

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2020 June 15
6:30 p.m. - 9:02 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
L. Dunlop-Dibbs, Vanier Children's Services
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
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: 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
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation (-8:03)
B. Williams, Corporate Services
A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator (-7:30)

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. through a virtual Teams meeting.

2. **Welcome**

A. Canham 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 May 25 meeting was provided for information.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Future Items item#20

A. Canham provided for information a list of the SEAC Sub-committees: Special Education Plan Sub-Committee, Supports for Students with a Giftedness Exceptionality Sub-Committee Parent Resource Guide Sub-Committee, SEAC New-Member Orientation Sub-Committee and the SEAC Brochure Sub-Committee.

It was noted some of these committees are Ad-hoc committees.

A. Canham provided for information a list of the committees where SEAC is represented: IEP Audit Committee, Culture for Learning Committee and the Accessibility Committee.

Questions of clarification regarding summer programs, accommodation plans for students returning to school and SEAC sub-committee membership were addressed.

7. Accessibility Plan 2019-2021 Update

A. Marlowe provided an update on the progress of the TVDSB Accessibility Plan 2019-2021 and the work of the Accessibility Committee.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the accessible outdoor play/recreational spaces and guidelines for schools; text captioning for videos; website content compatibility; and community/student accommodation requests.

8. Special Education Staffing and Budget

a. In-year Surplus

A. Canham presented the in-year surplus and advised how the funds will be reinvested in the TVDSB's general account for technology equity and the COVID-19 response.

b. Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF) Summer 2020

A. Canham reported Priorities and Partnership Funds (PPF) would be invested in Special Education through two priorities; summer school and summer learning opportunities.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding replacing damaged SEA equipment, targeted support for students with communication disorders, the number of assessments completed this year and plans to funds/support students returning to school.

c. Supports for Students Fund (SSF) 2020-2021

A. Canham provided a summary of the new Supports for Students Fund (SSF) noting these funds will support TVDSBs English Language Learners, Indigenous students, Special Education and the mental health of all students. Plans for use of the funds in Special Education were described.

A. Canham reported the Ministry of Education has allocated funds to provide subsidies to eligible teachers for Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder). This course will be created in collaboration with Western University.

d. GSNs/PPF 2020-2021

A. Canham advised the release of Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) and Priorities and Partnership Fund (PPF) continues to be delayed by the Ministry. As a result the Special Education budget will not be presented to SEAC until 2020 July 13.

9. Ontario Human Rights Commission - Right to Read Update

A. Canham provided an update on the Ontario Human Rights Commission - Right to Read Inquiry Update. The process, timeline and next steps were reviewed.

10. Learn at Home/SEA Equipment Update

A. Canham provided an update on Learning at Home noting Week at a Glance continues to be published and well received.

Teaching support services has created targeted resources to support families with students on modified learning programming.

A. Canham advised that families/students received their personal effects from schools last week.

A. Canham reported TVDSB SEA equipment and devices will remain with students over the summer. It was noted students leaving the district are required to return their equipment.

R. Ferrara responded to questions of clarification regarding incomplete Empower lessons, transition meetings and synchronous Empower sessions.

A. Canham expressed appreciation to R. Ferrara and A. Leatham for pioneering synchronous Empower learning.

11. Support for Students with a Giftedness Exceptionality

a. Sub-Committee Update

A. Canham provided a summary of the 2020 May 29 subcommittee meeting. Meeting objective/outcomes and next steps were outlined.

b. Student and Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey Update

A. Canham reported there were 60 responses noting the survey will remain open until 2020 June 24.

A. Canham advised a summary of the survey data will be shared with SEAC in the fall.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the role of the Sub-committee.

A. Leatham provided clarification regarding the role of the TOSA noting they all serve grades K-12.

In response to a question, A. Leatham reported the number of TOSA referrals and the number of students supported are the same. It was noted if a student requires additional support the referral is reopened.

12. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

a. Standards 2, 4, 5, 7, 9

A. Canham presented revisions to Standards 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9 of the Special Education Plan. A copy of the revisions were provided prior to the meeting.

Discussion occurred regarding the revisions. A. Canham requested any recommendations be emailed to himself and Chair Cook following the meeting.

The timeline and next steps for the Special Education Plan was detailed. It was noted Standard 12 will be provided upon completion of the budget.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding system IPRCs, the Early ID process and tools, IPRC meetings/placements, initiating IPRCs, the five year graduation rate, forms of measurement, initiating PDTs and the Operational Plan.

13. SEAC/Departmental Priorities (Standing Item)

None.

14. Students on Modified Day (Standing Item)

None.

15. Correspondence (Standing Item)

None.

16. Other Business

None.

17. 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.

18. Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by motion.