



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

**Meeting Date:** 1 February, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on February 1 at 7:00 pm through electronic means. 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
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  
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  
David Cameron, Research  
Vanessa Pfaff, Accessibility  
Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

## **Part A: Recommendations**

### **SEAC Association Membership (Appendix A)**

On the Toronto District School Board SEAC, there are twelve positions for SEAC Local Associations and there is currently one vacancy. The vacancy has been posted on the SEAC page of the TDSB website. An application to join TDSB SEAC was received from the Toronto Chapter of the BPSG (Black Parent Support Group), an affiliate of the parent council of the ONASBE (Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators. Sherron Grant, President of BPSG and Warren Salmon, President of ONABSE, have written letters requesting membership and nominating Tracy Burrell as Association Representative and Clovis Grant as Alternate Association Representative. Both BPSG and their nominees meet the criteria outlined by Regulation 464/97 for membership. This new association request was announced at SEAC on February 21, 2021.

## **SEAC Community Member Representative**

On the Toronto District School Board SEAC, there are currently four Community Member Alternate vacancies. Caren Watkins and George Petrovic have submitted applications for these positions. Taking into consideration the criteria outlined in the TDSB SEAC Terms of Reference and Regulation 464/97, Caren Watkins and George Petrovic are being recommended as Alternate Community Representatives. These new applications were announced at SEAC on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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

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

#### **Presentations**

##### **1. TDSB MYSP: Equity, Anti-Oppression and Anti-Black Racism**

Superintendent Spence engaged SEAC members in a discussion of the over-representation of Black students in Special Education programs.

Goal: To create professional learning models that support inclusion and reduce the over-representation of Black students in Special Education programs (specifically Home School Programs, Intensive Support programs and other congregated programs).

Action: Invest in building the capacity of educators to successfully implement inclusion with groups of Black students by deepening their awareness of the principles of anti-racism and culturally relevant pedagogy.

##### **2. Kindergarten to Grade 1 Individual Education Plan (IEP) Strategy**

- The Special Education team will continue to take steps to address the overrepresentation of Black students in special education programs. Specifically,

attention will be directed at interrupting the initiation of IEPs for our early learners in Kindergarten and Grade 1.

- Before any child in JK/SK/Grade 1 is placed on an IEP, Principals will ensure conversations and agreement from their SOE before any IEP is initiated for a child in JK/SK and Grade 1.

Dr. David Cameron shared data collected over five years and answered questions from SEAC members.

An analysis of the demographics of Kindergarten and Grade 1 students in special education from the 2015-16 to 2019-20 school years suggests:

- Male students, Black students, and students from families with low socio-economic status, such as less parent education, single-parent households, and low family income, were disproportionately high in Kindergarten and Grade 1 special education.
- Additionally, more than half of the students continued to not have an identified exceptionality after three or four school years when they entered Grade 4.

## **Updates:**

- **Universal Screening**

The process for grade 3 virtual school students is currently on hold due to the provincial emergency order. We will follow the recommendations of TPH. As such, the CCAT-7 Assessment for VS students has once again been delayed.

- **In Person Learning Data**

The numbers of students, programs, schools and staff for each LC was shared.

Congregated schools and schools with ISP's are open for in person learning.

- **February Switch**

TDSB will proceed with a final switching opportunity for parents, where space is available, in February 2021 for those families who indicated interest in the December switching survey.

- **Assessment Data**

Cumulative Statistics (completed, In-process, waiting) September 2020 – January 2021 for Assessments was shared by Learning Centre.

## **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

### **Working Group Updates**

The Special Education Plan working group and the Communication working group presented updates and sought input from SEAC members.

Appendix A

### **MOTIONS**

#### **New Association Member (BPSG)**

*Whereas there one Association Vacancy on the TDSB SEAC and*

*Whereas SEAC has received a nomination from the “The Toronto Chapter of the BPSG (Black Parent Support Group)”, and*

*Whereas Sherron Grant, President of BPSG, has nominated Tracy Burrell as Association Representative and Clovis Grant as Association Alternate, therefore,*

*It is recommended that the Toronto District School Board appoint BPSG as a TDSB Member Association on the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2018 to 2022 term, with Tracy Burrell as its Representative and Clovis Grant as its Alternate.*

#### **Learning Centre 4 Alternate Representative**

*Whereas there is a Community Representative Alternate vacancy on TDSB SEAC for LC4 and*

*Whereas George Petrovic, has submitted an application and meets the criteria for membership outlined in Regulation 464/97 therefore,*

*It is recommended that the Toronto District School Board appoint George Petrovic as Community Representative Alternate for Learning Centre 4 on the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2018 to 2022 term.*

#### **Learning Centre 1 Alternate Representative**

*Whereas there is a Community Representative Alternate vacancy on TDSB SEAC for LC1 and*

*Whereas Caren Watkins, has submitted an application and meets the criteria for membership outlined in Regulation 464/97 therefore,*

*It is recommended that the Toronto District School Board appoint Caren Watkins as Community Representative Alternate for Learning Centre 1 on the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2018 to 2022 term.*

**Report Submitted by:** Lianne Dixon