



Name of Committee: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 7 June, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee convened on June 7 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
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	Kirsten Doyle
LC4	Diane Montgomery	Izabella Pruska-Oldenoff
TDSB Trustees	Michelle Aarts	

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
Vanessa Pfaff, Accessibility Coordinator
Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education
Wendy Keene, Centrally Assigned Principal
Mun Shu Wong, Media Services,
David Schwartzbein, Manager, Psychological Services
Yvonne Martinez, Manager, Psychological Services
Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health
Lianne Dixon, SEAC Liaison

Part A: Recommendations

A motion was presented to SEAC by Community Representative Nora Green regarding Specialized Programs. The motion passed by a vote of 12 to 4 with 2 abstentions.

This motion (Appendix A) states that SEAC does not recommend the specialized program policy as it discriminates against students with special education needs and students with income barriers.

Part B: For Information Only

Leadership, Learning and School Improvement Department Reports and Updates:

Reports

Summer School

Given the unpredictability of what the status of the COVID 19 pandemic will be in the summer and the need to begin planning well before that time, the decision has been made to offer all Summer Programs fully remote (online) for summer 2021.

The summer school programs that will be offered to TDSB students includes:

- Physical Disability classes grades 1 - 8
- Deaf Hard of Hearing classes grades 1 - 8
- Developmental Disability classes grade 1 - 12

Approximately 300 students have been registered.

Programs will follow the same virtual learning format as last summer due it's high level of success and will include:

- using a Virtual Classroom to communicate with students and caregivers; delivering and assigning student work; and hosting Google Meets for virtual lessons
- providing students with a Learning Kit to complement the teaching and learning of the program
- both synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning opportunities will be offered as a means to allow multiple entry points for families/caregivers, to engage and participate

Psychological Assessment Update

The following chart was shared that outlines the number of completed and outstanding psychological assessment referrals by Learning Centre as of May. It was noted that 31 percent of these referrals were made in the month of May.

May 2021					
	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	Total
Removed	166	152	153	245	716
Completed	852	463	460	948	2723
Resolved*	1018	615	613	1193	3439
In Progress	140	157	191	217	705
Waiting	373	517	470	669	2029
Total Referrals	1531	1289	1274	2079	6173

* Resolved = Completed+Removed

IPRC/SEPRC Meetings

The following charts showing the number of IPRC's and SEPRC's completed and outstanding by Learning Centre were shared and discussed. Coordinators will be called back for the last week of August to work on completing SEPRC's before school starts.

LC	Total # of IPRCs Referrals Received	Total IPRC completed by June 15, 2021	Outstanding IPRCs to be completed in the Fall	Number of Assessments Pending Through SST
LC1	476	407	69	373
LC2	472	435	37	517
LC3	509	500	9	470
LC4	750	708	42	669
TOTAL	2,207	2,050	157	2,029

LC	Total # of SEPRCs Referrals Received	Total SEPRC completed by June 15, 2021	Outstanding SEPRCs to be completed in the Fall
LC1	105	84	21
LC2	90	66	24
LC3	83	78	5
LC4	84	77	7
TOTAL	362	305	57

Part C: Ongoing Matters

.A subcommittee was created to meet to discuss feedback to the K-12 Education Standards Development Committee on How to Make Ontario Schools Accessible for Students with Disabilities. This subcommittee will meet, collect input from SEAC members and provide feedback.

Report Submitted by: Lianne Dixon

Appendix A- Specialized Programs Motion

Whereas the Board has stated that it has committed to equity of access to programs for all students;

Whereas the province and Board have begun to destream secondary pathways and typically specialized programs create streamed pathways;

Whereas the first priority of the Board should be to increase learning opportunities for students who are in academic risk;

Whereas Specialized Programs usually use screening processes that are based on performance standards which may be inaccessible to students with special education needs or students with income barriers;

Whereas, the Board has not examined the impact of specialized programs or French Immersion on the concentration of special education students in the “regular” stream of the school;

Whereas the Board has not stated how it would support the potentially higher concentration of special education students in the “regular” stream

Be it resolved that SEAC does not recommend the specialized program policy as it discriminates against students with special education needs and students with income barriers.