

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 4, 2020
6:31 p.m. - 9:41 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thamavongsa, Association for Bright Children
B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
S. Lawrence Farrants, Autism Ontario London
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
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
J. Bennett, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee

Regrets: L. Dunlop-Dibbs, S. Thomson

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, Learning Supervisor
R. Ferrara, Learning Supervisor
H. Mahabir, Elementary Principal
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
M. Phillips, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
B. Williams, Corporate Services
S. McNaughton, Assistant to Superintendent

1. Call to Order

Chair P. Cook called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. through a virtual Teams meeting.

2. Welcome and Virtual Meeting Norms

Chair Cook welcomed everyone and reviewed the virtual meeting norms.

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 April 7 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was provided for information. With respect to item # 9 of the minutes, it was noted questions were raised during the previous meeting regarding the evaluation of the model of service delivery. In response to a suggestion, it was noted TOSAs are not referred to as regional TOSAs.

In response to a question Corporate Supervisor B. Williams advised the committee report/minutes is completed following general principals outlined in Robert's Rules. Committee reports are presented for information only.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Supports for a Student with a Giftedness Exceptionality-item #9.

Addressed under item #7.

Special Education Plan item #12

Addressed under item #12.

Follow up questions from 2020 April 7 meeting

Administration provided information, as a follow up to the previous meeting, regarding identification of gifted students in grades 2 to 4; numbers of Special Education TOSA and Assistive Technology TOSA referrals during the current school year, and numbers of students identified with an exceptionality in elementary. There was a request the data on the numbers by exceptionality, including students with multiple exceptionalities, be provided.

7. Supports for Students with a Giftedness Exceptionality 2020-2021

a. Follow up Discussion to Previous Meeting

A. Canham reviewed the current and the new model for supporting students with a gifted exceptionality. Administration responded to questions of clarification.

A. Canham advised SEAC members will have the opportunity to complete a survey to provide Administration feedback on the new model. The survey process was detailed noting the feedback will be reviewed at the 2020 May 25 SEAC meeting.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the survey and plans for rolling out the new model of service delivery.

Moved T. Grant

Seconded By C. Thammavongsa

THAT SEAC establish a sub-committee to review the data, research, information and input from SEAC and report to SEAC with recommendations.

CARRIED

b. Presentation by ABC

B. Mai presented information on gifted learners reviewing what it means to be gifted, risk factors, common misconceptions about gifted learners and priorities/needs for gifted learners.

Feedback collected by ABC from TVDSB gifted learners and parent/guardian(s) regarding cluster sessions was shared.

8. Learn at Home Discussion and Input

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

A. Canham provided a brief virtual tour of the updates to the Learn at Home section of the website, including alternative programming and the week at a glance section.

Questions of clarification regarding the deployment of SEA equipment and contacting teachers for immediate support were addressed by Administration.

a. Reading Interventions

A motion to sit until 9:30 p.m. was moved and CARRIED.

a. Lexia Core5® Reading and Lexia® PowerUp Literacy®

R. Ferrara provided data on the number of teachers and students using Lexia Core 5 and Power up.

R. Ferrara reported professional learning sessions are scheduled for Administrators to help support the monitoring of student data, noting the expectation is that information on a student's level of achievement is provided to any parent/guardian requesting it.

b. Empower Reading (Phases 1-3)

R. Ferrara provided a summary of the three phases of Empower reading and outlined the timeline for each phase.

The role of the Assistive Technology TOSA during at Learn at Home was outlined. It was noted the links to these resources will be provided to SEAC.

9. Updates from the Ministry of Education - Special Education and Success for ALL Branch

a. Individual Education Plan (IEPs)

A. Canham provided an update on Individual Education Plan (IEPs) noting they will be updated for Term 3. The teacher will provide input to the LST for the Term 3 IEP specifically for transition planning. IEPs will be sent home/posted in the portal 2020 June 24.

b. Individual Placement and Review Committee (IPRCs)

A. Canham provided an update on Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRCs). TVDSB will proceed with IPRCs if appropriate, where possible if the parent/guardian is in approval.

c. Special Education Plan 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 Special Education Plan only needs to be submitted to the Ministry of Education if there were changes made to the document from the previous year. The Ministry of Education has offered flexibly in the deadline for submission.

10. TVDSBs IPRC (2020) Plan Discussion and Input

Administration provided details on the plan to proceed with virtual IPRC meeting during May and June, noting the potential for in person meetings in the fall.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding transitions, the online waiver, providing additional IPRC/IEP information, social distancing for meetings and mental health recovery.

11. SEAC/Departmental Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

12. Students on Modified Day (Standing Item)

There was no update required with all students learning at home.

13. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A motion to sit until 9:45 p.m. was moved and CARRIED.

A. Canham advised there will not be a great need to make substantive changes to the Special Education Plan, 2020-2021. The Committee was reminded that significant changes were made the year prior; of particular note in Standard 9 - IPRC Placements. The process for approving the revised plan was outlined, noting the TVDSB would like to submit the plan by the original deadline. To submit the plan on time the 2020 June 8 SEAC meeting may need to be rescheduled.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

In response to a question, it was noted formal communication is sent to the SEAC Chair or through the Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA).

15. Other Business

The committee requested a list of all SEAC sub-committees and members.

16. Forum: Association Updates (Round Table)

Round table updates were completed. Committee members shared details regarding what service(s) their organization is offering and how to access them.

17. 2020 Meeting Dates

The 2020 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 May 25, 6:30 p.m.

18. Future Agenda Items

- Supports for Students with a Giftedness Exceptionality 2020-2021
 - 2020 May 25 - Review of SEAC input
- Special Education Staffing and Budget 2020-2021
 - 2020 May 25- Preliminary Review

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m. by motion.