

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 27, 2019
5:04 p.m. – 6:58 p.m.

MEMBERS

B. Mai, Association for Bright Children(+6:22)
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
C. Krygsman, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
S. Young, London Autism Developmental Disabilities
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations(+5:10)
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee(+6:30)
B. Yeoman, Trustee
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
J. Bruce, Elementary Principal(+5:10)
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal(+5:10)
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
D. Clark, Secondary Principal(+6:42)
S. Smith, Corporate Services
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames
S. Macey, Manager Finance(+5:19)(-5:48)
C. Lynd, Superintendent of Business(+5:19)(-5:48)
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator(+5:35)(-6:02)

Regrets: N. Brown, L. Dunlop-Dibbs

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:04 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 2019 May 6

The report of the 2019 May 6 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Bluewater District School Board (BDSB) - item 13.b

A response to the Bluewater District School Board has been drafted and will be presented to the committee at the 2019 June 11 meeting for review.

6. Special Education Budget 2019-2020

S. Macey provided for information the 2019-2020 Special Education Preliminary Budget. Revenues, expenses, enrolment and staffing were outlined.

Questions of clarification regarding revenues, previous budgets, student enrolment, impacts of class size changes and staffing were answered by Administration.

7. Accessibility Committee Working Group Update

A. Canham introduced A. Marlowe, Diversity Equity Coordinator and briefly outlined her role. Through a PowerPoint presentation A. Marlowe provided an update on the progress of the Accessibility Committee Working Group. The accessibility planning approach, mission & vision, and process were highlighted. The timeline was reviewed identifying monthly targets and tasks.

In response to a question it was noted research includes feedback and information gathered from comparable boards. The committee will present a final draft to the Board in 2019 June.

Questions of clarification regarding the accessibility plan process and content were answered by Administration.

8. 2019/2020 SEAC Meeting Date and Times

A. Canham provided the 2019-2020 SEAC meeting dates noting all meetings will be held in the London room.

Proposed changes to the meeting schedule were recorded by Administration. The revised 2019-2020 meeting dates will be reviewed at the 2019 June 11 meeting.

9. Department Priorities/Standing Items

a. PPM 161 Update

A. Canham provided information on the Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Health Conditions in Schools Procedure (#4020a), outlining the five applicable medical conditions. Learning Support Services is working to reduce the amount of paperwork that parent(s)/guardian(s) and staff are required to complete. Additional information will be provided at the 2019 June 11 SEAC meeting.

Questions regarding the "other" category were answered by Administration.

b. Service Animals

R. Ferrara, provided an update on the Use of Service Dogs by Staff and Students Procedure(#5012f). R. Ferrara reported updates from the Ministry are pending and the current procedure will remain in use until the Ministry provides further details.

Questions of clarification regarding Service Dog training and ensuring the student is able to manage the animal were answered by Administration.

c. Exclusion of Students from School

A. Canham reported that under section 265(1)(m) of the Education Act that it is the duty of a principal to, "subject to appeal to the Board, to refuse to admit to a school or classroom any person whose presence would, in the principal's judgement, be detrimental to the physical or mental well-being of the pupils."

Questions of clarification regarding exclusion from school and opportunity for parent/guardian input were answered by Administration.

d. Modified Program for Non-Exceptional Students

Deferred.

e. Jordan's Principle

A. Canham presented information on Jordan's Principle noting the opportunity for FNMI students to receive Special Education support(s) through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

A. Canham reported guidelines for Jordan's Principle are being drafted and will be shared with SEAC as part of the implementation process.

Questions of clarification regarding timelines for implementation, assistive technology, and staff training were answered by Administration.

10. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

11. Special Needs Strategy Update (Standing Item)

None.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham reported a complete draft of the Special Education Plan and all Education Standards will be provided for review at the 2019 June 11 meeting.

13. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

A. Canham reported on the number of elementary students currently on a modified day program. Data from previous months were compared.

Questions regarding reasons for students to be on modified days, and students returning to regular days were answered by Administration.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Ottawa-Carlton District School Board, Board of Trustees Chair

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concern regarding future supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

b. Ottawa-Carlton, SEAC Chair

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the SEAC Chair of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concerns regarding changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

The committee deferred the decision to send a letter of support until 2019 June.

15. Other Business- None.

16. Forum: Association Updates (Round Table)- None.

17. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 June 11, 12:15 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

None.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON