achieved |
| Land Acknowledgement | Read by Chair |  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | Approved | Motion to approve the agenda | Carried |
| Approval of Minutes from September SEAC Meeting | Minutes were approved with minor adjustments around attendance and spelling. | Motion to approve the minutes | Carried |
| Conflicts of interest | No Conflicts of Interest |  | Carried |
| Chair Comments | Application deadline for new members was October 15th  Current SEAC will continue to meet until new membership is approved by the Board.- current SEAC will continue to meet in November.  New SEAC will meet in December where an election for Chair/Vice Chair will take place. |  |  |
| Association Updates | CADDAC - October is ADHD Awareness Month  Virtual ADHD Conference October 22 and 23  Down Syndrome Awareness Week is October 23 – 29th  Link and information were shared with members |  |  |
| Working Group Updates | **K-12 Standards Working Group –** has heard nothing from TDBS about the implementation of the report  SEAC identified three priority areas for action. There was a preliminary meeting with staff in the spring, but nothing since then. There is a staff advisory committee focussed on AODA. The SEAC working committee would like to work with that committee and set up a meeting prior to the next SEAC meeting. A representative from the AODA committee will be invited to the next SEAC meeting.  Representatives from CADDAC would like to create a working group to work in collaboration with the TDSB ADHD group.  **Special Education Plan-** has not had a full group meeting since September  Two years ago this group sought input from all of SEAC and submitted a large number of items. Some of it was adopted into the plan.  **Effective Practices** – an informal group that wanted to make SEAC meetings more successful and enjoyable. Requested that the chat function be reinstated. This will be discussed further as the new SEAC is starting.  ADHD Working Group - Representatives from CADDAC would like to create an ad hoc working group to work in collaboration with the TDSB ADHD group |  |  |
| Leadership Report | **Budget Update**  **Response to questions about budget cuts.**  School staff was asked to look at where potential cuts could be made in the future due to the three-year deficit reduction plan – a result of the board having a greater than one percent deficit.  June FBEC report will be shared with SEAC.  Staff is not in a position to speak to any set amount of budget changes until we have the numbers - and we won’t have the numbers until we know what enrolment is. Enrolment counts will determine the potential budget deficit. Budget consultation will take place starting in May of next year. The fact that enrolment is increasing will have a positive impact on the bottom line.  **IPRC data for September 2022 was shared with SEAC**.  79 IPRCs have been completed since the end of June 2022  **Psychological Assessment data was shared**.  102 assessments were completed over the summer.  The waitlist is currently at 620 – a reduction from 810 in June.  The goal is to reduce the waitlist.  **Questions following Leadership Report:**  IEP’s – Is IEP training part of staff training?  There are many different learning opportunities around IEP’s not only to school administrators but for classroom-based staff (teachers and support staff). There are also various google sites for each topic and slide decks are made available to staff as a resource. There are pre-recorded webinars as well.  Is it possible to include “aging” data with the presentation of the psychological assessment data?  They will be included starting next month.  Concern was expressed about filling vacancies for educational assistants. Very few EA’s and SNA’s.  It is a concern that Employee Services is looking at. In the past, TDSB has worked with colleges to recruit staff. It could be a big concern moving into the winter season.  Budget – SEAC should be included in discussions around potential cuts. These are policy decisions and SEAC should be included in these decisions.  Can SEAC see potential cuts? There is a consultation process with SEAC before the budget is finalized. Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 decreases are outlined in a FBEC document that will be shared with SEAC. These projections may change depending on enrolment.  Are staff assigned to the LC for assessments?  Staff is assigned by LC and supports each other as needed. As needs change, the supports in each LC can change.  What happens to students awaiting IPRC?  The recommendations in the assessment are shared and start to be implemented by staff prior to the IPRC happening. Support continues at the school until the IPRC takes place. |  |  |
| Items from Members | OPVIC -David Lepofsky  There is a concern for students with vision loss that has been brought to the attention of the Director of Education.  A teacher of Visually Impaired (TVI) teaches students in an itinerant model. The problem is that there are not enough teachers and the number of hours provided to TDSB students are much fewer than neighboring school boards. TDSB has almost a third of TVI positions unfilled. There is a shortage of available teachers that needs to be addressed by school boards. |  |  |
| Trustees Report   * Trustee MacLean * Trustee Aarts | Board of Trustees will have been re-elected prior to the next SEAC meeting. At least 12 new trustees will be elected.  Budget priorities that were submitted to the Ministry will be sent to SEAC members. |  |  |
| Other Business  Face to Face vs Virtual Meetings  Adjournment  Next Meeting: November 14 | The results of a survey about meeting in person were shared.  The logistics of the hybrid meeting were discussed.  Trustee meetings are being done in a hybrid format.  Parents/Caregivers as Partners Conference  The conference is coming up next weekend. No SEAC members are presenting. Hopefully, members will attend the sessions.  The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm |  |  |