

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 2, 2019
12:28 p.m. - 3:03 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavonga, Association for Bright Children
N. Brown, Autism Ontario London
B. Furac, Community Living London
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
S. Young, London Autism Developmental Disabilities
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee
J. Arts, Epilepsy Support Centre
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired

Regrets:

A. Morse, B. Harvey, T. Grant

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
D. Clark, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames

1. Call to Order

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

The report of the 2019 March 4 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Supporting and Teaching in Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Programs (CTCC)-item 7.0

A. Canham provided an update on CTCC noting applications have been delayed at the Ministry level. To prepare for the year, schools are staffing for maximum capacity.

Special Education Budget a. Education Programs - Other (EPO)-item 10.a

A. Canham provided an update on Grants for Student Needs(GSN) and the Special Education Budget reporting the GSN's and EPO information has been delayed. An update will be provided to the committee as information becomes available.

6. Accessibility Committee Update - A. Canham

A. Canham reported the committee met on 2019 January 30 to review the Accessibility Plan from last year. A. Canham outlined the timeline for this years Accessibility Plan noting A. Marlowe is the new project lead. A draft of the plan will be presented to the Special Education Advisory Committee at the 2019 May 27 meeting.

7. Role of the Special Education TOSA - A. Canham/ A. Leatham

This item was deferred to the 2019 May 6 meeting.

8. TVDSB-Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Student Replacement Options - A. Canham/ A. Leatham

A. Canham provided information on IPRC Class Placements within TVDSB noting currently there are three possible placements for TVDSB students. The current IPRC placements available in TVDSB are as follows: regular classroom with indirect support, regular classroom with withdrawal assistance and special education self-contained class full time.

In the province of Ontario the Ministry permits five possible placements, the additional two options are as follows: regular class with resources assistance, and a special education class with partial integration.

A. Canham outlined what each of the five IPRC placements would look like in TVDSB.

The committee performed a group activity where they charted the pros and cons of each of the five IPRC options. A. Canham noted the results will be collated and sent to the committee.

Questions of clarification regarding the potential to offer all five options were answered by Administration.

9. TVDSB System Classrooms 2019-2020 - A. Canham

A. Canham provided an update on Elementary Development Education Placement noting students will be placed by June.

10. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item) - A. Canham

P. Cook provided an update on progress with the SEAC brochure revisions.

11. Special Needs Strategy Update (Standing Item) - J. Gritzan

None.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item) - A. Canham

a. Standard 6

A. Canham reviewed Standard 6: Educational and Other Assessments of the Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document.

In response to a question regarding required signatures from parent(s)/guardian(s), Administration noted the required signatures vary depending on the student(s) custody agreement.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

b. Standard 8

A. Canham reviewed Standard 8: Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

c. Standard 13

A. Canham reviewed Standard 13: Staff Development outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham noted professional development is ongoing even with the list of professional development courses removed from the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

d. Standard 17

A. Canham reviewed Standard 17: The Board's Special Education Advisory Committee outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

e. Standard 18

A. Canham reviewed Standard 18: Coordination of Other Services with Other Ministries or Agencies outlining changes to the document.

A. Canham requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

13. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item) - A. Canham

A. Canham provided an update on the number of elementary students currently on a modified day program.

In response to a question, R. Ferrara outlined the resources/options presented and/or implemented before resorting to placing a student on a modified day program.

Questions of clarification regarding data collection, parent development team (PDT) thresholds and processes, modified day guidelines, suspension criteria and absenteeism tracking were answered by Administration.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item) - A. Canham

a. Durham Catholic District School Board

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concern at the recent

changes to the Provincial funding model for Autism services and the impact it will have on children, families and school boards.

15. Other Business

Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

A. Canham reported school websites will be updated as part of the TVDSB communication strategy with the following: "Current and incoming families eligible under the OAP may contact their local school for more information. We are committed to working collaboratively with all families through the transition period".

A. Canham shared despite the potential changes in staffing TVDSB has a comprehensive system in place to provide support to schools when a student with autism diagnosis registers at school.

In response to a question Administration confirmed the committee the local priorities funding extension agreements were not renewed. GSN and EPO funding has not been determined.

16. Forum: Association Updates

Round table updates were completed; committee members highlighted some of the events and activities planned by various organizations in April and May. As a follow up to the meeting event flyers will be emailed out to the committee members as they are received by Corporate Services.

17. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

The 2019 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 May 6, 6:30 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

- PPM 161 Update (May 6)
- Exceptionality Data and Trends (May 6)
- Gifted Screening at CCAT Testing (May 6)
- Special Education (Preliminary) Budget (May 27)
- TVDSB Accessibilities Committee Update (May 27)

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
Chairperson