

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DECEMBER 6, 2023

Melanie Battaglia

Autism Ontario (Alternate)

Michelle Cousins

Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

Richelle De Belchior

Community Representative

Jennifer Di Francesco

Center for ADHD Awareness

Geoffrey Feldman

Ontario Disability Coalition

Lisa Mason

Community Representative

Lori Mastrogiuseppe

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Tyler Munro

Inclusion Action in Ontario

Deborah Nightingale

Association for Bright Children

Ivona Novak

Community Representative

Ashley Pabon

Learning Disabilities Association

Mary Pugh

VOICE for Hearing Impaired

Marissa Seymour

Autism Ontario

George Wedge

Easter Seals Ontario

TRUSTEES

Frank D'Amico

Angela Kennedy

Maria Rizzo

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

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Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Nancy Crawford
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.

N.B: The following goals were adopted for the 2023-2024 School Year:

1. Recommend the development of contingency plans to implement testing should schools close (as they did for Covid) and alternative be necessary. Include these plans in the Special Education Plan;
2. To review and discuss information made available to SEAC about Assessments and Testing used to identify and support Special Education Students;
3. To make time at each SEAC meeting for discussion about Special Education matters in which all members can participate;
4. To review the 2023-2024 goals of the Empower Program;
5. To review timelines of Psych-educational Assessments and how they are going to be handled;
6. How SEAC can support Special Education Students transitioning out of our educational system and entering the world;
7. To increase Committee membership;
8. Review policies that impact Special Education Students and make recommendations for revisions that might be helpful;
9. Review handbooks for parents and guardians to comment on changes that need to be made to assist Special Education Students; and
10. Continue to provide feedback to the Special Education Plan on a monthly basis.

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

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

7:00 P.M.

	Pages
1. Secretary Calls the Meeting to Order	
2. Opening Prayer	
3. Land Acknowledgement	
4. Roll Call and Apologies	
5. Approval of the Agenda	
6. Election of Chair	
7. Election of Vice-Chair	
8. Declarations of Interest	
9. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting held November 8, 2023	1 - 8
10. Delegations	
11. Presentations	
11.a 2022-2023 Education Quality Accountability Office (EQAO) Data	9 - 26

Presentation for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC),
Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services and Dr. Brandy
Doan, Head of Research and Analytics

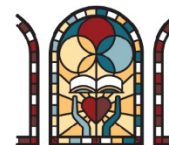
12. **Notices of Motion**
13. **Consent and Review**
14. **Annual Calendar Items**
 - 14.a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of December 6, 2023 27 - 31
15. **Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**
 - 15.a Special Services Superintendent Update – December 2023 32 - 34
16. **Consideration of Motions For Which Previous Notice Has Been Given**
 - 16.a From George Wedge, representative of Easter Seals Ontario, regarding Elected Chair's Alternate Member 35
17. **Unfinished Business**
18. **Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**
19. **List of Communications**
20. **Association Reports**
21. **Inquiries and Miscellaneous**
22. **Pending List**
23. **Adjournment**

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

HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

PRESENT:

Trustees:

F. D'Amico
A. Kennedy - Virtual
M. Rizzo – Virtual

External Members:

G. Wedge, Chair
G. Feldman, Vice Chair - Virtual
R. De Belchior – Virtual
J. Di Francesco
L. Mason – Virtual
T. Munro - Virtual
D. Nightingale
I. Novak – Virtual
A. Pabon - Virtual
M. Seymour - Virtual

Staff:

A. Della Mora
C. Fernandes
M. Meehan
V. Cocco
A. Coke
D. Comacchio
P. Klim-Conforti
R. Macchia

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

External Guest:

Alasdair Robertson, Parliamentarian

3. Roll Call and Apologies

Lori Mastrogiuseppe and Mary Pugh were absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual room at 7:07 pm.

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Agenda, as amended to include Item 17a) Association for Bright Children Report, be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Minutes of the Meeting held October 11, 2023 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

9. Notices of Motion

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

- 9a) **From George Wedge, representative of Easter Seals Ontario, regarding Elected Chair's Alternate Member** that this be considered at the December 6, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting:

WHEREAS: Any nominated member who represents an Association, and is elected to the Chair, cannot fully participate in tabled discussions, or properly and fully represent their Association while acting as Chair; and

WHEREAS: The Association represented by such Chair may have a nominated Alternate Representative.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to Board to adopt the practice of permitting such Chair's Alternate the full privileges of a full member seat at SEAC meetings where such Chair is fulfilling the Committee Chair Role and Duties.

Geoffrey Feldman joined the virtual room at 7:20 p.m.

10. Consent and Review

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

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – November 2023 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 12b) Education Quality Accountability Office Assessment Results 2022-2023 - Deborah Nightingale;
- 13a) Consideration of Motion from Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children, regarding Contingency Plans for Special Education Testing - Deborah Nightingale;
- 13b) Consideration of Motion from Richelle De Belchior, Community Representative, regarding Policy for Reporting Injury/Accidents to Parents of Children who need Assistance with Verbal Expression – Richelle De Belchior; and

- 17a) Association for Bright Children Report - Deborah Nightingale.

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the Item not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

ITEM NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 8, 2023.

12. Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – November 2023** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Tyler Munro, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the Gifted Withdrawal Program report be provided annually at the November Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings and include the number of students in the withdrawal program, as well as those identified with giftedness; and that it be included in the SEAC Draft Calendar for November.

With the unanimous consent of the Committee, Tyler Munro withdrew the AMENDMENT.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy left the virtual meeting at 7:48 p.m.

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

- 12b) Education Quality Accountability Office Assessment Results 2022- 2023** received.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

13. Consideration of Motions For Which Previous Notice Has Been Given

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Rizzo, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

- 13a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children, regarding Contingency Plans for Special Education Testing:**

WHEREAS: It is important that testing be provided in a timely manner to identify Special Education students at Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB); and

WHEREAS: SEAC adopted this goal for the years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board that it develop contingency plans to implement testing should schools close (as they did for COVID) and alternatives be necessary; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: These contingency plans be included in the Special Education Plan.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Richelle de Belchior, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 13b) be adopted as follows:

13b) From Richelle De Belchior, Community Representative, regarding Policy for Reporting Injury/Accidents to Parents of Children who need Assistance with Verbal Expression:

WHEREAS: Presentations were held on September 13th, 2023 regarding Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and how they help children;

WHEREAS: Currently there only exists a Concussion Policy S.26;

WHEREAS: No policy exists regarding any other type of injury/accident /incident and reporting it to parents; and

WHEREAS: Students who require communication assistance may not be able to report the occurrence to their parents.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board that a policy be created that all injuries/accidents/incidents are reported to parents as a requirement especially for students who may or not be identified as needing communication assistance.

Trustee D'Amico left the horseshoe at 9:03 p.m.

Time for business expired.

The Chair put the question, "Is it the will of the meeting to extend debate for a further 15 minutes?"

By unanimous consent, the debate was extended by 15 minutes, as per the TCDSB's By-law, Article 12.6.

Trustee D'Amico returned to the horseshoe at 9:12 p.m.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

17. Association Reports

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

17a) Association for Bright Children Report received and Referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

20. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR

2022-2023 EQAO Data Presentation for SEAC

Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services
Dr. Brandy Doan-Goss, Head of Research and Analytics

December 6, 2023

Special Services Action Plan Alignment

“The TCDSB recognizes the barriers that face students with disabilities and special education needs. Our learning communities are called to affirm the worth and dignity of every student. We recognize the powerful opportunity to create spaces where strengths are identified, and opportunities are met with a strong commitment to nurturing individual learning, growth, and success.” (SSAP Pg 3)

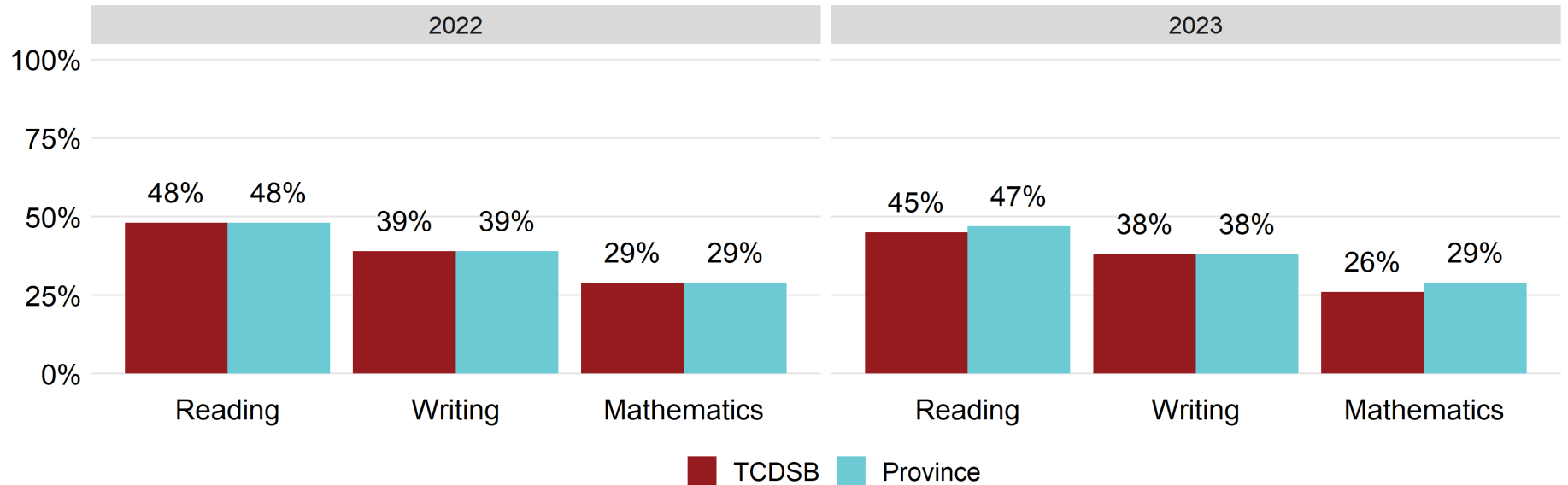
EQAO Interpretation Guide

- EQAO scores are correlated with socio-economic status.
- We do not compare students with exceptionalities, those who require modifications and accommodations documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), or students with disabilities, as this would be considered an oppressive practice.
- EQAO data do not show the hidden curriculum of a school community or the social, relational, cultural, aspirational, or linguistic capital within the school. Further, they do not capture an individual student's progress toward their uniquely identified goals.

Primary – TCDSB Compared to the Province

Grade 3 EQAO - Percentage of Students at Level 3-4

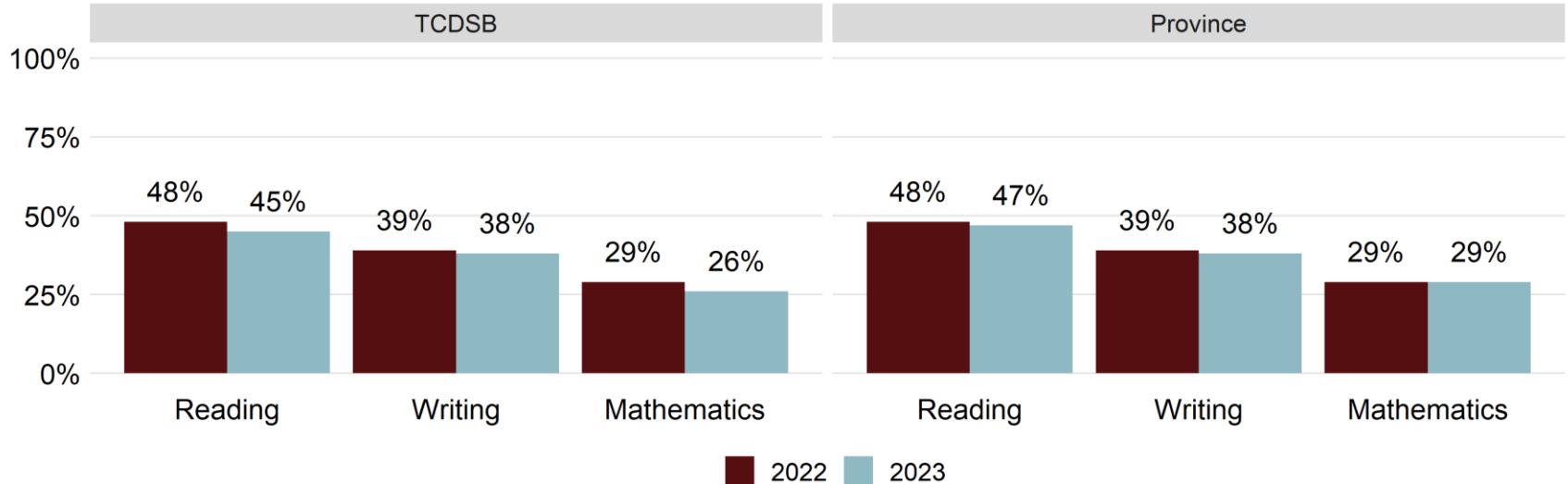
Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



Primary 2021-2022 Compared to 2022-2023

Grade 3 EQAO - Percentage of Students at Level 3-4

Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



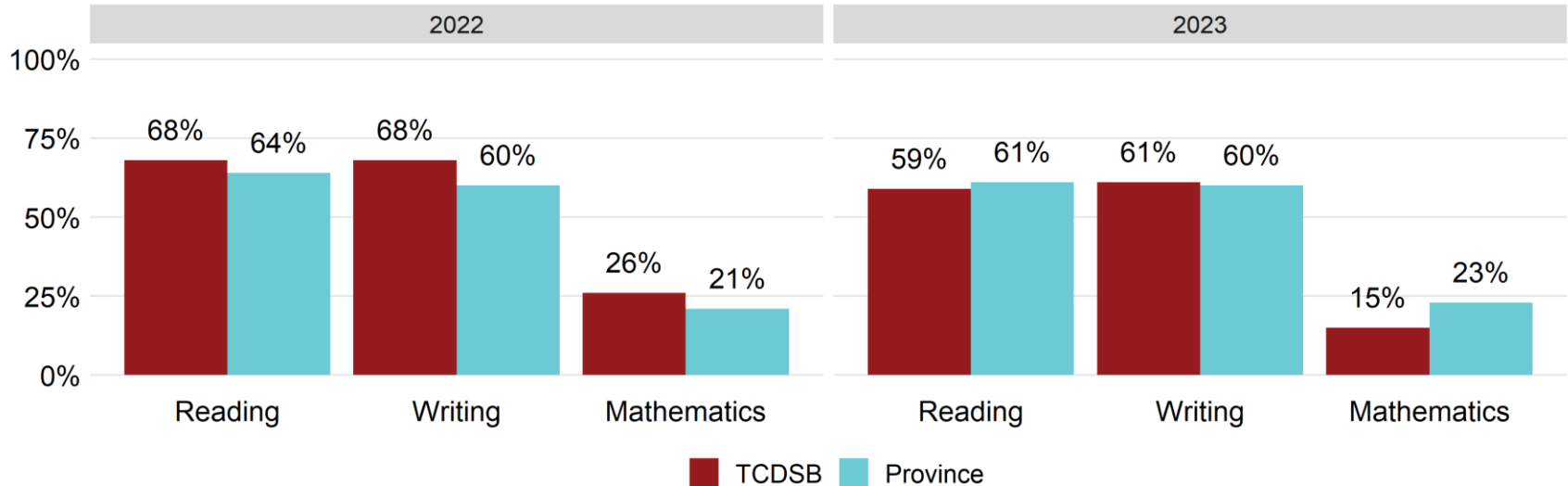
Primary – Exceptionality*

Exceptionality	Year	Org	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Autism	2022	TCDSB	57.6%	47.8%	47.7%
		Province	51.6%	44.3%	41.8%
	2023	TCDSB	54.3%	50.5%	49.0%
		Province	48.4%	44.6%	41.2%
Language Impairment	2022	TCDSB	44.2%	39.5%	30.2%
		Province	32.9%	27.2%	17.1%
	2023	TCDSB	28.2%	48.7%	30.8%
		Province	31.6%	26.4%	17.5%
Learning Disability	2022	TCDSB	70.0%	50.0%	50.0%
		Province	57.8%	45.2%	31.7%
	2023	TCDSB	88.9%	66.7%	66.7%
		Province	54.1%	40.0%	29.7%

Junior – TCDSB Compared to Province

Grade 6 EQAO - Percentage of Students at Level 3-4

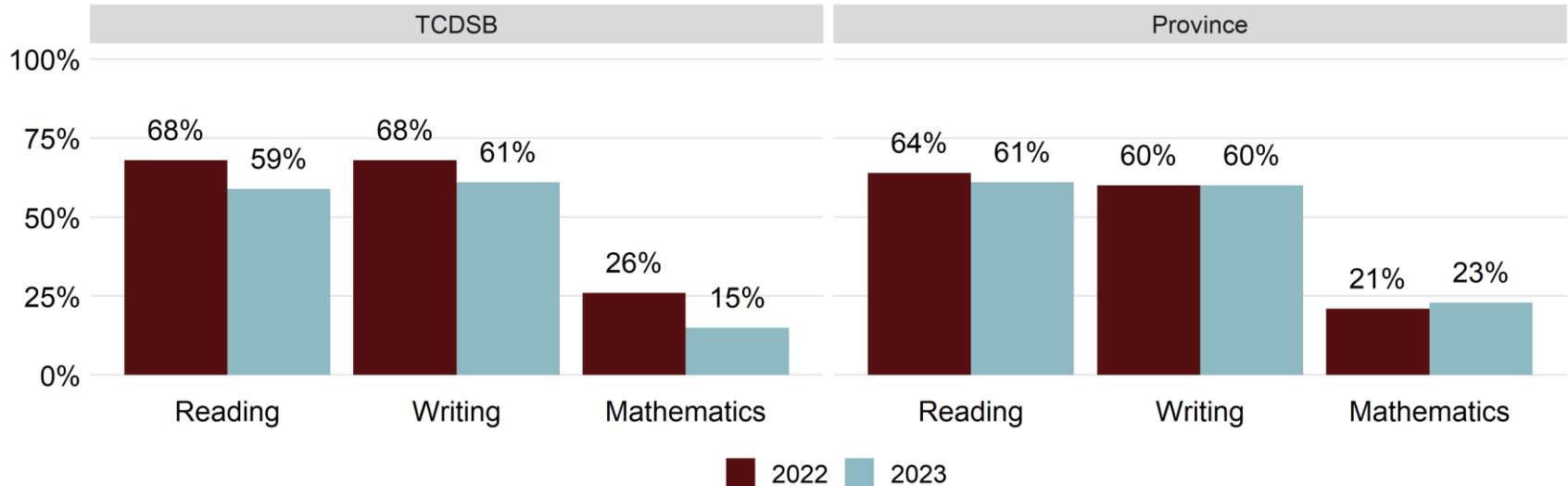
Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



Junior – 2021-2022 Compared to 2022-2023

Grade 6 EQAO - Percentage of Students at Level 3-4

Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



Junior – Exceptionality*

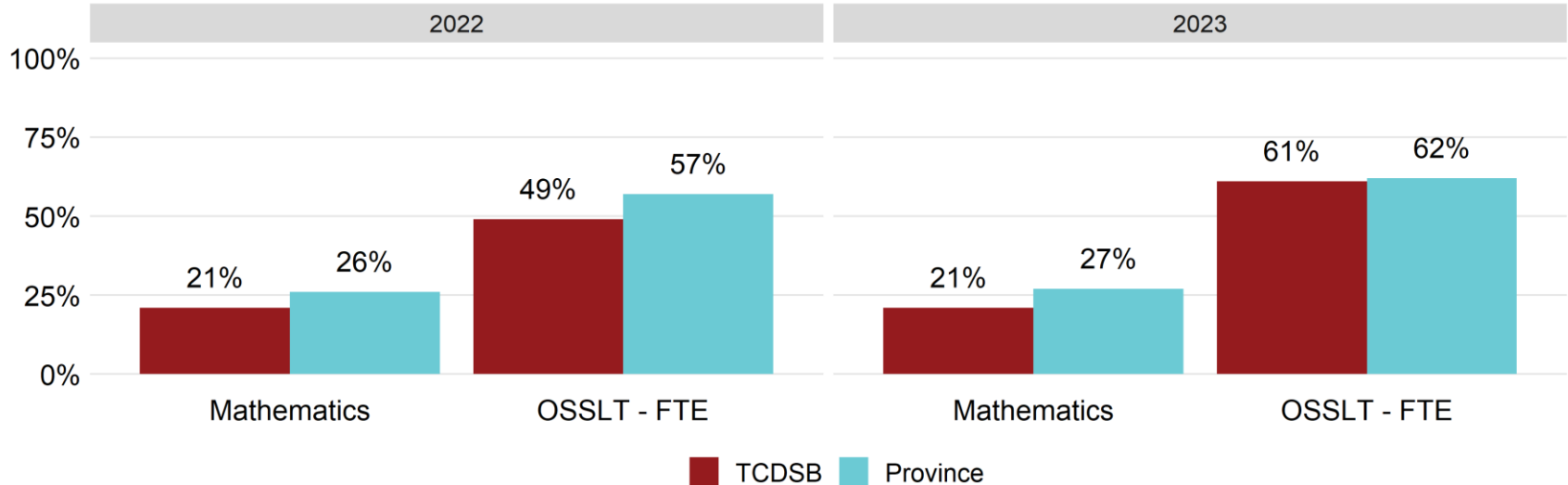
Exceptionality	Year	Org	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Autism	2022	TCDSB	60.8%	60.4%	26.2%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>61.0%</i>	<i>62.0%</i>	<i>30.0%</i>
	2023	TCDSB	56.3%	61.5%	32.7%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>60.9%</i>	<i>62.4%</i>	<i>32.2%</i>
Language Impairment	2022	TCDSB	44.2%	54.0%	6.0%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>45.0%</i>	<i>45.3%</i>	<i>10.1%</i>
	2023	TCDSB	41.9%	61.3%	14.5%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>41.9%</i>	<i>45.4%</i>	<i>9.6%</i>
Learning Disability	2022	TCDSB	60.7%	53.0%	7.8%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>64.0%</i>	<i>56.5%</i>	<i>14.7%</i>
	2023	TCDSB	58.7%	58.7%	19.0%
		<i>Province</i>	<i>60.2%</i>	<i>56.2%</i>	<i>16.0%</i>

Secondary - Number of Students with Special Needs

Assessment	Year	TCDSB	Province
Mathematics	2022	455	11348
	2023	773	22150
OSSLT - FTE	2022	868	22880
	2023	888	23989

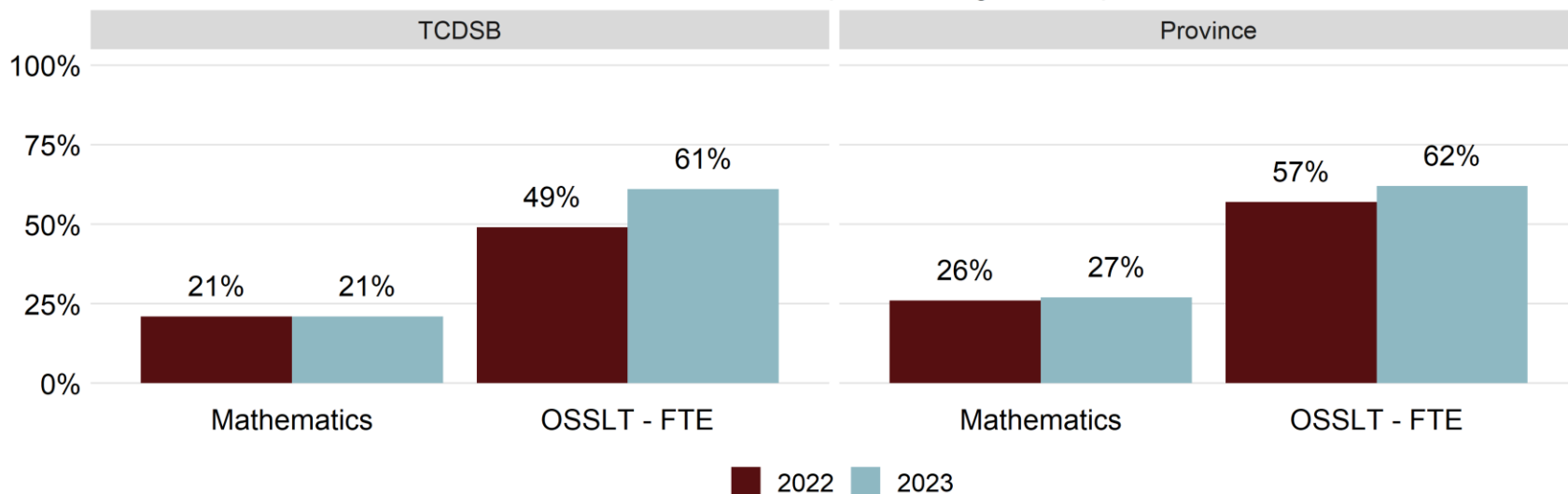
Secondary – TCDSB Compared to Province

Secondary EQAO - Percentage of Students
at Level 3-4/Successful
Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



Secondary – 2021-2022 Compared to 2022-2023

Secondary EQAO - Percentage of Students at Level 3-4/Successful Students with an IEP (Excluding Gifted)



Secondary – Exceptionality*

Exceptionality	Year	Org	G9 Math	OSSLT
Autism	2022	TCDSB	51.7%	57.7%
		<i>Province</i>	46.0%	67.2%
	2023	TCDSB	35.3%	74.6%
		<i>Province</i>	45.2%	70.5%
Language Impairment	2022	TCDSB	15.0%	36.7%
		<i>Province</i>	23.6%	36.5%
	2023	TCDSB	13.3%	44.7%
		<i>Province</i>	15.2%	38.0%
Learning Disability	2022	TCDSB	15.9%	46.5%
		<i>Province</i>	20.0%	53.2%
	2023	TCDSB	18.1%	62.4%
		<i>Province</i>	20.6%	58.2%

How is this data informing our work?

- a) Professional Development
- b) Local School Based Support Learning Teams (SBSLT)
- c) Collaboration with Curriculum Department

Professional Development Areas of Focus

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) System-Wide Professional Development Session
- Differentiated Instruction (DI) System-Wide Professional Development Session
- Individual Education Plan Workshops
- *Equals* Math Resource and Professional Development for Intensive Support Program Special Education Teachers
- Mental Health *Faith and Wellness* resource

Local School Based Support Learning Team (SBSLT)

- Psychology, Speech and Language, Social Work, Assessment and Programming Teachers (APT)/Programming and Assessment Teachers (PAT)
- Central Autism Team
- Building and Nurturing Capacity in Kindergarten (BANCK)
- Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA)

Collaboration with Curriculum Department

- *Empower Reading* Training and support through Psychology Team and Empower Mentors
- *Lexia* reading assessment and license rollout support through Assistive Technology Team in collaboration with Early Reading Facilitators
- EQAO data review with Mathematics team

Thank You!

SEAC Annual Calendar

Month	Annual Activities/Topics	Board Events/Deadlines
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of SEAC Calendar - S.O. Updates - Association Reports (if any) - Develop or review SEAC annual Agenda/Goals - Special Education Plan Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FASD Awareness Day – September 9
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Education Plan Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies o The Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals o Education and Other Assessments o Individual Education Plans (IEP) - Review of SEAC Calendar - S.O. Updates - Association Reports (if any) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autism Awareness (Canada) - Child Abuse Prevention Awareness - Learning Disabilities Awareness - World Mental Health Day (October 10) - EQAO Preliminary Results for Gr. 3 and 6 and OSSLT - Reports on Student Numbers of Elementary and Secondary School Students to be submitted to the Ministry of Education - Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Education Plan Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Roles and Responsibilities o Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities o Provincial and Demonstration schools in Ontario o Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs - Review of SEAC Calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Down Syndrome Awareness (first week) - EQAO Results for Gr. 3, 6, 9 (math), and Gr. 10 (OSSLT) - Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide

SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>Professional Learning Plan</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>ONSIS report on identified students</i> - <i>Year End for School Board Financial Statements</i> - <i>Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)</i>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Board's Consultation Process</i> ○ <i>Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies</i> ○ <i>Special Education Plan Checklist</i> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>SEAC Elections (Inaugural)</i> - <i>SEAC Elections: Chair & vice-Chair (Annual)</i> - <i>SEAC Mass and Social</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3)</i> - <i>Human Rights Day (December 10)</i> - <i>Independent review of assessment and reporting</i>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Board's General Model for Special Education</i> ○ <i>Special Education Placements Provided by the Board</i> - <i>Review of Draft SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>Review of Policy: S.P.01 Special Education Programs and Services (next review January 2023)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Bell Let's Talk Day (late January)</i> - <i>Grade 9 EQAO Testing takes place in Secondary Schools</i> - <i>Long Term Accommodation Program Plan (ongoing)</i>

SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Review of Policy: A.23 Special Education Advisory Committee (next review January 2024)</i> - <i>Priority Budget Setting Discussion (effective January 2020)</i> - <i>Annual Safe Schools Report</i> 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Special Education Staff</i> o <i>Staff Development</i> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>Annual Accessibility Report</i> - <i>Multi-year Accessibility Plan/AODA-Updates</i> - <i>Mental Health Annual Report</i> - <i>AFSS Report: Exceptionality Frameworks-Goals & Outcomes, EQAO Student Achievement Data (for various exceptionalities as appropriate)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Psychology Awareness Month</i> - <i>New term begins in Secondary semestered Schools</i> - <i>Report Cards are distributed (Elementary and Secondary)</i> - <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>The Parents' Guide to Special Education</i> o <i>Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings</i> o <i>The Board's Special Education Advisory Committee</i> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>Safe Schools Committee Update</i> - <i>Mental Health Advisory Council Update</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Easter Seals Awareness Month</i> - <i>World Down Syndrome Day – March 21</i> - <i>National Social Work Week (1st week)</i> - <i>CYW & EA Appreciation Day (first Monday)</i> - <i>Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)</i>

SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Budget Approval Updates</i> 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Multi-Year Accessibility Plan</i> ○ <i>Protocols for Partnership with External Agencies</i> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>Financial Report as at January, 2023 (GSNs)</i> - <i>Graduation Statistics for Students with Special Education Needs Update</i> - <i>Update to Special Education Programs for 2023-2024</i> - <i>Budget Approval Updates</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Autism Awareness Day – April 2</i> - <i>ONSIS report on identified students</i>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Specialized Equipment</i> ○ <i>Special Education Board Improvement and Equity Plan Overview</i> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> - <i>March 31st Special Education student count</i> - <i>Student Grants 2023-2024</i> - <i>PRO Grants Application Update</i> - <i>Budget Approval Updates</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Children’s Mental Health Week (first week)</i> - <i>Speech, Language & Hearing Awareness</i> - <i>Megan’s Walk</i> - <i>Budget Consultation</i> - <i>EQAO Assessment</i>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i> - <i>S.O. Updates</i> - <i>Association Reports (if any)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>World Sickle Cell Day – June 19</i> - <i>National Deaf Blind Awareness</i> - <i>EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Testing</i>

SEAC Annual Calendar

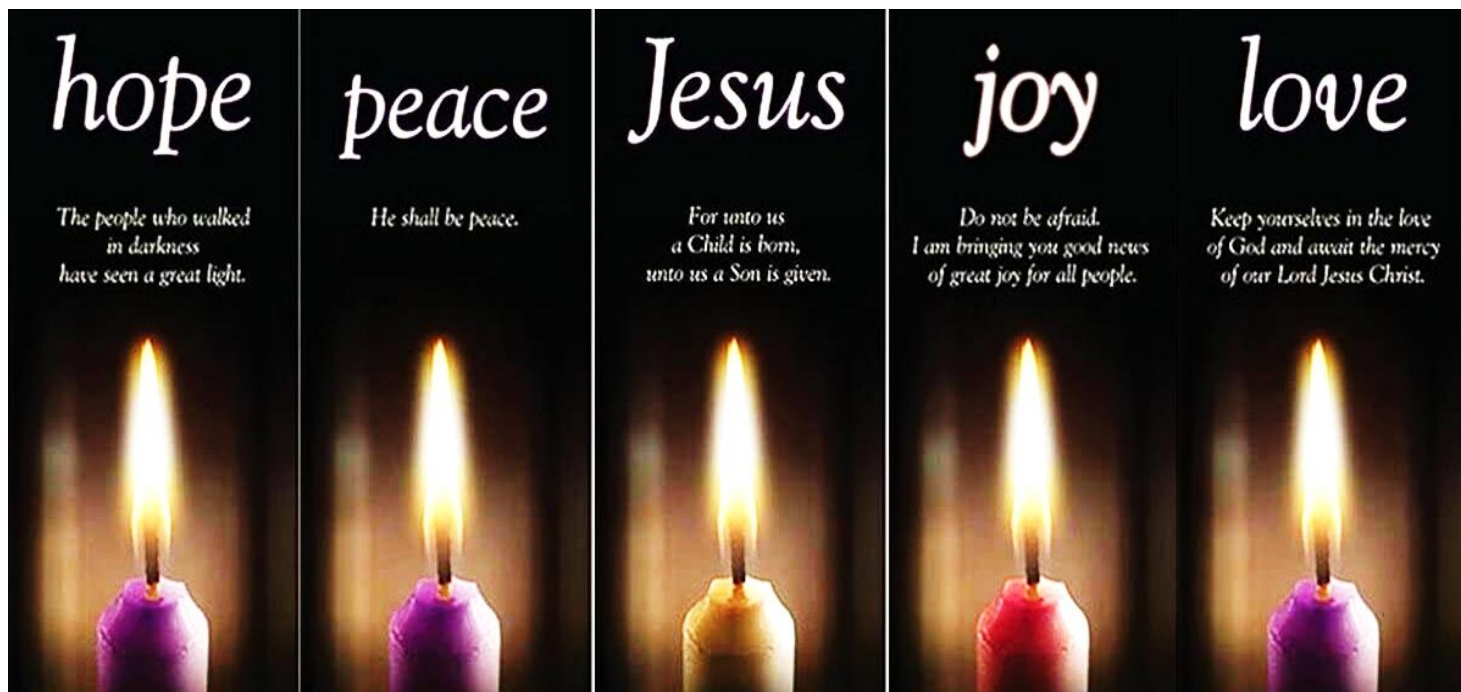
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Budget approval update</i> - <i>Status of PRO Grant application</i> - <i>Develop draft SEAC Goals for next school year</i> 	
July		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>School Board Submits to the Ministry a balanced Budget for the following year</i> - <i>Annual Special Education Plan Checklist and Plan updates to the Ministry of Education</i>
August		



SPECIAL SERVICES

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2023



MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

We have begun facilitating the professional learning sessions for Grade 7/8 Mental Health Literacy modules. We continue to offer these learning sessions to educators to help support the implementation of the Grade 7 & 8 mental health literacy modules this school year. We also provided information about these modules and upcoming learning sessions to all our elementary principals at the recent system-wide principal meeting.

We facilitated New Teacher Induction Program educators a workshop on creating an identity-affirming mentally healthy classroom including resources such as Faith & Wellness classroom resource.

In collaboration with Toronto Public Health, we facilitated our first Mental Health Action Team learning session informing teacher mentors how to recruit student leaders in their schools to implement mental health initiatives. We currently have about 80 elementary and 22 secondary schools participating in this board-wide mental health campaign.

We facilitated a workshop on Nurturing Self-Compassion at the Safe Schools Symposium to 180 elementary and 300 secondary students.

TRANSITION TEAM

On Saturday November 25, 2023 our Transition Team facilitated a Parent/Student workshop entitled, Preparing for Life After High School. The workshop provided information to families of students in our Intensive Support Programs. Invitations to the event were provided directly to families through their local schools.

Members from Surrey Place, Disabilities Services of Ontario (DSO) and the Passport Program also shared valuable supports that are offered for families and students.

The event was well-attended and well-received. Thank you to the members of our Transition Team for their dedication, time, and effort.



PSYCHOLOGY TEAM

Working with our Empower Leads, Psychology has facilitated the delivery of training on the Empower reading intervention to 100 teachers. In collaboration with research, we have collected pre -data to monitor the outcomes for the students who are receiving the Empower program. Post-data collection will occur following program completion. The data collection instrument has not been changed for this school year and is currently being reviewed.

SOCIAL WORK TEAM



The Social Work Team sponsors an Angel Tree at the Catholic Education Centre annually to receive donations to support families in need in our TCDSB communities. This provides an opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the blessings that we each receive while reaching out with compassion to the TCDSB families. We want to remind all of our students and families that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers during this Advent Season and always.



To: TCDSB SEAC

**From: George Wedge,
Easter Seals Ontario Representative
TCDSB SEAC Chair**

Subject: Elected Chair's Alternate Member

MOVED BY: George Wedge, Seconded by:_____

WHEREAS: Any nominated member who represents an association, and is elected to the Chair, cannot fully participate in tabled discussions, or properly and fully represent their association while acting as Chair; and

WHEREAS: The association represented by such Chair may have a nominated Alternate Representative.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to Board to adopt the practice of permitting such Chair's Alternate the full privileges of a full member seat at SEAC meetings where such Chair is fulfilling the Committee Chair Role & Duties.

**George Wedge
TCDSB SEAC Chair
Representative: Easter Seals Ontario**