

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2019
6:39 p.m. - 9:02 p.m.

MEMBERS

A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations (+6:44)
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
S. Grabstas, Vanier Children's Services

Regrets: C. Thammavonga, N. Brown, B. Furac, L. Turner-Otte,
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, M. Cvetkovich, S. Young,

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education (-6:49)
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
J. Bruce, Elementary Principal
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Hubert, LSS (+6:49)(-7:09)
K. Hillman, Psych Services (+6:49)(-7:09)

1. Call to Order

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion. Item 9 was addressed first.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

The report of the 2019 April 2 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Role of the Special Education TOSA- item 7.0

A. Leatham outlined the role of the Special Education Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) reporting TOSAs work collaboratively with school teams to support students identified as exceptional. TOSAs are trained in multiple resource areas such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Behaviour, Developmental Education, Kindergarten, Gifted, and Learning Disabilities.

TVDSB-Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Student Replacement Options – item 8.0

In response to a question regarding IPRC feedback Administration reported the feedback SEAC provided has been applied to the revisions, in collaboration with feedback from parent and Principal groups. A. Canham committed to sending a summary document of all of the feedback received from stakeholders to SEAC members. (See SEAC-1)

6. Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Update

Through a power point presentation A. Leatham presented the Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder report. The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) program was outlined, funding for families, wait-list data, funding for educational institutions, educator professional learning, Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation (BEA), Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), and Priorities and Partnership Fund (PPF) were reviewed.

Questions of clarification regarding the allocation of EA staffing and after school programming were answered by Administration.

7. Special Education Budget 2019 – 2020

A. Leatham provided an update on Grants for Student Needs(GSN) and the overall Special Education Budget noting the overall GSN's and Education Programs- Other (EPO) information has been released. The detailed dollar amounts provided through the GSN technical paper have not been made available and an update will be provided to the committee as information is received.

8. IPRC Placement Options

A. Leatham provided information on IPRC Class Placements within TVDSB noting the Ministry of Education permits five possible placements: regular classroom with indirect support, regular classroom with withdrawal assistance, special education self-contained class full time, regular class with resources assistance, and a special education class with partial integration.

Questions of clarification regarding school attendance, criteria for identification, classification of current placements, partial integration, accommodation/modification of credits, the online learning curriculum and requirements were answered by Administration.

The following motion was moved and carried:

THAT the TVDSB Special Education Advisory Committee records its support for offering five IPRC placement options.

9. CCAT-7 (Gifted Screening)

R. Ferrara introduced J. Hubert, Learning Support Services and K. Hillman, Professional Services- Psychology. Through a power point presentation K. Hillman shared information pertaining to the switch from InSight to CCAT7(2018-2019). It was noted that CCAT7 is a common assessment used by many Districts across the Province.

K. Hillman reported CCAT7 will support earlier identification, administration and increased tracking of gifted students. J. Hubert provided information on timelines; noting the change from testing in grade 4 to grade 3.

J. Hubert provided information on the method of testing gifted students reporting students are tested on problem solving materials that are not taught in the classroom, based on reasoning abilities. The reasoning abilities are measured on verbal, quantitative and nonverbal skill; the 3 domains related to success in schools. Data support services, Psychology, training and next steps were highlighted.

Questions of clarification regarding identification, tiered interventions, staffing capacity, Learning Coordinators and LSTs, IPRCs, testing format, dual diagnosis, accommodations, and referrals/recommendations were answered by Administration.

10. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

11. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

a. Standard 1

A. Leatham reviewed Standard 1: The Board's Consultation Process for the Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document.

Questions of clarification regarding program changes, the model of delivery of professional services, and communication methods to School Councils and parents were answered by Administration.

SEAC was invited to present at a TVSSAC meeting.

Suggested edits were recorded by R. Ferrara.

b. Standard 9

A. Leatham reviewed Standard 9: Special Education Placements Provided by the Board outlining changes to the document.

Questions of clarification regarding resource teams, Special Education TOSAs, placement/intervention, itinerants, integration/partial integration, the communication plan for implementation and indirect support were answered by Administration.

Suggested edits were recorded by R. Ferrara.

c. Standard 15

A. Leatham reviewed Standard 15: Accessibility of School Buildings outlining changes to the document.

Suggested edits were recorded by R. Ferrara.

12. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

R. Ferrara reported on the number of elementary students currently on a modified day program.

Questions of clarification regarding tracking of modified day numbers by the Ministry were answered by Administration.

13. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Durham District School Board

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Durham District School Board (DDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concern at the proposed changes to the Provincial funding model for the Ontario Autism Program and the impact it will have on children, families and school boards.

b. Bluewater District School Board

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Bluewater District School Board (BDSB) in support of Bill 44, Education Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

The committee discussed sending a letter.

Questions of clarification regarding letter writing on behalf of SEAC, SEAC Chair distribution lists and the process for sending/receiving letters for SEAC were answered by Administration.

14. Other Business

Chair Bennett recognized the SEAC members as part of Volunteer Appreciation Week, pins were distributed to the committee.

R. Ferrara provided an update on the Use of Service Dogs by Students and Staff Procedure (5012f) and the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy (5012) reporting updates are on hold. R. Ferrara reported the Ministry sent out a Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) providing guidelines, feedback and next steps for the procedure and policy. It was noted an extension was provided until September 2020.

R. Ferrara provided an update on Jordan's Principle noting that it is the Administrations intent to have a draft of the TVDSB guidelines ready to be shared with SEAC prior to the end of the school year.

Questions of clarification regarding service animals guidelines, modified program for non exceptional students and accommodation for students were answered by Administration.

15. Forum: Association Updates

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

16. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

The 2019-2020 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting(s) are scheduled for 2019 May 27, 5:00 p.m. and 2019 May 27, 7:00 p.m.

17. Future Agenda Items

- Accessibility Committee Working Group Update (May 27 [1])
- Special Education Budget 2019 – 2020 (May 27 [1])
- PPM 161 Update (May 27[1])
- Exceptionality Data and Trends (May 27[2])

- Special Education Organization (May 27[2])
- Modified Program for Non-Exceptional Students (May 27[2])

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON