

## OUR MISSION

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.  
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

## OUR VISION

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world  
through witness, faith, innovation and action.*



# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

**HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019**

## **PRESENT:**

### **External**

**Members:** Sandra Mastronardi, Acting Chair  
Melanie Battaglia  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe  
Tyler Munro  
Mary Pugh- via Teleconference  
George Wedge

**Trustee:** N. Crawford

**Staff:** D. Koenig  
L. Maselli-Jackman  
A. Coke  
M. J. Gendron  
R. Macchia  
J. Mirabella  
D. Reid  
P. Stachiw  
  
S. Harris, Recording Secretary  
S. Tomaz, Assistant Recording Secretary

**External  
Guest:** A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

## 1. Roll Call & Apologies

Apologies were extended on behalf of Trustees Di Giorgio and Kennedy, Lori Ciccolini and Gizelle Paine.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that the Agenda, as amended to reorder Item 11a) Resignation of Ashleigh Molloy, Chair of SEAC as the next Item of Business for discussion followed by a discussion regarding filling the vacancy of Chair, and if necessary, Vice Chair; reorder Item 15e) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding 2019-2020 Special Education Budget as Item 11e); and add a new Item 15f) Inquiry from Lori Mastrogiuseppe regarding Bill-44...

Trustee Crawford left the table. Quorum was lost.

The Chair declared a recess.

The meeting continued with Sandra Mastronardi in the Chair.

## **PRESENT (Following the Recess):**

### **External**

**Members:** Sandra Mastronardi, Acting Chair  
 Melanie Battaglia  
 Lori Mastrogiuseppe  
 Tyler Munro  
 Mary Pugh- via Teleconference  
 Glenn Webster  
 George Wedge

**Trustee:** N. Crawford

**2. Approval of the Agenda (Continued)**

.. add Items 15g) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Special Needs Advanced Program and 15h) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the gap in the Individualized Education Program process.

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Melanie Battaglia.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 15i) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Student Transportation and Budget be added.

On the Vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi reassumed the Chair.

**11. Communications**

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

**11a) Resignation of Ashleigh Molloy, Chair of SEAC received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Glenn Webster, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that the election of a new Chair, and Vice-Chair if necessary, be deferred to the May 15, 2019 SEAC meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**5. Approval & Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Glenn Webster, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 27, 2019 be approved.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**7. Presentations**

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7a) be adopted as follows:

- 7a) From Peter Stachiw, Chief of Autism, regarding Autism Awareness Day: Flag Raising and Mass / Autism Awareness: Asperger's Conference received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**10. Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order Paper and the following Items were held:

- 11d) Melanie Battaglia;
- 12a) Tyler Munro;
- 12b) Melanie Battaglia;
- 12c) George Wedge;
- 12d) Sandra Mastronardi;
- 12e) Tyler Munro;
- 12f) Sandra Mastronardi;
- 12g) Tyler Munro and Glenn Webster;
- 15a) Tyler Munro;
- 15b) Tyler Munro;
- 15c) Tyler Munro;
- 15d) Melanie Battaglia;
- 15e) Trustee Crawford;
- 15f) Lori Mastrogiuseppe;
- 15g) Tyler Munro;
- 15h) Tyler Munro; and
- 15i) Sandra Mastronardi

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Items not held be received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**ITEMS AS CAPTURED IN THE ABOVE MOTION**

11b) SEAC Monthly Calendar Review;

11c) Special Education Superintendent Update; and

12h) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services News Release:  
Ontario Enhancing Support for Children with Autism, March 21, 2019

**11. Communications**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 11d) be adopted as follows:

**11d) Service Animal Protocol (Consultation Draft) and Draft Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM)** received pending further information about the Ministry's policy at a future meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Glenn Webster.

**15. Inquiries and Miscellaneous**

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 15e) be adopted as follows:

- 15e) From Sandra Mastronardi regarding 2019-2020 Special Education Budget** that SEAC recommend to the Board that more opportunities be provided for Special Education Needs (SEN) Students to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) / Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) special programs and extra-curriculars with a focus on providing equity-based skill learning based on their particular needs.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Tyler Munro, that funding be allocated to hire a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) to provide consultative services to schools, and to train and supervise resource staff in data collection as part of the current services offered to classrooms to assist teachers.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Mary Pugh disconnected via Teleconference.

Trustee Crawford left the table. Quorum was lost.

The Chair declared a recess.

The meeting continued with Glenn Webster in the Chair.

The attendance list remained unchanged.

**15e) From Sandra Mastronardi regarding 2019-2020 Special Education Budget (Continued)**

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that at the very least, the Board maintain the current level of support staff and provide funding for them to obtain Registered Behaviour Training (RBT) certification on, at least, a voluntary basis, including the 40 hours of training and the examinations. These support staff are to be supported by the BCBA.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by George Wedge, that an Inclusion Coach position be created to further support our Mission Statement, and the hiring/promotion of eight persons to the Inclusion Coach Position, focused on accommodating special education students in classrooms.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Crawford, Lori Mastrogiuseppe and Glenn Webster voted against the Motion.



Sandra Mastronardi reassumed the Chair.

**12. Matters Referred/Deferred**

**From the March 27, 2019 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) Annual Report on the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35)** received and that SEAC recommend to Board that the Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities be added to the Cross reference section of the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35).

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Trustee Crawford.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Lori Mastrogioseppe, that a representative from SEAC be included in Section 5, Members of Accessibility Working Group, page 72.

On the Vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi reassumed the Chair.

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 15b) be adopted as follows:

**15b) Motion from Trustee Li Preti regarding Emergency Plan for accommodating Special Education Students and/or Students with a Physical Disability that may be excused from regular hours of School:**

*WHEREAS families with children who have special need children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are being asked to pick up children early, start their school day later or keep children at home for indefinite periods of time; and*

*WHEREAS families with special need children may not have the flexibility or the financial means to leave their employment and pick up children from school - sometimes on a daily basis; and*

*WHEREAS asking parents to alter regular school hours for special need students is a further obstacle to many families and causes undue hardship for the child and the family; and*

*WHEREAS it is recognized that some students may present challenges and one of the common causes of excusing students from school may be due in part to behavioural issues; and*

*WHEREAS TCDSB school personnel may not have the resources available to them to resolve issues regarding classroom management; and*

*WHEREAS it is not in the best interest of the school community if a student poses a safety concern; and*

*WHEREAS the practice of excusing special need students may deny some students inclusive educational opportunities; and*

*WHEREAS TCDSB does not formally track soft exclusions at the present time; and*

*WHEREAS the provision in the Education Act to exclude children from school is outdated and may violate the rights of children to an inclusive education; and*

*WHEREAS it is recognized that some students may present challenges, alternatives to exclusion should be available to students and families first; and*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the TCDSB create an emergency plan for accommodating special education students and/ or students with a physical disability that may be excused from regular hours of school; and*

*Further be it resolved than a central on call service be available to principals on an emergency basis when the parent(s) are not available to pick up their child; and*

*Further be it resolved that staff prepare a report on the implementation of an Emergency Plan for Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs and projected costs; and*

*Further be it resolved that staff bring this motion to the next SEAC meeting for discussion, review and further recommendation (s); and*

*Further be it resolved that staff review deploying existing staff on an on call basis and investigate other possible contract/part time resources to accommodate an Emergency Plan for Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs; and*

*Further be it resolved that funding for Emergency Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs be added to the budget and considered during budget deliberations; and*

*Further be it resolved that the Ministry of Education be requested to fund the Emergency Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs;*

*Be it further resolved that this motion take effect immediately*

That SEAC recommend to Board:

1. That the existing resources be trained and utilized more effectively in preemptive de-escalation to prevent behavioral based exclusions;
2. That the school Board provide assistance for alternate arrangements instead of calling parents/caregivers; and
3. That accurate data be collected to better assess the current impact and create a plan to move forward.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by George Wedge, that all the Items not discussed be deferred to the May 15, 2019 SEAC Meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**ITEMS AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION**

- 12c) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Educational Assistants (EAs) and Child and Youth Workers (CYWs);
- 12d) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Accessibility at a TCDSB School;
- 12e) Ministry of Education (MOE) 2019: SB01 Update: Special Education Funding in 2018-19;

- 12f) MOE 2019: B07 Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- 12g) MOE 2019: B08 New Vision for Education;
- 15a) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Claims;
- 15b) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Expulsion Rates;
- 15c) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Classroom Widows;
- 15d) Inquiry from Melanie Battaglia regarding Ministry Enrollment Register on Exclusion 2018-2019;
- 15f) Inquiry from Lori Mastrogiuseppe regarding Bill 44;
- 15g) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Special Needs Advanced Program;
- 15h) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the Gap in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process; AND
- 15i) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Student Transportation and Budget

**17. Adjournment**

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR