

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

**Meeting Date:** 3 May, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on May 3 at 7:00 pm through electronic means. Steven Lynette chaired the meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the TDSB website.

Association for Bright Children (ABC)		Melissa Rosen
Autism Society of Ontario – Toronto		Lisa Kness
Black Parent Support Group		Tracey Burrell
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		Shanna Lino
Learning Disability Association		Nadia Persaud
CADDAC		Juanita 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:

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  
 Vanessa Pfaff, Accessibility  
 Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education  
 Amie Presley, Research  
 Wendy Keene, Centrally Assigned Principal  
 Mun Shu Wong, Media Services,  
 David Cameron, Research Department,  
 Garry Green, Transportation,  
 Lorraine Linton, System Superintendent,  
 Lianne Dixon, TDSB SEAC Liaison

Regrets: Andrew Gold, Associate Director

## **Part A: Recommendations**

Nil

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

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

A motion was presented by the SEAC Special Education Plan Working Group and was passed unanimously by email follow up after the meeting.

This motion (Appendix A) recommends that the document (Appendix B, Special Education Plan – SEAC Feedback, separate document) created by the working group with feedback and recommendations for changes to the Special Education Plan be forwarded to staff and Trustees for their review and consideration in formulating the 2021 Special Education Plan and future programming.

### **Reports**

#### **Specialized Programs**

The TDSB will establish two types of Specialized Programs:

- a) **Local Specialized Program** refers to a program within a school with a specific focus (e.g., the arts, athletics, skilled trades, etc.) that is available to students registered at that school.
- b) **District-wide Specialized School/Program** refers to a school/program with a specific focus (e.g., the arts, athletics, skilled trades, etc.) that is available to students from across the district.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>

In the discussion that followed the presentation, concerns were raised about the equity of specialized programs and the accessibility to these programs by students with special needs.

Further consultation was requested and follow-up around this process will be shared with SEAC members.

### **Medication**

- Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings
- TDSB Operational Procedure PR 580; Special Education Plan Section C: Inclusion Strategy pages 39 and 40

Oral medication is administered either by pupil, parent/guardian, aide or other personnel

Injection of medication is administered by pupil as authorized, parent as authorized or health professional. Training is provided by the attending physician except for the Health professional who is trained by the Ministry of Health.

Discussion took place around the policies and the need for updates. Follow up regarding when policy and procedures will be updated will be shared with SEAC members.

## **Transportation**

Bussing concerns were raised including:

- training of drivers,
- installation of harnesses,
- access to community schools,
- management of behaviour issues,
- the need to teach the skill of taking the bus.
- revision of current policy timeline

The need for an update of the TDSB Transportation Policy was discussed and the timeline will be shared with SEAC members.

## **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

### **Working Group Updates**

The Special Education Plan working group will send out a motion for approval to present feedback document to Trustees.

A Working Group was formed to revise the current SEAC Terms of Reference.

**Report Submitted by:** Lianne Dixon

## **Appendix A**

WHEREAS TDSB's SEAC formed a working group to seek and facilitate feedback on TDSB's Special Education Plan (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS feedback on the Plan was sought and obtained from SEAC representatives, parents, and other advocates for students with special education needs, in order to help better educate and support these students; and

WHEREAS a variety of feedback and recommendations were obtained and SEAC wishes to communicate this feedback and these recommendations to SEAC, staff, Trustees and others;

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached feedback document and its recommendations for changes to the Special Education Plan be promptly forwarded to staff and Trustees for their review and consideration in formulating TDSB's 2021 Special Education Plan and future policies and practices regarding educating students with special education needs.

Appendix B, Special Education Plan – SEAC Feedback (separate document)