

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019 June 11
12:24 p.m. - 3:14 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavonga, Association for Bright Children
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario(-3:01)
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario(+12:51)
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children(+12:34)
M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
S. Young, London Autism Developmental Disabilities(+1:44)
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
J. Courtney-Nuyens, Thames Valley Council Home and School Associations
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee

Regrets: L. Turner-Otte

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
J. Bruce, Elementary Principal(-2:50)
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator(-1:04)
S. McNaughton, Assistant to A. Canham(+2:28)

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:24 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 27 5:00/7:00 pm

The reports of the 2019 May 27 (5:00 p.m.) and 2019 May 27 (7:00 p.m.) Special Education Advisory Committee meetings were provided for information.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Response to Bluewater District School Board (item# 5.0 2019 May 27 5:00 pm)

A draft response in support of the Bluewater District School Board was presented to the committee for information and feedback.

Questions regarding the status and terms of reference for Bill 44 were answered by T. Grant.

Suggested edits were captured by A. Canham.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input on the drafted letter of support, the letter be sent to Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education in support of the Bluewater District School Board.

6. Draft Accessibility Plan for 2019-2021

A. Marlowe presented for information the draft TVDSB Accessibility Plan 2019-2020. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

Questions of clarification regarding the 2025 target deadline, enforcement, funding, accessibility hubs, levels of accessibility and identifying priority projects, were answered by Administration.

It was noted SEAC will be added to the list of contributing committees in the Accessibility Plan.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input to the 2019-2021 TVDSB Accessibility Plan, SEAC recommends that the plan be approved by the Board of Trustees.

7. Individual Plan of Care/Parent Portal Demonstration

A. Canham demonstrated the new in-house solution created to allow parents to complete the Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) form online. The program will be beta-tested with parents at St. Georges PS, Woodland Heights PS, and Caradoc PS. The intent is to launch the form in August 2019 as part of the parent portal.

It was noted parent/guardian(s) can still complete forms on paper if that is their preference.

Questions regarding non-compliant caregivers, frequency of form completion, medical reports, updating prescriptions, prescription letters, dispensing prescriptions and prescription signatures were answered by Administration.

8. Exclusion of a Student - Update

A. Canham provided an update on the status of drafting a policy and procedure pertaining to the exclusion of a student from school. Examples of situations were provided where the procedure would apply.

It was also noted exclusion is not used for discipline and parent/guardian(s) are provided the opportunity to appeal the decision.

The draft will be provided to SEAC in the fall for consultation.

Discussion occurred regarding treatment plans, noting wait times for many potential treatments could hinder the student returning to school in a timely manner.

Questions regarding completion timelines, modified day guidelines and defined periods were answered by Administration.

9. Special Education Budget 2019-2020 - Update

A. Canham provided an update on the Special Education budget for 2019-2020. A. Canham reported there was no change to the budget presented at the 2019 May 27 SEAC meeting, with the exception of the Primary Reading Pilot that has been renewed.

Questions regarding the Primary Reading Pilot were answered by Administration.

S. Young expressed concern regarding the reductions of staffing in the Special Education department. Administration noted the Special Education department reported the smallest reduction in funding and has considerably exceeded the current budget to ensure student needs are met.

Questions regarding support to gifted students at the secondary panel and redistribution of responsibilities were answered by Administration.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing the Special Education budget, SEAC notes grave concerns regarding the impact of provincial budget reductions on the ability to provide services for students with special education needs. SEAC appreciates the commitment of the Board of Trustees in continuing to support Special Education and our most vulnerable students by increasing the deficit. SEAC recommends that the Special Education Budget be approved by the Board of Trustees.

10. Organization of Professional Services Management Team

A. Canham reported there were four job postings this year for a Manager of Psychology. Additionally a head hunting company was hired to fill the position and there were zero applications. As a result, the existing managers will be reorganized.

There will be two Managers of Professional Services and a Clinical Lead of Psychology position was created to manage clinical services for the psychologists.

Questions regarding the clinical lead position, the size of the professional services team, and the division of workload for managers, were answered by Administration.

11. Special Education Advisory Committee Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham reviewed the revised Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting. A handout was provided to reflect revisions to Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities to reflect the management changes related to professional services (agenda item 10).

It was noted the plan will go to the Board of Trustees at the 2019 June 25 meeting of the Board.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input to the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan, SEAC notes several concerns related to the impact of budgetary constraints on system support staffing and the restructuring of staff. There is concern that the reduction in funding could impact staffs' ability to implement this plan and meet the needs of our most

vulnerable students. SEAC recommends that the plan be approved by the Board of Trustees.

13. Modified Day Guidelines (Standing Item)

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

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Brant Haldimand and Norfolk Catholic DSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to Minister Thompson expressing concern regarding the recent changes to the provincial funding model for Autism services and the impact it will have on children, families and school boards.

b. Durham DSB

Chair Bennett presented for information a copy of a letter from the SEAC Chair of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) to Minister Thompson expressing concerns regarding the provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning.

15. Other Business

A. Leatham provided a final copy of the SEAC brochure for information.

16. Forum: Association Updates (Round Table)

Round table updates were completed. Committee members highlighted some of the events and activities planned by their various organizations throughout the summer. 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. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

The 2019-2020 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

None.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Joyce Bennett
CHAIRPERSON