



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Room 308, Education Centre**

Present

Association Representatives – voting members

- Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
- Dawn Danko, Trustee 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
- Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
- Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter)
- Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton
- Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

Regrets

Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3

Staff

- Jennifer Bibby, COPE 527
- Kimberly Chute, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity
- Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity
- Yannis Tjanetis, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council – Elementary

Guests

- Abby Zaitley, HWDSB Trustee, Ward 4
- Chris Tondreau, Interim HWETL Vice President

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Julie Armstrong, seconded by Lynn Vanderbrug, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved CARRIED.
4. Introduction to System Navigation, Human Rights Office	Fayrouz Fakhereddin, System Navigator, Human Rights Office Deferred to next month
5. Physical Accessibility	Dave Anderson, Senior Manager, Facility Services Amie Myszkowski, Manager, Capital Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the quarterly capital updates was presented, referencing new builds and upgrades to current schools • Challenge is delivering what is needed due to funding constraints, and timeline for approvals by the City and the Ministry • We are making huge improvements in terms of accessibility • Annual updates will be provided to SEAC going forward
6. Barrier Free Physical Learning Environments Policy	Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity Kimberly Chute, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee reviewed the final draft and provided feedback
7. Approval of the Minutes ▪ February 26, 2025	On the motion of Lindsay Bray, seconded by Nancy Silva Khan, the Committee recommends that the minutes be approved

	CARRIED.
8. Business Arising from the Minutes The committee will send a letter to the Ministry of Education regarding the IPRC Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred to next month
9. Updates a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Superintendent	a) Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Committee received an update on the elementary and secondary program strategy review. A consultant has been hired to conduct the review with outcomes expected Nov. 25th An update to the Medical Health Supports Policy was approved to align with PPM 161. The committee has also provided feedback on the Property Disposition and Educational Excursion Policies The Board of Trustees confirmed the following students as the newly elected Student Trustees for the 2025-2026 year – Sanad Bizanti, Ancaster High, Evelyn Watson, Orchard Park Daunte Hillen has been raised up by CC Rose and will continue as the Shakowennakarátats for the 25/26 school year Prom Project will be held on Saturday April 5th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Sir Winston Churchill. The pop-up event provides students from across Hamilton with the opportunity to pick out formal wear for proms, graduations, banquets, and other special events, free of charge c) Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism Carnival to take place Saturday, April 26th 10:30-2:30 at the Education Centre Principal/Vice Principal learning continues – March session focused on supporting the IPRC process Continuing to hold monthly sessions for elementary and secondary Learning Resource Teachers and Special Class Teachers – great feedback from staff on their learning – will continue into next year In process of staffing and budget meetings – increased special classes for next year pending approval from Finance & Facilities Committee and Board of Trustees Parent Involvement Committee is holding a parent celebration on Saturday, May 31st 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Sherwood Secondary School In the process of planning the Access Athletics events – Elementary, June 4th – Secondary, June 5th at Nora Henderson Secondary
10. Correspondence	
11. Other Business	
12. Adjournment	On the motion of Lynn Vanderbrug, seconded by Sarah Pennington, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 7:41 pm <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>