

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

MANDATE

In the Thames Valley District School Board, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) plays a vital role in ensuring that exceptional pupils receive appropriate educational services and programs by carrying out its mandate to:

1. make recommendations to the Board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the Board;
2. participate in the Board’s annual review of its special education plan; and,
3. participate in the Board’s annual budget process under section 231 of the Education Act, as that process relates to special education.

Meeting Type:	Public Board Meeting
Presented for:	Information
Date and Time of meeting	The committee met on 2024 October 07 from 6:34 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.
Content:	<p>The committee completed the following actions to work towards fulfilling its mandate:</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Superintendent Bruce provided an update on the Special Education Community Engagement Evening scheduled for 2024 October 9 noting the session is fully registered with over 200 people expected to attend.</p> <p>Staff from the TVDSB’s Research and Assessment Department will compile the feedback from the session and bring it to a future SEAC meeting.</p> <p>Review SEAC Resources - TEAMS Demo</p> <p>Superintendent Bruce provided a Microsoft Teams demonstration to support committee members in accessing the SEAC resources on the committee’s channel. Specific committee resources were highlighted.</p>

Committee members provided suggestions on the organization of the channel and additional SEAC resources to include.

SEAC Member Key Issues

System Principal Nichols outlined the objective and process for the discussion.

Committee members were separated into breakout groups to discuss the role the SEAC can play in relation to feedback received in the Key Issues Survey.

System Principals Nichols and Chevalier, and Manager Lambert led individual groups, asked guiding questions, and captured feedback. Administration committed to collating the feedback and bringing it to a future SEAC meeting.

At the request of Chair Morse, feedback on the value of the exercise was provided by committee members.

Call for Members - Gifted Program Review Committee

Chair Morse noted the Gifted Program review will be conducted internally and led by staff of the TVDSB's Research and Assessment Department. Committee membership will include staff from the Special Education Department as well as SEAC members.

Superintendent Bruce clarified the review committee is separate from the SEAC and is not a sub-committee of the SEAC.

A point of clarification was well taken by the Chair that the review committee is considered an administrative committee and emphasized the role of committee members will be to provide input.

It was suggested the review committee membership be expanded beyond SEAC.

Special Education Department

System Principal Chevalier provided a summary of past and upcoming professional learning opportunities.

Superintendent Bruce noted the Education, Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results have been released. Overall, the data shows a year over year increase in scores except for students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

	<p>Administration is developing strategies to increase scores in this segment of the student body.</p> <p>Superintendent Bruce updated the committee on the special education program reviews that have been completed in the past.</p> <p>Correspondence (Standing Item)</p> <p>Chair Morse referred to the letter provided in the agenda package sent to the Ministry of Education supporting the filling of vacancies within the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MASCE). It was noted no response from the Ministry had been received. Committee members were directed to the Ministry of Education website for more information regarding MASCE terms and vacancies.</p>
Recommendations: <i>(only required when presenting for Board/COW approval)</i>	MOTIONS <i>(if applicable)</i> N/A
Financial Implications:	N/A
Timeline:	N/A
Communications:	N/A
Appendices:	N/A