



Statutory Committee

Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 11 January, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on January 11, 2021, 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		Tracey 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
IEWS for the Visually Impaired		David Lepofsky
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children		Shanna Lino
Learning Disability Association		Nadia Persaud
CADDAC		Juanita Beaudry
LC1	Aline Chan	Nora Green
LC2	Jordan Glass	Jean-Paul Ngana
LC3	Olga Ingrahm	
LC4	Diane Montgomery	Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff,
TDSB Trustees	Alexander Brown	Michelle Aarts
Regrets: Kirsten Doyle		

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
Amie Presley, Research Coordinator
Shirley Chan, System Superintendent
Ian Allison, System Superintendent
Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health and PSS
Vanessa Pfaff, Accessibility
Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education
Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Part A: Recommendations

Nil

Part B: For Information Only

Election for Chair and Vice Chair for 2021

- Steven Lynette was acclaimed as Chair and Diane Montgomery was acclaimed as Vice Chair

Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Updates:

Budget

Craig Snider presented the Summary of Actual Results for 2019-20

- Expenditures for Special Education were shared
- Projection for 2020-21 Tentative Timelines were also shared

Thought Exchange

- TDSB is reaching out to advisory committees in the new year asking:
 - *In terms of your advisory committee's focus, what are the most important issues our district needs to think about as we continue to respond to COVID-19 and plan for the rest of the school year?*

Parent Survey Information

- TDSB will be sending a Parent Winter Check-In Survey by the end of January.

Special Education Virtual School Elementary – Shirley Chan and Ian Allison

Virtual School Elementary Structure

- Virtual School Elementary has approximate 64,000 students or 2,600 classes (as of Dec 2020) coming from across TDSB
- VS is divided into Learning Centres, each with an administrative team of Centrally Assigned Principals, Principals, and Vice-Principals
- Virtual School Elementary administrators and educators work in partnership with In-Person administrators to support students and families.
- IEP completion is a collaboration between Virtual School teacher and In-Person Principal. IST, SST, IPRC processes are organized by and in partnership with In-Person and Virtual School Administrators

Special Education in Virtual School Elementary

LC1 – 2124 LC2 – 2595 LC3 – 2760 LC4 – 1848 Total 9327

Special Education Social Work Supports

Referrals (December 2020) by Learning Centre were presented.

- Adding additional Social Work support for VS in January 2021
- 5 social workers who can triage and work with teachers and special education staff to support student needs

Project Search 2021-2022 Information Session

- Project Search Toronto, in partnership with the Toronto District School Board, is holding Information sessions for Project SEARCH 2021-2022
- For additional information, please contact Centrally Assigned Principal, Wendy Terro

Universal Screening CCAT 7 Update

- Presently there are 17,621 grade 3 students in TDSB, of which 6,483 of them are in virtual schools.
- The students attending in person learning started the process in December.
- Virtual Students will be given the opportunity to complete the screening remotely in February

Part C: Ongoing Matters

The Special Education Plan Working Group shared an update from their recent meeting.

Report Submitted by: Lianne Dixon