



Statutory Committee

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 2 March 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on March 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the TDSB Board Room (5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON), Chair Nora Green.

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

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

Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Finance

Ron Felsen – Centrally Assigned Principal, Secondary School Review

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: Trustee Lulka, Kirsten Doyle, Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff, Patrick Smith,

Part A: Recommendations

Nil

Part B: For Information Only

Bell Times

Craig Snider presented information about changing school start and end times (also referred to as “bell times”) at 130 schools to provide more efficient transportation services for students to get to school.

Bell times in the morning will be between 8:15 am and 9:15 am Bell times in the afternoon will be between 2:45 pm and 3:45 pm

Scheduling information sessions for parents/guardians as well as two “Scribble Live” web sessions.

Details were provided in response to SEAC member questions:

Secondary Review and Optional Attendance

Ron Felsen answered follow-up questions to his Secondary School Review presentation at the previous SEAC meeting. He also presented information to SEAC members about Optional Attendance and how it relates to special education students. A copy of the current Optional Attendance form was provided to members.

Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Updates:

The Parents as Partners Conference Committee passed a motion to postpone the PAP Conference until the fall of 2020,

IEP Review

There will be a review of the Individual Education Plan. This will involve analysing data and exploring the following:

- Who are the students that have IEPs?
- What is the intended purpose of the IEP? (non-identified)
- How might we improve the effectiveness of IEPs so the intended outcome is reached? How do we monitor gap closing?
- What are the equity and pedagogical considerations when creating/carrying out an IEP?
- How might we improve parent consultation practices? Student voice?
- How might we incorporate SEAC IEP feedback to improve our process?
- How might we deepen Principal and school staff understanding of effective IEP writing?

Staffing

Staffing for 2020-2021 is ongoing. We are working towards maintaining the current staffing allocation for the upcoming academic year. There may be fluctuations however at individual schools due to variables such as enrolment and the opening or closing of ISP classes. Any changes in individual school allocations were carefully deliberated between Centrally Assigned Principals of Special Education and Inclusion and the Superintendent of Education of the schools.

Special Needs Assistant allocations will be not determined until June 2020. Final staffing is completed over the summer in collaboration with Employee Services up to the beginning of the new school year. Any remaining vacancies after that point are posted.

For details on ISP classes as it relates to student caps and staff allocation please see the link below:

[Special Education Class Size and Support Staff Allocation](#)

Special Education Plan

We are listening to the concerns shared from our SEAC members and parent groups and have begun an extensive revamping of the Special Education Plan. The purpose is to make the Special Education Plan parent friendly, easy to navigate and relevant.

Once a draft copy is created, we will be seeking feedback from SEAC members.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Lianne Dixon