

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 8, 2021
6:30 p.m. - 9:01 p.m.

MEMBERS

Representatives

C. Thammavongsa, Association for Bright Children
S. Moore, Autism Ontario London
B. Furac, Community Living London
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario (-8:07)
B. Harvey, Epilepsy Support Centre (+7:18)
P. Cook, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
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
J. Bennett, Trustee (-7:06)
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Yeoman, Trustee

Alternates

B. Mai, Association for Bright Children
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association London
S. Grabstas, Vanier Children's Services
N. Davison, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired
C. Krygsman, Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN) (+7:01)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

A. Canham, Superintendent of Special Education
A. Leatham, System Principal
R. Ferrara, System Principal
H. Mahabir, Elementary Principal
T. Birtch, Secondary Principal
M. Chevalier, Elementary Principal
M. Phillips, Secondary Principal
S. Smith, Corporate Services
J. Capaldi, Communication Specialist
C. Lynd, Superintendent (-7:01)
S. Macey, Finance (-7:01)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Welcome

B. Yeoman welcomed everyone and reviewed the planned meeting structure.

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 2021 February 2 meeting was provided for information.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

A. Canham provided an update of the waitlist data for professional assessments noting a decrease in overall wait times.

A. Canham provided clarification regarding the deferral of CCAT7 noting it does not impact the wait time professional assessments.

7. Special Education Revised Estimates 2020-2021

Superintendent C. Lynd and Manager S. Macey joined the meeting.

S. Macey presented for information the 2020-2021 Special Education revised estimates. S. Macey reviewed the projected deficit detailing revenues, expenses and projected enrolment.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding enrolment and expenses.

8. Every Student Belongs

A. Canham presented information regarding the Every Student Belongs student survey noting there is a family survey for parents and caregivers of students in kindergarten to Grade 6. The student survey opened in 2020 December and has received approximately 20,000 responses to date. The family survey will open 2021 March 11. Next steps were detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the survey completion rate.

9. April Meeting Date - Spring Break

A. Canham advised the 2021 April 12 SEAC meeting falls during the rescheduled Spring Break. Through a poll vote it was determined the 2021 April 12 SEAC meeting will be moved to 2021 April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

10. Sub-committee Reports

a. Giftedness

Sub-committee member P. Cook advised on the activities of the Giftedness Sub-committee. P. Cook outlined recommendations provided by the sub-committee. The rationale for each recommendation was detailed.

In response to a question, A. Canham clarified the recommendations are applicable to Elementary and Secondary students.

b. SEAC Priorities

Sub-committee member A. Morse presented the SEAC Priorities Sub-committee Report. Each priority was reviewed including potential action items and next steps.

Discussion occurred regarding the action items and next steps. It was noted items need to be prioritized for staff to create a manageable workload. It was determined a timetable will be created to manage and track progress.

c. Handbook

Sub-committee member C. Tammavongsa advised on the activities of the SEAC Handbook Sub-committee. C. Tammavongsa reviewed the recommended changes and provided the rationale for each recommendation.

The association contact information will be emailed to the committee for review.

The following motion was moved and CARRIED:

THAT SEAC accept all three reports from the sub-committees as presented.

11. Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT7) Update

R. Ferrara provided an update regarding the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT7). It was noted this group of students will be tested during the next academic year.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the way CCAT7 results are used.

In response to a question, A. Canham advised the decision to defer testing aligns with many other school boards across the Province.

12. After Schools Skills Development Program - Measures of Effectiveness

A. Leatham provided an update regarding the After School Skills Development Program (ASSDP). Project requirements, the participant profile, programming, individual behavioural and language goals, and educator resources were detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding goal setting and measuring long term success.

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

13. Future Agenda Items

- TOSA Referrals
- Accessibility Update

14. Special Education Plan (Standing Item)

A. Canham advised the Special Education Plan Sub-committee members were selected and four meetings are scheduled over the next few months.

15. Students on a Modified Day (Standing Item)

A. Canham reported on the number of Elementary students currently on a modified day program. It was noted this data does not include students participating in full remote learning.

16. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Durham District School Board Letter to Minister Lecce

Chair Yeoman presented for information a copy of a letter from the Durham District School Board (DDSB) in support of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

b. The Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees Letter

Chair Yeoman presented for information a copy of a letter from the Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAaC on SEAC) regarding the results of the 2020 SEAC Survey. A copy was provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

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. 2021 Meeting Dates

The 2021 meeting dates were provided in the agenda package. The next meeting is scheduled for 2021 April 19, 6:30 p.m.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Barb Yeoman
Committee Chairperson