

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 27, 2024
Room 308, HWDSB Education Centre

Present

Association Representatives – voting members

Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
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, The 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

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group
Dawn Danko, Truste Ward 7
Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3

Staff

Jamie Nunn, Associate Director, School Improvement, Learning Services
Jennifer Bibby, COPE 527
John Manzin, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity – Transition Navigation
John Whitwell, Temporary System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity
Krista Brodersen, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Secondary

Item	Discussion/Decision
1. Welcome and Call to Order	Judy Colantino called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm welcoming everyone
2. Land Acknowledgement	Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC
3. Approval of Agenda	On the motion of Julie Armstrong, seconded by Lindsay Bray, the Committee recommends that the agenda be approved CARRIED.
4. PPM 128 Code of Conduct, and Student Behaviour and Bias Free Discipline Policies	Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Safe, Compassionate & Equitable Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The two policies were presented to SEAC for their review and feedback – to be collected via MS Forms link• Highlights of PPM 128 Code of Conduct Policy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing student access to social media during the instructional day• Managing and curbing vaping and other smoking related activities by students• Handling prohibited items that have been brought onto school premises• Highlights of the Student Behaviour and Bias Free Discipline Policy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy outlines how school boards are to handle student behaviour• Progressive discipline• Bias free Update• Person Centered Approach/Trauma Informed• Human Rights Action Assessment

<p>5. Transition Navigation</p>	<p>John Manzin, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity: Transition Navigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three post-secondary pathways were highlighted – Post Secondary Education, Workplace Placement, Community Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Secondary Education connects students with Accessible Learning Services at local colleges, which includes a tour and an information session to learn about programs and next steps as they consider becoming a college student • Workplace Placement includes supports from school to work transition like Project SEARCH internships and Transitional Work Experience Program (TWEP) • Community Supports involves various partners to share information for students transitioning from youth to adult services, to discover community organizations and supports available – every year Community Transition Network (CTN) hosts a Pathway to Transition for families highlighting supports available. This pathway is also connected to Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) who also provide resources and supports in the community • Transition Navigation also connects with community partners to support students in the Entry to School pathway • Piloting with Ontario Autism Program as a resource to families, to support with registration, funding etc.,
<p>6. Approval of the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 30, 2024 </p>	<p>On the motion of Lindsay Bray, seconded by Sarah Pennington, 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. Updates a) Trustees b) Local Association Representatives c) Associate Director</p>	<p>b) Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDL is offering various virtual sessions <p>c) Jamie Nunn, Associate Director, School Improvement, Learning Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Board meeting on Nov. 18th Maria Felix Miller was elected to continue as Chair of the Board for the next year, and Paul Tut continues as Vice Chair. Trustees also selected committees for the next year. As SEAC is a four-year term for Trustee representatives, Trustees Maria Felix Miller and Dawn Danko continue as the Trustee representatives • In the process of secondary second semester staffing decisions – not making any changes to special classes in secondary schools • Todd Graves, Vice Principal of Glenwood retired November 1st – posted for Principal position to start February 1st • For the 24-25 school year, we have added 88 EAs and 10 CYCPs – 95 casual educational assistants have been added since July 2024 • On November 13th Principal Vice Principal Learning, in partnership with Human Rights Officer, Julie Anderson led a presentation on the IEP and Duty to Accommodate and what that looks like and sounds like in schools • The November 22nd professional activity day was subject specific for secondary schools – it provided opportunities for staff to connect for the day on like-minded curriculum areas

9. Correspondence a) Limestone District School Board	On the motion of Lynn Vanderbrug, seconded by Julie Armstrong, the Committee recommends that the correspondence be read and filed CARRIED.
10. Other Business	
11. Adjournment	On the motion of Nancy Silva-Khan, seconded by Julie Armstrong, the Committee recommends that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at 7:09 p.m. CARRIED.