

## REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 2020  
12:16 p.m. – 2:29 p.m.

### MEMBERS

C. Thamvongsa, 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 (-1:54)  
M. Barbeau, Voice for Hearing Impaired Children  
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  
B. Mai, Association for Bright Children  
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London  
N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired  
L. Turner-Otte, Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer (-1:54)

### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

R. Culhane, Associate Director  
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  
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist  
K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation  
V. Slay, Chippewas of the Thames  
B. Williams, Corporate Services  
S. McNaughton, Assistant to Superintendent  
S. Macey, Manager (-2:13)  
C. Lynd, Superintendent (-2:13)

**Regrets:** S. Lawrence Farrants, L. Dunlop-Dibbs, S. Thomson,

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair P. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

#### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

#### 3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

#### 4. Endorsement of the Special Education Budget 2020-2021

A. Canham provided introductory remarks recognizing the work of Finance and of the Special Education Department.

A. Canham summarized the 11 projects planned for summer 2020.

S. Macey provided for information the 2020-2021 Special Education Preliminary Budget describing the projected revenues and expenses, and the proposed staffing allocation.

A. Canham provided for information a comparison of the revenues and expenses for Special Education for the last 7 years.

Questions of clarification regarding revenues, expenditures, GSN funding, SEA funding for Lexia licences, mental health funding, revised estimates, enrolment, SIP allocations, and staffing were answered by Administration.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

The 2020/2021 school year is currently uncertain and the teaching delivery model is still unknown. In addition, it is anticipated teachers will also have to continue to provide online learning which adds to adjustment to the way school/teaching has been delivered in over 100 years.

Due to the uncertainty in this upcoming school year and due to the time and resources put towards ongoing pandemic planning and the need to continue consistent and stable programming for our gifted students and involved staff,

SEAC recommends resources be allocated to assist in the transition to the updated gifted model developed by TVDSB Administration.

A poll vote was recorded.

Yeas: C. Thammavongsa, A. Morse, B. Harvey, D. Shore-Reid, M. Barbeau, T. Grant, J. Gritzan, J. Bennett, L. Pizzolato, B. Yeoman, S. Young

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing the Special Education budget, SEAC notes grave concerns regarding the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and format for learning which may impact 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.

SEAC recommends that the Special Education Budget be approved by the Board of Trustees.

A poll vote was recorded.

Yeas: A. Morse, B. Harvey, D. Shore-Reid, J. Gritzan, J. Bennett, L. Pizzolato, B. Yeoman, S. Young

Nays: C. Thammavongsa, M. Barbeau, T. Grant

Abstentions: None

**5. Review of Standard 12 (Special Education Staffing) of our Special Education Plan 2020-2021**

A. Canham presented, for information and feedback, Standard 12 of the Special Education Plan.

Questions of clarification regarding staffing allocations for LSTs, itinerant teachers, and Educational Assistants were addressed by Administration.

Discussion considered how to accurately reflect the decreases and increases in staffing allocations year over year. A specific request was made to reflect the decrease of 5 itinerant teachers in the gifted program. A. Canham offered to clarify the reporting in Standard 12.

It was agreed the staffing sheets in the Special Education Budget should reflect this change rather than it being reflected in Standard 12 noting the intent of Standard 12 is to report on the

staffing for the 2020-21 year. It further was noted other staffing changes made in previous years have not been reflected in Standard 12.

A motion to sit until 1:45 p.m. was moved and CARRIED.

Further questions of clarification were addressed by Administration. Suggested edits to Standard 12 were captured by A. Canham.

A motion to sit until 2:30 p.m. was moved and CARRIED.

Vice-Chair L. Pizzolato stepped into the Chair role when Chair Cook left the meeting.

## **6. Endorsement of the 2020-2021 Special Education Plan**

A. Canham reviewed the revised Special Education Plan outlining changes to the document. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

It was noted the plan will go to the Board of Trustees at their 2020 July 21 Special meeting of the Board.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding measuring progress, PPM 155, assessment tools, EQAO, Standard 2, 2020-2021 goals and remote learning.

Suggested edits were captured by A. Canham.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT after reviewing and providing input to the 2020-2021 Special Education Plan, SEAC notes several concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 and delivery of programming on the 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.

A poll vote was recorded.

Yeas: A. Morse, B. Harvey, D. Shore-Reid, J. Gritzan, J. Bennett, B. Yeoman, S. Young

Nays: C. Thammavongsa, M. Barbeau, T. Grant, L. Pizzolato

Abstentions: None

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None

**Paul Cook**  
Chair