

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

## AGENDA December 1, 2021

**George Wedge**  
Easter Seals

**Melanie Battaglia**  
Autism Ontario

**Geoffrey Feldman**  
Ontario Disability Coalition

**Lori Mastrogiuseppe**  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

**Tyler Munro**  
Inclusion Action in Ontario  
Representative

**Lisa McMahon**  
Community Representative

**Deborah Nightingale**  
Association for Bright Children

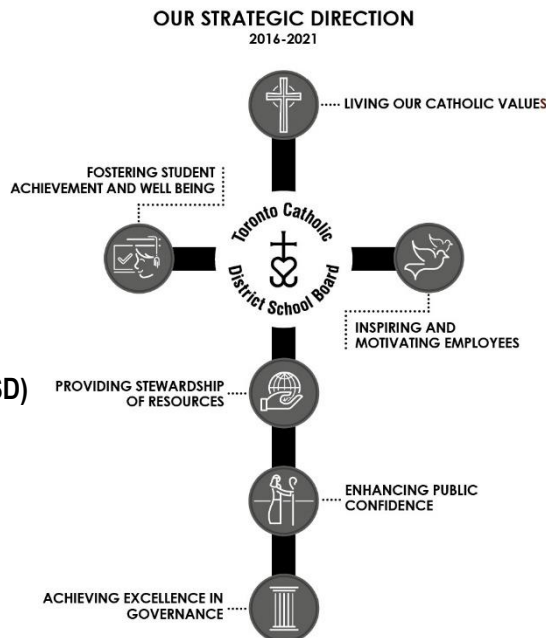
**Mary Pugh**  
VOICE for Hearing Impaired

**Michelle Da Costa**  
Ontario Parents Advocating  
for children with Cancer (OPACC)

**Wendy Layton**  
Community Representative

### TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**Angela Kennedy**  
**Daniel Di Giorgio**  
**Nancy Crawford**



### 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.*

### VISION

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

**Recording Secretary: Sophia Harris, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2293**  
**Assistant Recording Secretary: Skeeter Hinds-Barnett, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2298**  
**Assistant Recording Secretary: Sarah Pellegrini, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2207**

**Dr. Brendan Browne**  
Director of Education

**Angela Kennedy**  
Chair of the Board

## **Terms of Reference for the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) shall have responsibility for advising on matters pertaining to the following:**

- (a) Annual SEAC planning calendar;**
- (b) Annual SEAC goals and committee evaluation;**
- (c) Development and delivery of TCDSB Special Education programs and services;**
- (d) TCDSB Special Education Plan;**
- (e) Board Learning and Improvement Plan (BLIP) as it relates to Special Education programs, Services, and student achievement;**
- (f) TCDSB budget process as it relates to Special Education; and**
- (g) Public access and consultation regarding matters related to Special Education programs and services.**

**SEAC shall also make recommendations to Board pertaining to these matters, in order to improve the lives of students with Special Education Needs and their families.**

### ***Land Acknowledgement***

Out of our deep respect for Indigenous peoples in Canada, we acknowledge that all Toronto Catholic District School Board properties are situated upon traditional territories of the Anishinabek (a-ni-shna-bek), the Haudenosaunee (hoh-Dee-noh-Shoh-nee) Confederacy, and the Wendat peoples. We also acknowledge the land covered by Treaty 13 is held by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Toronto is subject to The Dish with One Spoon covenant. We also recognize the contributions and enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

### ***La Reconnaissance du Territoire***

*Nous témoignons du plus grand respect pour les Peuples autochtones au Canada et nous avons à cœur de souligner que tous les immeubles du Toronto Catholic District School Board sont situés sur les terres traditionnelles de la Nation Anishinabek, de la Confédération de Haudenosaunees et des Wendats. Il est également important de noter que le territoire visé par le Traité 13 est celui des Mississaugas de la Première Nation Credit et que celui de Toronto est protégé par l'accord d'« un plat à une cuillère ». Nous tenons également à rappeler la présence pérenne et l'importance des contributions des Premières Nations, des Metis et des Inuits en Ontario, et dans tout le Canada.*

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# AGENDA THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## PUBLIC SESSION

TBD, Chair

TBD, Vice Chair

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

7:00 P.M.

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Pages

1. Opening Prayer
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Secretary Calls the Meeting to Order
4. Roll Call & Apologies
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Election of Chair
7. Election of Vice-Chair
8. Declarations of Interest
9. Approval & Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting held November 17, 2021 1 - 12
10. Delegations
11. Presentations
12. Notices of Motion

|            |  |         |
|------------|--|---------|
| 12.a.      | From George Wedge, Representative of Easter Seals Ontario regarding Rules of Order and Conduct Formalization and Familiarization   | 13      |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Consent and Review</b>  |         |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Annual Calendar Items</b>   |         |
| 14.a.      | SEAC Annual Calendar (Draft) as of December 1, 2021  | 14 - 16 |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees</b>  |         |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>Consideration of Motions for Which Previous Notice has been Given</b>   |         |
| 16.a.      | From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario Special Education regarding One Size Doesn't Fit All   | 17      |
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Unfinished Business</b>   |         |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees</b>  |         |
|            | <u>From the November 17, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting</u>   |         |
| 18.a.      | Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities<br><br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y32XvjWmDAQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y32XvjWmDAQ</a>         |         |
| <b>19.</b> | <b>List of Communications</b>  |         |
| 19.a.      | Letter to Minister Lecce with regard to Ontario Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning from the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) | 18      |
| 19.b.      | Special Education Advisory Committee Application - Community Member (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services  |         |
| 19.c.      | Special Incidence Portion Funding Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services   |         |

**20. Association Reports**

**21. Inquiries and Miscellaneous**

**22. Pending List**

22.a. Pending List as at December 1, 2021

19 - 22

**23. Adjournment**

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

**HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

## **PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** N. Crawford  
D. Di Giorgio - Virtual  
A. Kennedy – Virtual

**Non-Voting Trustee:** M. Rizzo - Virtual

**External Members:** George Wedge, Chair  
Michelle Da Costa - Virtual  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual  
Tyler Munro  
Deborah Nightingale - Virtual  
Wendy Layton – Virtual  
Mary Pugh - Virtual

**Staff:** V. Cocco  
A. Della Mora  
C. Fernandes  
M. Gendron  
M. Meehan  
J. Mirabella  
P. Stachiw  
  
S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

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

**3. Roll Call and Apologies**

Geoffrey Feldman sent his regrets. Lisa McMahon was absent.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Agenda be approved.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 19a) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students, Item 19b) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results and Item 19c) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding timing receipt of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) be added to the Agenda.

Trustee Kennedy joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Trustee Di Giorgio and Mary Pugh joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

## 5. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

## 6. **Approval and Signing of the Minutes**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Minutes of the Meeting held October 20, 2021 be approved.

Wendy Layton joined the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## 9) **Notices of Motion**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario Special Education. regarding One Size Doesn't Fit All** that this Item be considered at the December 1, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting.

**WHEREAS:** SEAC recognizes and supports a very diverse variety of Special Education needs and the requirement for an appropriate variety of beneficial education options for students both identified and not identified with Special Education needs in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB);

**WHEREAS:** These options must be based on best practices and education research on how to meet different students' needs, and should offer relevant options and real parent and student choice; and

**WHEREAS:** In a Board of this very large size and diversity of needs, a variety of different options to meet different and diverse needs should be offered in appropriate classroom environments.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee recommend to the Board that the TCDSB deliver a variety of appropriate education options to meet diverse Special Education needs, based on: education research; feedback from educators, parents and students on all relevant options; and advocacy by those with specific involvement and experience with those specific exceptionalities.

## **10. Consent and Review**

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

- 11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group (Verbal) – Trustee Crawford;
- 11c) Special Services Parent Engagement Series 2021-2022 – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services – Tyler Munro;
- 12a) Seeking Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Representative for the Student Transportation Working Group (STWG) – Melanie Battaglia;
- 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update - November 2021 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 16a) Consideration of Motion from Melanie Battaglia, representative of Autism Ontario regarding Exclusion Tracking and Reporting – Melanie Battaglia;
- 17a) Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities – Tyler Munro;
- 19a) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students – Deborah Nightingale;
- 19b) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results – Deborah Nightingale;

19c) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding timing receipt of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) – Deborah Nightingale; and

20a) Pending List – Melanie Battaglia

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that the Items not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**ITEMS NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION**

11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 17, 2021; and

17b) Challenger Baseball Program

**11. Annual Calendar**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 11b) be adopted as follows:

**11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group (Verbal) received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 11c) be adopted as follows:

- 11c) Special Services Parent Engagement Series 2021-2022 – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**12) Nominations**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) Seeking Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for the Student Transportation Working Group (STWG)** that this Item be deferred to the December 1, 2021 SEAC Meeting.

George Wedge volunteered to sit on the Student Transportation Working Group.

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Tyler Munro, that George Wedge be approved as the Special Education Advisory Committee representative on the Student Transportation Working Group.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**13) Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

**13a) Special Education Superintendent Update - November 2021 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**16) Matters deferred from last meeting / Referred from Board**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 16a) be adopted as follows:

**16a) Consideration of Motion from Melanie Battaglia, representative of Autism Ontario regarding Exclusion Tracking and Reporting:**

**WHEREAS:** The mission of the Toronto Catholic District School Board is to be an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ;

**WHEREAS:** Autism Ontario, Association for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) association, Inclusion Action Ontario, Advocacy Resource Center for the Handicapped (ARCH) disability Law and many other organizations and associations in Ontario supporting students with special education needs and/or disabilities (“special needs students”) and their families have repeatedly raised concerns about the frequency of special needs students being excluded under section 265(1)(m) of the Education Act (a “formal exclusion”) and/or what are

frequently referred to as soft exclusions where student hours of attendance are restricted or are requested to stay home for a number of days at the Principal's request, including without limitation for off school premises field trips ("soft exclusions");

**WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Education's "Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools" has since the 2018/19 school year required school boards to maintain Exclusion records for "audit purposes" (pages 23 and 24), including the following information:

- Documentation that shows the reason for the exclusion;
- Documentation of successful notification of the exclusion and the response between the School Board and the pupil (if the pupil is an adult) or the pupil's parent or guardian;
- Documentation of the plan (signed by the principal) to re-integrate the pupil into the Education system;
- Documentation of communication with other parties involved with re-engaging the pupil (e.g. social agencies); and
- Data on the number of students who have been excluded during the school year (including the name of student, Ontario Education Number (OEN), length of exclusion, and reason for exclusion).

**WHEREAS:** SEAC recommended to the Board and the Board affirmed the request for a report that would include summary information of Exclusions on March 27, 2019 and to date no report has been presented to SEAC, over 2.5 years later ("reporting delay");

**WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Education has placed new limits on the suspension and expulsion of students in grade 3 and below effective this school year (2021/2022) and Exclusions may be used as a method to circumvent these Ministry limits on administrator authority; and

**WHEREAS:** It is clear from the extensive reporting delay that the TCDSB does not have the ability to systematically monitor Exclusions to ensure appropriate use, meet the Ministry's audit expectation as outlined in the "Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools" document or collect data to compile any reliable reports surrounding the use of Exclusions for SEAC or the board in a timely manner.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- SEAC recommend to the Board that the attendance system be updated to track all Exclusions, including formal and soft exclusions;
  - A formal exclusion is defined as under Section 265 (1)(m) of the Education Act.
  - A Soft exclusion is defined as a Principal's request to keep a child home for all or part of a day.
- SEAC further recommend to the Board that the Progressive Discipline Application be updated to keep records associated with both types of Exclusions as required for a Ministry audit and those records should also be kept in a Student's Ontario Student Record (OSR);
- SEAC further recommend to the Board that a Policy be created that will instruct staff on the appropriate use of Exclusions, record keeping and appeal provisions; and
- SEAC further recommend reporting of both types of Exclusions in the Annual Safe Schools report and it indicate the numbers of special needs students affected along with total students.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

**CARRIED**

**17) List of Communications**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

- 17a) Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities** that this Item be deferred to the December 1, 2021 SEAC Meeting and that the link be updated.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**19) Inquires and Miscellaneous**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 19a) be adopted as follows:

- 19a) From Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that Item 19b) be adopted as follows:

- 19b) From Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results received.**

Mary Pugh left the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that Item 19c) be adopted as follows:

- 19c) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Timing Receipt of Individual Education Plans received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**20) Pending List**

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 20a) be adopted as follows:

- 20a) Pending List as at November 17, 2021 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**21. Adjournment**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Wendy Layton, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR

**To:** Special Education Advisory Committee

**From:** George Wedge, Representative for Easter Seals Ontario

**Subject:** Rules of Order & Conduct Formalization & Familiarization

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**MOVED BY: George Wedge**

**WHEREAS:** SEAC is a Standing Committee of the TCDSB;

**WHEREAS:** SEAC member conduct is not governed by any specific TCDSB set of bylaws;

**WHEREAS:** TCDSB bylaws do not specify the exact Rule's of Order to be utilized in official SEAC Public Meetings, although modified Robert's Rules of Order have been customarily used and accepted as "The Standing Committee Rules of Order"; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees in Public Session have called into question the Rules of Order and Process of SEAC.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** SEAC recommend to Board that Rules of Order and Rules of Conduct be established or adopted from existing bylaws and formalized; and

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** SEAC members, both sitting and newly nominated be provided training in document format and/or classroom setting and/or reviewable webinar format.

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**George Wedge**

**Past Chair**

**Member representing Easter Seals Ontario**

# SEAC Annual Calendar

| Month     | Annual Activities/Topics  | Board Events/Deadlines   |
|-----------|---|--|
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Review TCDSB Accessibility Plan (September 2022)</li> <li>- Develop or review SEAC annual Agenda/Goals</li> <li>- Annual Safe Schools Report</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FASD Awareness Day – September 9</li> </ul>   |
| October   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autism Awareness (Canada)</li> <li>- Child Abuse Prevention Awareness</li> <li>- Learning Disabilities Awareness</li> <li>- World Mental Health Day (October 10)</li> <li>- EQAO Preliminary Results for Gr. 3 and 6 and OSSLT</li> <li>- Reports on Student Numbers of Elementary and Secondary School Students to be submitted to the Ministry of Education</li> <li>- Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide</li> </ul> |
| November  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- AFSS Report: Exceptionality Frameworks-Goals &amp; Outcomes, EQAO Student Achievement Data (for various exceptionalities as appropriate)</li> <li>- Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion</li> <li>- Professional Learning Plan</li> <li>- Special Education Fair</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Down Syndrome Awareness (first week)</li> <li>- EQAO Results for Gr. 3, 6, 9 (math), and Gr. 10 (OSSLT)</li> <li>- Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide</li> <li>- ONSIS report on identified students</li> <li>- Year End for School Board Financial Statements</li> <li>- Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)</li> </ul>  |
| December  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- SEAC Elections (Inaugural)</li> <li>- SEAC Elections: Chair &amp; vice-Chair (Annual)</li> <li>- SEAC Mass and Social</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3)</li> <li>- Human Rights Day (December 10)</li> <li>- Independent review of assessment and reporting</li> </ul>  |

# SEAC Annual Calendar

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| January  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of Draft SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Annual Accessibility Report 2020</li> <li>- Multi-year Accessibility Plan/AODA-Updates</li> <li>- Review of Policy: Special Education Programs (S.P.01)- next review is January 2023</li> <li>- Mental Health Annual Report 2019-20</li> <li>- Priority Budget Setting Discussion (effective January 2020)</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bell Let's Talk Day (late January)</li> <li>- Grade 9 EQAO Testing takes place in Secondary Schools</li> <li>- Long Term Accommodation Program Plan (ongoing)</li> </ul>   |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Psychology Awareness Month</li> <li>- New term begins in Secondary semestered Schools</li> <li>- Report Cards are distributed (Elementary and Secondary)</li> <li>- Parent-Teacher Conferences</li> </ul>  |
| March    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Safe Schools Committee Update</li> <li>- Mental Health Advisory Council Update</li> <li>- Budget Approval Updates</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Easter Seals Awareness Month</li> <li>- World Down Syndrome Day – March 21</li> <li>- National Social Work Week (1<sup>st</sup> week)</li> <li>- CYW &amp; EA Appreciation Day (first Monday)</li> <li>- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)</li> </ul> |
| April    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Financial Report as at January, 2021 (GSNs)</li> <li>- Graduation Statistics for Students with Special Education Needs Update</li> <li>- March 31<sup>st</sup> Special Education student count</li> <li>- Update to Special Education Programs for 2021-2022</li> <li>- Budget Approval Updates</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autism Awareness Day – April 2</li> <li>- ONSIS report on identified students</li> </ul>   |

## SEAC Annual Calendar

|        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| May    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Student Grants 2021-2022</li> <li>- PRO Grants Application Update</li> <li>- Budget Approval Updates</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's Mental Health Week (first week)</li> <li>- Speech, Language &amp; Hearing Awareness</li> <li>- Megan's Walk</li> <li>- Budget Consultation</li> <li>- EQAO Assessment</li> </ul> |
| June   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Budget approval update</li> <li>- Status of PRO Grant application</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World Sickle Cell Day – June 19</li> <li>- National Deaf Blind Awareness</li> <li>- EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Testing (<b>not administered for June 2020</b>)</li> </ul>                           |
| July   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School Board Submits to the Ministry a balanced Budget for the following year</li> <li>- Special Education Report Checklist submitted to the Ministry of Education</li> </ul>               |
| August |  |  |

**To:** Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

**From:** Deborah Nightingale

**Subject:** Special Education - One Size Doesn't Fit All

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**MOVED BY: Deborah Nightingale**

**WHEREAS:** SEAC recognizes and supports a very diverse variety of Special Education needs and the requirement for an appropriate variety of beneficial education options for students both identified and not identified with Special Education needs in the TCDSB, and

**WHEREAS:** These options must be based on best practices, and education research on how to meet different students' needs, and should offer relevant options and real parent and student choice, and

**WHEREAS:** In a board of this very large size and diversity of needs, a variety of different options to meet different and diverse needs should be offered in appropriate classroom environments,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) recommends to the board that the TCDSB deliver a variety of appropriate education options to meet diverse Special Education needs, based on: education research; feedback from educators, parents and students on all relevant options; and advocacy by those with specific involvement and experience with those specific exceptionalities.

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Deborah Nightingale  
ABC Ontario

October 19, 2021

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce,

We, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), are writing to share our common concerns expressed by the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) SEAC and the Durham District School Board (DDSB) SEAC in regard to Online Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning in provincial online learning resources and the platforms used to access these resources.

While we are privileged to live in the WRDSB and our students have convenient access to wireless connections, Chromebooks, and a well-supported online learning environment, we are deeply concerned about the students in the areas that do not have the same access and resources. As such, it is our request that you commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses must be consistently maintained with enabled links and resources that meet accessibility standards (such as closed captioning, etc.).

While schools are opening back up to in-school learning and virtual learning needs are diminishing the student population as a majority, we acknowledge that online learning is still the best choice for some students and that their learning experience is as worthy of proper resources that adhere to universal design for learning as their in-school peers. The pandemic has shown gaps in our province's online learning resources and an opportunity to invest in our students' educational access.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request for action.

Sincerely,



Sara Penny  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee  
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc. Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



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YOUTUBE.COM/WRDSBVIDEO

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PENDING LIST TO DECEMBER 01, 2021**

| # | Date Requested<br>&<br>Committee/Board | Report<br>Due Date | Destination of<br>Report<br>Committee/Board | Subject  | Delegated To                          |
|---|--|--------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | March 27, 2019<br>SEAC                 | TBC                | Regular Board                               | <p>That the Board direct staff to provide a report with respect to the following Items and report back to Board:</p> <p>*Whether the exclusions listed were documented as "safety" exclusions or "disciplinary" exclusions, in light of page 5 of the Report, excerpted below:</p> <p><i>"The Annual Safe School Report is directly linked to Safe School Legislation. However, Safety Exclusions under 265 (1)m of the Education Act are not tracked by the Safe School department as they are not associated with Safe Schools legislation; nor is there any requirement for the Board to report those to the Ministry of Education. Safety exclusions are not considered disciplinary and also include Police exclusions which school Principals are mandated to adhere to until an active police investigation is complete. In any event, there is an expectation that the student will return to a school of the TCDSB. Exclusions are thus not a metric that is linked to the Safe</i></p> | Superintendent of<br>Special Services |

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|  |  |  |  | <p><i>Schools Annual Report. Instead, Safety Exclusions deal with programming alternatives that support a successful academic and social-emotional transition back to a school." (p. 5);</i></p> <p>*Whether the students with the listed exclusions had a history of discipline issues prior to the exclusion, including but not limited to warnings, suspensions and expulsions;</p> <p>*The subcategory of students listed as excluded from December 2013 to and including February 2016 as follows: (i) students not in receipt of Special Education services; (ii) students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP); (iii) by exceptionality (using the Ministry's 14 categories of exceptionalities); and (iv) whether the exclusion was due to police direction/court order or the principal's discretion;</p> <p>*Whether the parents/guardians of the students listed as excluded were provided with a Written Appeal Hearing Policy and/or procedure (the "Policy") regarding the Appeal Hearing Information identified</p> |  |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>in the chart, and if so (i) to provide a copy of the Policy to SEAC; and (ii) to advise whether the Policy is publicly available on the school Board's website and, if so, to provide a copy of the web page;</p> <p>*The number of students excluded from March 2016 up to and including December 2018, subcategorized as follows: (i) students not in receipt of Special Education services; (ii) students with an IEP; (iii) by exceptionality (using the Ministry's 14 categories of exceptionalities); (iv) whether the exclusion was due to police direction/court order or the principal's discretion; and (v) whether the excluded students had a history of discipline issues prior to the exclusion, including but not limited to warnings, suspensions and expulsions;</p> <p>*Whether the TCDSB has a written policy and/or procedure on when and for how long the Board and/or principal may exclude a student under Section 265(1)(m) of the Education Act, and, if so, (i) to provide a copy of the Policy to SEAC; and (ii) to advise whether the Policy is publicly available on the school Board's website</p> |  |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>and, if so, to provide a copy of the web page;</p> <p>*How a teacher marks a student absent for attendance when the student has been excluded from school for all or part of a school day; and</p> <p>*Where and with what service provider(s) an excluded student continues to receive access to their education and uninterrupted learning during the period of exclusion and for how long, i.e. how many hours of academic instruction per day.</p> <p><i>Motion recommended at March 27, 2019 SEAC meeting; carried at April 24, 2019 Board meeting.</i></p> |  |
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