



# Statutory Committee

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

**Meeting Date:** 13 January, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on January 13, 2020 from 7:02 pm to 9:15 pm in the TDSB Board Room (5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON).

## Attendance

Association for Bright Children (ABC)	Melissa Rosen	
Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto	Lisa Kness	
Community Living Toronto	Tracey O'Regan	
Down Syndrome Association of Toronto	Richard Carter	
Easter Seals Ontario		
Integrated Action for Inclusion (IAI)	Tania Principe (phone)	
IEWS for the Visually Impaired	David Lepofsky	
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children		
LC1	Nora Green	Aline Chan
LC2	Jordan Glass	Jean-Paul Ngana
LC3	Kristen Doyle	Olga Ingrahm
LC4	Diane Montgomery	
TDSB Trustees	Alexander Brown	

Also present were:

Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

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

Lucy Giannotta, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education (Acting)

Janine Small, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education

Jennifer Newby, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC4

David Cameron, Senior Manager, Research and Development

Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Finance

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison (phone)

Regrets: Trustee Michelle Aarts, Juanita Beaudry, Steven Lynette, Patrick Smith, Paul Cross

## **Part A: Recommendations**

Nil

## **Part B: For Information Only**

### **Election**

Richard Carter (SEAC Chair) and Steven Lynette (SEAC Vice Chair) were thanked for their dedication and commitment for the past two years in these roles. Nora Green, Community Representative from LC1 and Diane Montgomery, Community Representative from LC4 were acclaimed as Chair and Vice Chair for the calendar year 2020.

### **Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Updates:**

#### **Service Animals**

Recommendation 15: Ensuring Students with Disabilities can bring Service Animals to school.

The new policy (P096), approved by the Board of Trustees on October 30, 2019, was shared with SEAC members and questions were answered about its implementation.

#### **ASD Pilot Project - Dedicated Space**

The Toronto District School Board will be participating in a Ministry ASD pilot project again for the 2019-2020 school year. The pilot project involves having external Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapists work with their clients (current TDSB students) during the school day in a dedicated space, separate from the classroom. The goal of the pilot project is to reduce the number of daily transitions that students with ASD who are currently enrolled in school and receive ABA Therapy experience.  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/autismpilot.html>

#### **Adolescent Literacy Capacity Building**

All Special Education Inclusion Consultants and Coordinators will be engaging in Adolescent Literacy Capacity Building. This training is postponed until the current labour disputes are resolved.

#### **Ontario Educator Training Program- Sonderly (Training Division of Geneva Centre)**

The Ontario Ministry of Education has provided funding to Geneva Centre for Autism to offer the Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program to publicly funded school boards.

The objectives of this program are to increase the understanding of ASD and ABA methods, enhance the delivery of programming to students with ASD, and improve their educational, social, communication and behavioural outcomes in schools. TDSB is registered to access the courses.

#### **Presentations:**

### Budget

Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Finance, presented a Draft Response to the Ministry's Funding Consultation as well as details around Special Education enveloping 2018-19 funding and 2019-20 revised estimates. SEAC members were asked to consider the following budget question and provide input.

*What funding enhancements are needed in Special Education to effectively and equitably support student achievements, well-being outcomes?*

### EQAO

David Cameron, Senior Manager of Research and Janine Small, Special Education Centrally Assigned Principal shared data regarding EQAO and special education students

David shared that overall TDSB is in line with the rest of the province with regards to the percentage of students with Special Educational Needs (Excluding Gifted) who are at or above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4) in Reading, Writing, and Math.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

**Report Submitted by:** Lianne Dixon