

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 14, 2020

6:30 p.m. - 9:35 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Thammavongsa, Association for Bright Children (+7:10)
 B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
 K. Wilson, Autism Ontario London (-9:23)

A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
 B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre
 P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
 D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
 S. Grabstas, Vanier Children's Services
 N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired
 M. Cvetkovich, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
 J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN)
 C. Krygsman, 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
 J. Bennett, Trustee
 L. Pizzolato, Trustee
 B. Yeoman, Trustee

Regrets: B. Furac, Community Living London

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
 J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
 K. Snake, Munsee-Delaware Nation (-7:49)

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 Meetings**

The report of the 2020 June 15 and 2020 July 13 meetings were provided for information.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

In response to a question, A. Canham advised the Minority reports presented to the Board at the 2020 July 21 Special meeting of the Board. Next steps were outlined.

7. **Summer TPA Funding**

A. Canham advised that Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) funding received from the Ministry was used to provide additional resources to support students with their transition back to school.

a. Summer School

A. Canham reported that two Secondary Special Education Coordinators and five Learning Support Teachers (LSTs) were hired to review and update the 2019-2020 term three student's Individual Education Plans (IEP) to provide supports for students with special education needs participating in summer learning that was offered virtually.

b. Transition Funding

A. Canham noted that teachers and educational assistants (EAs) provided support to any students who expressed concerns regarding the transition back to school. The committee requested data pertaining to the number of students who participated in the early transition back to school program.

c. Mental Health Supports

It was noted the mental health funding was a one time infusion of funds.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding reporting data and following up with students.

8. Return to Learn Update

A. Canham provided a Return to Learn update specific to Special Education.

a. Special Education Classes

Parents were provided the option of in-class or full remote learning. It was noted students in Elementary (Accelerate, Autism, Developmental Education, Transition, Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and Secondary (Developmental) classes participating in at home learning have been assigned to their home school and may still participate in synchronous learning with their home school.

Questions of clarification regarding gifted student participation, live streaming involving students, measuring success, and classroom availability for students on an Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) were addressed by Administration.

In response to a question, it was noted live streaming is on a closed circuit and by invitation only.

b. IEPs and IPRCs

A. Canham outlined the IEP process for in-class, at home and remote learners. It was noted the Learning Support Teacher (LST) assigned to the home school will be responsible for collaboratively developing the IEP.

A. Canham advised on deferred IPRCs from 2019-2020 noting home schools will reach out to families to make IPRC offers.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding OSR access for at home and remote learners, IEP collaboration, contact points for families, transition time for students and

PPE expectations for teachers/students in classrooms with students that are deaf or hard of hearing.

Clarification was provided on the role of the LST regarding IEPs.

9. Additional Funding Announcements

a. Provincial Funds

A. Canham advised Provincial funds were received to hire an Assistive Technology Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) and Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) (pending). It was noted the funding is for one year.

b. Federal Funds

A. Canham advised Federal funds were received through the Ministry of Education to fund mental health supports and Special Education. These funds were used to support mental health initiatives and provide specialized PPE.

10. Summer Projects Update

A. Leatham reviewed each summer project and detailed the success of each program. Next steps were outlined.

R. Ferrara provided an update on gifted programming. It was noted a digital survey was created to support next steps in programming.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding gifted programming, goals for alternate programming, professional development, LST training, parent resources to support virtual modules, IEP goals/measurements and accommodations/modifications.

The committee requested data pertaining to accommodations and modifications.

11. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham reported the Special Education Plan was approved at the 2020 July 21 Special Meeting of the Board.

12. SEAC/Departmental Priorities (Standing Item)

This item will be addressed at the 2020 November 3 meeting.

13. Students on Modified Day (Standing Item)

An update will be provided at the 2020 November 3 meeting.

14. Correspondence (Standing Item)

There was no correspondence.

Discussion occurred regarding the provision of masks/face coverings for deaf/hard of hearing students, their peers and teachers. It was noted masks/face coverings provided by the TVDSB need to meet the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health's requirement. The obstacles and benefits of schools providing faces masks were identified and discussed.

A motion to sit until 9:15 was moved and carried.

It was noted that Administration will continue to source specialized PPE as there is a Provincial shortage.

A motion to sit until 9:45 was moved and carried.

Moved N. Davison

Seconded By A. Morse

THAT the Chair of SEAC write a letter to the Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education identifying the need for visually accessible PPE for all students and staff in classes that support any students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

CARRIED

15. 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.

16. 2020 Meeting Dates

The 2020-2021 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 October 5, 6:30 p.m.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Paul Cook
Chairperson