



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Room 308, HWDSB Education Centre

Present

Association Representatives – voting members

- Dawn Danko, Truste Ward 7
- Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair
- Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners
- Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair
- Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre
- Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter)
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

Regrets

- Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
- Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
- Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3
- Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
- Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton

Staff

- Anna Gill, Manager, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity – Speech, Language & Communication Services
- Jennifer Bibby, COPE 527
- John Manzin, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity – Transition Navigation
- Julie Anderson, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity
- Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Lynn Vanderbrug, seconded by Julie Armstrong, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved CARRIED.
4. Updates a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Superintendent	a) Dawn Danko, Truste Ward 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective agreement with HWETL is in place • Director’s annual update report for 22-23 will be available online next week b) Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the robotics competitions the senior team placed first place for robot design and the juniors in 6th place – both competitors were from HWDSB

	<p>c) Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education on behalf of Superintendent Stephanian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to announce that Superintendent Sharon Stephanian will be returning in January, many thanks to Jamie Nunn, Associate Director, School Improvement, Learning Services for filling in on Sharon’s behalf • Dale Hill has been hired as the Principal for Glenwood School – we thank John Forbeck for supporting the school during this time • In the process of phase two of our branding, which will showcase a variety of students being their authentic self – this will be added to the images we already have
<p>5. Teaching Deaf Students with Language Deprivation</p>	<p>Heather Morrow, Special Assignment Teacher and Natasha Knechtel, Language Acquisition Support Worker</p> <p>An overview of what teaching students with Language Deprivation in mainstream education looks like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Deprivation is when a child does not receive access to language input in the first five years of life – this affects a child’s cognitive development, such as ability to sequence numbers and sense of time • The role of the Language Acquisition Support Worker is to enable the student to acquire language skills necessary for effective communication in various forms • There are only 9 Language Acquisition Support Workers in Ontario – 3 are at HWDSB
<p>6. Approval of the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 27, 2024 	<p>On the motion of Lindsay Bray, seconded by Susi Owen, the Committee recommends that the minutes be approved</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
<p>7. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	
<p>8. Correspondence</p>	
<p>9. Other Business</p>	
<p>10. Adjournment</p>	<p>On the motion of Dawn Danko, seconded by Julie Armstrong, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 6:53 pm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>