



Statutory Committee

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 2 November, 2020

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on November 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm through electronic means, Chair Steven Lynette 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
VIEWS for the Visually Impaired		David Lepofsky
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children		Kara Agostino
Learning Disability Association		Nadia Persaud
CADDAC		uanita Beaudry
LC1	Aline Chan	Nora Green
LC2	Jordan Glass	Jean-Paul Ngana
LC3	Olga Ingrahm	Kirsten Doyle
LC4	Diane Montgomery	Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff,
TDSB Trustees	Alexander Brown	Michelle Aarts

Also present were:

Andrew Gold, Associate Director

Craig Snider, Associate Director

Angela Nardi-Addesa, System 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 LC2

Cindy Zwicker-Reston, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education LC 3

Shameen Sandu, System Leader, Mental Health and PSS

Laura Shepherd, Manager, Social Work and Attendance Svs

Carolyn Lennox, Manager, Psychological Service

David Schwarzbein, Manager, Psychological Service

Yvonne Martinez, Manager, Psychological Services

Laura Mahoney, Manager, Psychological Services

Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Part A: Recommendations

Whereas, there is a vacancy for the representative for VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children on the Toronto District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and

Whereas, SEAC has received a nomination from the executive director of VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children for Shanna Lino to become the Representative, and

Whereas, the named applicant meets the Ministry of Education and board criteria for eligibility,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the board appoint Shanna Lino as the Representative for VOICE for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 term.

Part B: For Information Only

Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Updates:

Budget

Craig Snider (Associate Director) provided a month by month outline of budget process as well as information on the Impact of Projected Enrolment

- Based on the updated projected enrolment the impact is forecasted to be approximately \$41.8M
- He outlined Federal and Provincial Funding targeted to address school boards' staffing and operating needs as a result of COVID-19 health & safety requirements (\$58.4 M) and how this funding is being spent in TDSB.

Social Work and Mental Health/Wellbeing

Shameen Sandu and Laura Shepherd outlined services their department is providing.

- Social work (SW) services are available for families and students in brick & mortar and virtual school (*counseling, group work, classroom groups, consultations, case management, community resource links*).
- Students in virtual school are connected to their home school to maintain continuity and connection to their home school communities.
- Virtual groups/in-person are available/are being created to enhance student/caregivers' engagement to school and increase socialization; maintain healthy relationships; decrease isolation; enhance resilience and COVID coping skills.

Psychological Services Activities 2020

Carolyn Lennox and David Schwarzbein

- shared Assessment Statistics for September and October 2020
- Provided information about Hearts and Minds newsletter <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Psychological-Services>
- discussed services that their department is providing to students and staff, including
 - Direct individual counselling and group interventions (anxiety, depression, resilience)
 - Assisting the transition back to school for September 2020
 - Hearts and Mind newsletters for parents
 - Presentations for parents and school staff
 - Mental Health PD
 - Consultations with teachers during COVID-19

Virtual School Update

- Over 61, 000 students in Elementary Virtual School
 - 9, 000 students with Individual Education Plan
- Over 17, 000 students in Secondary Virtual School
 - 5, 000 students with Individual Education Plan

Other Business

- A new parent support group: Black Parents of Children with Disabilities was introduced. <https://hollandbloorview.ca/stories-news-events/BLOOM-Blog/disability-and-mental-health-are-not-things-we-talk-about-black>
- This meeting was live streamed and posted on the SEAC website.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Lianne Dixon