

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 4, 2020
12:17 p.m. - 3:02 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavongsa, Association for Bright Children
S. Lawrence Farrants, Autism Ontario London (-2:49)
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
S. Grabstas, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children (+12:25)
N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired
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
J. Gritzan, Thames Valley Children's Centre
S. Thomson, Thames Valley Council Home and School
Associations (-2:33)
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
H. Mahabir, Elementary Principal (-1:00)
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Phillips, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation
S. Macey, Manager of Finance (-1:07)
M. Fisher, Director of Education (+12:30)(-1:12)

1. Call to Order

Chair P. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. in the London Room at the Education Centre.

2. Welcome and Introduction of New Members/Guests

A. Canham introduced Manager S. Macey, Principal H. Mahabir and Director M. Fisher and briefly outlined their professional backgrounds. The guests were welcomed to the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

3. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

4. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting

The report of the 2020 January 7 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

A. Canham advised on the IEP Audit Committee noting the members selected to represent SEAC on the committee are P. Cook, J. Wright and B. Furac.

The Special Education Plan Committee will consist of S. Grabstas, T. Grant and N. Davison.

A. Canham provided an update on the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Right to Read Inquiry, noting a meeting was recently held. A link to a recording of the meeting will be sent to SEAC members.

7. 2018-2019 Special Education Year-End Financials

S. Macey provided for information the Special Education 2018-2019 Year End Statement.

The statement was reviewed; questions of clarification regarding the mental health allocation, the number of submitted claims, SEA claims for Lexia, revised estimates and Assistive Technology Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA) were answered by Administration.

8. Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals

A. Canham provided an update on the draft Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Policy and Procedure. It was noted that the Policy Working Committee will review the policy on 2020 February 25.

9. Exclusion of a Student - Review of the Draft Policy and Procedure

Administration presented for information and feedback the draft Exclusion of a Student Policy and Procedure. The input process and timeline was reviewed.

Discussion points from the 2020 January 7 SEAC meeting were reviewed.

A group activity was conducted to review the policy and procedure by section. Feedback from the activity was presented to the committee.

Discussion occurred regarding voluntary withdrawals from school, accountability for behaviours, supporting families through the appeal process, tracking exclusions, time allotted for the appeal process and specifying "types" of exclusions.

Input was captured by A. Canham.

10. Assistive Technology TOSA Update

R. Ferrara provided an update on the Assistive Technology TOSAs noting the training model developed is meeting the needs of all learners. The process for Assistive Technology training and tools were outlined. It was noted a referral can be submitted if a student requires additional training.

Questions of clarification regarding the types of technology training the TOSAs perform, training teachers, transitioning between semesters and parent training were answered by Administration.

In response to a question it was noted historically teachers with students with Autism in their class are provided the opportunity to attend annual training.

11. SEAC/Departmental Priorities (Standing Item)

A. Canham presented the SEAC Committee and Departmental Priorities established at the 2019 September 9 SEAC meeting.

A group activity occurred where the committee members provided input on the priorities.

12. Students on Modified Day (Standing Item)

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

13. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

None.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

None.

15. Other Business

None.

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 in the coming weeks. 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. 2020 Meeting Dates

The 2020 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 March 9, 6:30 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

- TVDSB's Lexia Implementation Plan

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m. by motion.