

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019 May 27
7:25 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.

MEMBERS

B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
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
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
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
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
D. Clark, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
C. Kechego, Education Director Chippewas of the Thames
S. Macey, Manager Finance
C. Lynd, Superintendent of Business
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator

Regrets: N. Brown, L. Dunlop-Dibbs,

1. Call to Order

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:25 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

It was noted the report of both 2019 May 27 meetings will be provided for information at the 2019 June 11 meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes- None.

6. Exceptionality Data and Trends

Through a PowerPoint presentation A. Leatham provided exceptionality data trends from the last three years. The types of exceptionalities were highlighted, a hand out was provided.

Questions regarding the availability of services limiting identification, criteria for identification, multiple exceptionalities, Secondary school data and sorting data by primary exceptionalities for students with multiple exceptionalities were answered by Administration.

7. Special Education Organization/Budgetary Implication

A. Canham reviewed the Special Education budget noting a pilot project for accelerated Program has concluded. Reported changes to Educational Assistant's (EA's) and Learning Support Teacher's (LST) are a result of reductions to local priorities funding. Changes based on enrolment numbers were reviewed.

A. Canham provided details on staffing positions for Special Education within the TVDSB for the 2019-2020 school year. A. Canham presented information on a new position for Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA). A. Canham reported that seven Assistive Technology TOSA positions have been created to support students and teachers with SEA automation, it was noted this work was previously outsourced.

A. Canham also reported the number of Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCCA's) will increase from four to five for the 2019-2020 school year.

In response to a question A. Leatham provided information on changes to the model of service to adjust the workload for Learning Coordinators(LC) and Teachers on Special Assignment to help absorb the reduction in staff.

In response to a question A. Canham reported on the reduction of TOSA's noting they will discontinue overlapping multiple specialized TOSA's per student and have each TOSA trained in all exceptionalities.

Questions regarding the LST workload, improving efficiencies, LST's covering classes for absent teachers, TOSA roles/training, TOSA flexibility/access, hiring practices for TOSA's and Program Development Teams, were answered by Administration.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT the SEAC Chair Bennett send a letter to the Minister of Education, copied to Director Elliott and other SEACs in the province of Ontario, expressing concern on the cuts to education, particularly as they pertain to the funding of Special Education. Furthermore, THAT SEAC's letter emphasize this committee's appreciation of the commitment of the TVDSB Board of Trustees to reallocate funds to the Special Education budget well beyond funding received through Special Education GSNs.

8. Modified Program for Non-Exceptional Students

A motion to sit until 9:15 p.m. was moved and CARRIED.

A. Canham reported on the number of students on a modified program.

Through a PowerPoint presentation A. Canham reviewed the criteria to modify a student's program. After all the criteria is met an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed for the student.

A. Canham will provide a draft copy of the modified program criteria requirements to the committee and requested any suggested edits be emailed to him.

9. SEAC Brochure

A. Leatham presented a draft copy of the SEAC brochure to the committee for information, and extended her appreciation to the subcommittee for their contributions in creating the brochure.

A. Leatham requested any suggested edits be emailed to her.

10. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

11. Special Needs Strategy Update (Standing Item)

None.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

None.

13. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

None.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

None.

15. Other Business

None.

16. 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.

17. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

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

18. Future Agenda Items

None.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON