

# **TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

### **REGULAR MEETING SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

**Marilyn Taylor, Chair**  
Community Representative

**Rosanna Del Grosso**  
Association for Bright Children

**Dario Imbrogno**  
Community Representative

**John MacKenzie**  
FASWorld

**Sandra Mastronardi**  
Autism Ontario

**Ashleigh Molloy, Vice-Chair**  
AAIDD

**Gizelle Paine**  
LD Toronto Chapter Representative

**Mary Pugh**  
VOICE for Hearing Impaired

**Giselle Romanino**  
Community Representative

**Raul Vomisescu**  
Community Living Toronto

**Glenn Webster**  
Ontario Assoc. of Families of Children  
With Communication Disorders

**Recording Secretary: Lalita Fernandes 416-222-8282 Extension 2293**  
**Asst. Recording Secretary: Sophia Harris 416-222-8282 Extension 2298**

In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions,  
our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.

**Angela Gauthier**  
Director of Education

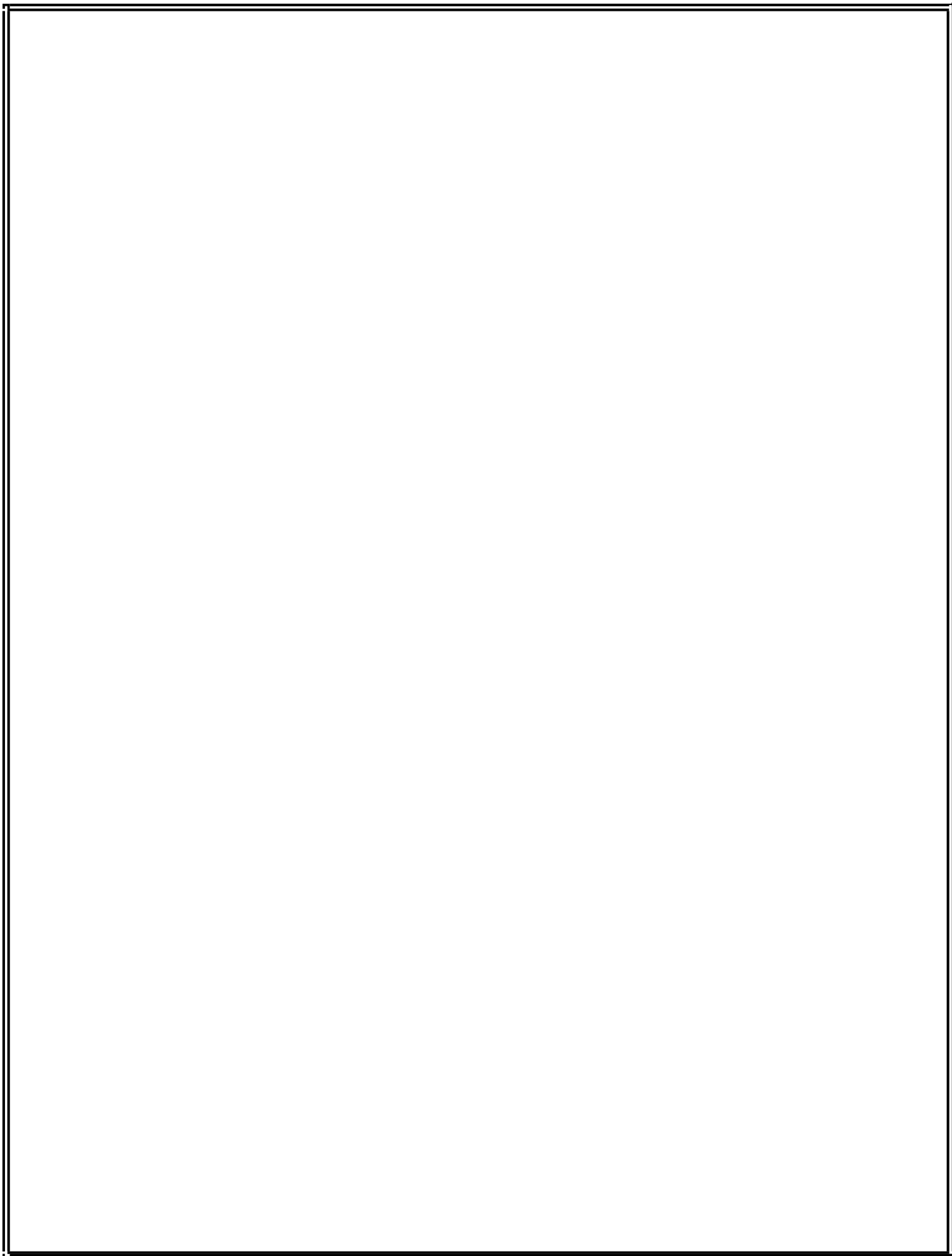
#### **Trustee Members**

**Ann Andrachuk**

**Angela Kennedy**

**Garry Tanuan**





## **OUR MISSION**

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

## **OUR VISION**

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



# **AGENDA THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

7:00 P.M.

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	Pages
1. Roll Call & Apologies	
2. Approval of the Agenda	
3. Declarations of Interest	
4. Approval & Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting held June 1, 2016	1 - 7
5. Delegations	
6. Presentations	
7. Unfinished Business	
7.a Inquiry from Rosanna Del Grosso on the Safe Schools Report	
8. Notices of Matters and Trustee Matters: (for which seventy-two hours' notice has been given)	
9. Communications	
9.a SEAC Monthly Calendar Review	8 - 12
9.b Special Education Superintendent Update September 2016	13 - 14
9.c Special Education Plan Update	15 - 16

- 9.d Letter from Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, in response to Board of Trustees' letter regarding Special Education funding 17 - 18
- 9.e Verbal response regarding EVAC Chairs
- 9.f Early Years: The Kindergarten Program 2016 and Growing Success - The Kindergarten Addendum

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderprogram.html>

- 9.g Ministry Memo from Gabriel Sekaly, Assistant Deputy Minister regarding In-Year Amendments to the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2015-16 and 2016-17 Grants for Student Needs Funding Regulations 19 - 22
10. **Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**
11. **Reports of Officials, and Special and Permanent Committees Requiring Action**
12. **Reports of Officials for Information**
- 12.a Verbal Update on the Safe Schools Report for 2015-2016
- 12.b Verbal Report regarding Assistive Technology
13. **Inquiries and Miscellaneous**
14. **Association Reports**
15. **Update from Trustees on resolutions recommended to the Board by the Committee**
16. **Pending List** 23
17. **Adjournment**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**PRESENT:**

Marilyn Taylor, Chair  
Rosanna Del Grosso  
Sandra Mastronardi  
Ashleigh Molloy  
Glenn Webster  
Dario Imbrogno  
Mary Pugh  
Gizelle Paine  
Raul Vomisescu

Trustees A. Andrachuk  
G. Tanuan  
A. Kennedy

G. Poole  
C. Fernandes  
A. Coke  
M. Kokai  
J. Wilhelm  
D. Reid  
P. Stachiw  
E. Szekeres Milne

L. Fernandes, Recording Secretary  
S. Harris, Assistant Recording Secretary

Apologies were received from John MacKenzie and Giselle Romanino who were unable to attend the meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Mary Pugh, that the agenda be reopened to include a video on the Mini Olympics.

CARRIED

MOVED by Ashleigh Molloy, seconded by Trustee Andrachuk, that the agenda be reopened to include a video on AAIDD.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 11, 2016 be approved with the following amendments:

1. To include a memorial expressed for the father of Gillian Vivona, President, TSU, who passed away
2. Page 6 - To include “arising out of an inquiry” before ... that staff keep SEAC apprised...
3. To remove “Written” from the Association Report from John MacKenzie and that it be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of SEAC.

CARRIED

MOVED by Mary Pugh, seconded by Gizelle Paine, that the video presentation by Trustee Andrachuk regarding the Mini Olympics be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the video presentation by Ashleigh Molloy regarding AAIDD be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the inquiry from Rosanna Del Grosso on the Safe School Report be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the Review of the SEAC Calendar and SEAC Goal Setting be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that a report come back on the number of students that met the criteria for the Empower programme and were not accepted.

With the consent of the Committee, Sandra Mastronardi withdrew her motion.

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the Monthly Update from the Superintendent of Special Services be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Trustee Andrachuk, that the Report regarding the Secondary School Course Calendar 2016-2017 be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that staff bring back a report in January 2017 on the success of the Lexia programme, the number of students involved, and the length of time they have spent before they see results.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that:

1. the pending list include a parents/students survey on when students enter the Gifted Programme and when they leave
2. a sample of the survey be brought back to the Committee for review
3. staff look at expanding the data provided on Students Identified with Giftedness Congregated vs Withdrawal Analyses and Grade 6 EQAO Results to include the Gifted students in the regular stream and expand the learning skills
4. staff bring back a report on the number of applicants who applied to the Congregated programme but were not accepted

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that staff consider all items discussed and include them in a report to be brought back to SEAC, looking at students identified as gifted but not going into the programme and how they are doing in comparison with the students who are in the programme.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Trustee Andrachuk, that the Secondary School Course Calendar 2016-2017 be received.

CARRIED



MOVED by Gizelle Paine, seconded by Ashley Molloy, that the Report regarding TCDSB K-12 Professional Development Schedule 2015-2016 be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Dario Imbrogno, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the Report regarding Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 2016 report be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Dario Imbrogno, seconded by Ashely Molloy, that the Report regarding Gifted Summary – Congregated vs Withdrawal, May 2016 be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Gizelle Paine, seconded by Glenn Webster, that the Report regarding Special Equipment Amount be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that the Verbal Report on the number of students with IEPs that have mental health issues be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Tanuan, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Verbal Communication via Board email be received and that Minutes be sent to the Board email addresses. Staff to resend the activation email to Committee members.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Trustee Tanuan,, that the Report regarding Special Education Funding Guidelines – SEA 2016-2017 - be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Report regarding Association Minority Report June 1, 2016 – Autism Ontario - be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Trustee Andrachuk, that SEAC establish a sub-committee to work on the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant, which will report to SEAC. Sandra Mastronardi and Gizelle Paine volunteered to sit on the sub-committee.

CARRIED

MOVED by Ashley Molloy, seconded by Glenn Webster, that the Ministry of Education letter regarding funding for hearing and vision testing be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Dario Imbrogno, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR



Draft Annual Calendar of SEAC Business for 2016			
Month	Annual Activities/Topics	Board Events/Deadlines	Items from Pending List
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review of Draft SEAC Calendar</li> <li>-Set SEAC goals for the year</li> <li>-Discussion regarding training session for SEAC members</li> <li>-Develop SEAC Orientation Manual</li> <li>-Safe Schools Inquiry Report</li> <li>-Response to Special Education Audit Summary (RIAT) of June 2015 (Tabled at Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016)</li> <li>-Response to Inquiries of the Special Education Advisory Committee of November 11, 2015 (tabled at Board on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015)</li> <li>-Consult on Special Education Program and Services changes being considered for 2016-17 (Reviewed update to <b><i>Parent Guide to Special Education</i></b>)</li> <li>-Consult on Multi-Year Strategic Plan</li> <li>-April Parent Fair – Call for participants from Associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Consultation</li> <li>-Safe Schools Inquiry Report</li> <li>-Financial Consultation regarding 2016-17 (high level)</li> <li>- Grade 9 EQAO Testing takes place in Secondary Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Staff to come back with information on who currently provides funding for Hushh-ups (Nov, 2015)</li> <li>-Director of education to advise on appropriate process for SEAC membership on mental health and safe schools committee</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>-Financial Update regarding previous year and upcoming year</li> <li>-Review proposed changes to Preliminary Special Education Program and Services</li> <li>-Mental Health and Well Being Report 2014-15 (Tabled at Student Achievement January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016)</li> <li>-TCDSB Mental Health and Well Being Strategy 2015-18 (Tabled at Student Achievement January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Consultation regarding Multi-Year Recovery Plan</li> <li>-Consultation regarding potential input on Special Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Staff to provide a presentation through the financial department in early January regarding the Deloitte report, prior to the Ministry deadline</li> <li>-Staff to investigate if the Board's website has the ability of voice over read back</li> <li>- Bring the Accountability Framework SE Criteria to the next SEAC Meeting (moved up from March)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accountability Framework for Special Education 2015-16 (Part 1) (tabled at Student Achievement February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016)</li> <li>- Special Education Plan: Review Program Specific Resources for Parents</li> </ul>		-Staff were directed to come back in February with a presentation from the Conflict Resolution Department on how they handle conflicts regarding Special Needs (defer to April 2016)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>-Continue consultation on Special Education Programs and Services for 2016-17</li> <li>-Update on ODA Accessibility Plan</li> <li>-Association Presentation: LDAO presentation to SEAC</li> </ul>	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) takes place	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- Budget Consultation</li> <li>- Continue Consultation on Elements of the Accountability Framework for Special Education 2015-16 (Part 2)</li> <li>-Special Education Plan: ISP placement Criteria - <i>deferred from March 2016</i></li> <li>- Special Education Model in High Schools (from Pending List) - <i>deferred from March 2016</i></li> <li>-Association Presentation: Community Living</li> </ul>	Autism Awareness Month Parent Resources Event	<p>Deferred from March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Staff to provide a report that outlines Special Education Model and the operating function of the resource room for each secondary school in the TCDSB. The statement 'operating function' to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What staff is operating the resource room if it is open</li> <li>2. How are students that require withdrawal assistance being accommodated if the resource is closed</li> <li>3. Caseload breakdown of IEP student to monitoring and/or resource teacher per period</li> <li>4) Process in which IEP is prepared</li> <li>5. Process in which the IEP is monitored/applied if resource room staffing and accommodations are not available</li> </ol> </li> <li>- Bring the Accountability Framework SE Criteria to the next SEAC Meeting (moved to February and to be brought back again in March)</li> </ul>

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>-Consultation on Special Education Report</li> <li>-Annual Report: Conflict Resolution Department Services</li> <li>- Secondary School Course Calendar 2016-17 <a href="https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253_TCDSB_Course_Calendar_2016.pdf">https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253_TCDSB_Course_Calendar_2016.pdf</a></li> <li>- Accountability Framework for Special Education 2015-16 (Part 2- Final)</li> <li>- Update on Parent Fair through SO report</li> <li>- Policy A23</li> <li>- Professional Learning Plan 2015-16</li> </ul> <p>Deferred: From Rosanna Del Grosso on the Safe Schools Report</p>	Budget Consultation continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Staff were directed to come back in February with a presentation from the Conflict Resolution Department on how they handle conflicts regarding Special Needs (deferred from February 2016)</li> <li>- Bring back to SEAC the secondary school course calendar of Program and services</li> <li>- Staff to advise SEAC if Policy A23, the policy on SEAC had been aligned with the Ministry Regulation</li> <li>- Regarding the request to report in the Accountability Framework an analysis of student achievement in relation to the one day withdrawal gifted program vs. the congregated gifted program.</li> <li>- Staff provide SEAC with the 2015/2016 Professional Development schedule</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>• Monthly Update from the Superintendent of Special Services</li> <li>• Staff provide SEAC with the TCDSB 2015/2016 Professional Development schedule</li> <li>• Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Resources</li> <li>• Report on the analysis of student achievement in relation to the one day withdrawal gifted program vs. the congregated gifted program.</li> <li>• Regarding the request to report back on number of students with IEPs that have Mental Health issues.</li> <li>• Communication via Board Email</li> <li>• Secondary School Course Calendar 2016-17 <a href="https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253_TCDSB_Course_Calendar_2016.pdf">https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253_TCDSB_Course_Calendar_2016.pdf</a></li> </ul>	EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff to come back with a report on the roles and responsibility of staff and the role of the parent and the Ministry requirement for SEA equipment. (June 2016)</li> <li>-Staff to provide Seac with information specific to what topics are being inserviced on PD Days and the rationale for planning PD days besides Ministry directives. (may 2016)</li> <li>-Regarding the request to report back on number of students with IEPs that have Mental Health issues.</li> </ul>

July		School Board Submits balanced Budget for the following year to the Ministry	
August		Year End for School Board Financial Statements	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review Special Education Report submitted to Regional Office (Sept 1)</li> <li>- Communication regarding reorganization of the Central Departments</li> <li>-Review school board accessibility Plans</li> <li>-Develop or review SEAC annual Agenda/Goals</li> </ul>	Special Education Report Checklist submitted to the Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Update to the A23 Policy to reflect Ministry definitions for identifications (September 2016- moved to October2016)</li> <li>-Update to Parent Guide (September 2016 Moved to Oct. 2016)</li> <li>- Staff to consider increasing Empower in high schools when the budget is balanced and the accumulated deficit is eliminated and bring it back to SEAC (Pending balanced budget –Date Unknown)</li> <li>-Letter from SEAC to coterminous boards inviting them to advocate for additional Special Education funding (moved to October 2016)</li> <li>-Investigate if EVAC chairs should be purchased and whether they should be covered by SEA funds (September 2016 - complete)</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review Special Education component of Draft Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement</li> <li>-Share inform process for nomination of new SEAC members</li> <li>-Develop process for review of next year's Special Education Report</li> <li>-Review EQAO results including deferrals, exemptions, participation rates, and accommodations provided for Special Ed. Students and Achievement levels</li> <li>-Develop orientation process for new SEAC reps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Board Improvement Plan Submitted to the Ministry of Education</li> <li>-EQAO Results for Gr. 3 and 6 Received</li> <li>-Reports on Student Numbers of Elementary and Secondary School Students to be submitted the Ministry of Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Update to the A23 Policy to reflect Ministry definitions for identifications (September 2016- moved to October2016)</li> <li>-Update to Parent Guide (September 2016 –Moved to Oct. 2016)</li> <li>- Staff to consider increasing Empower in high schools when the budget is balanced and the accumulated deficit is eliminated and bring it back to SEAC (Pending balanced budget –Date Unknown)</li> </ul>

			<p>-Letter from SEAC to coterminous boards inviting them to advocate for additional Special Education funding (moved to October 2016)</p> <p>-Report on information for the last five years on the number of students that were served through Speech and Language Services and the number of students on the waiting list each year be gathered in a report, and that the report be maintained as an Addendum until the new Special Education strategy is in place. (September 2016 moved to October 2016)</p>
November	<p>-Review October Report Data</p> <p>-Continue to Review Special Education Plan</p>		
December	<p>-SEAC Elections</p> <p>-SEAC Social</p>		



# Special Education Superintendent Update

## September 2016



### WELCOME BACK CEREMONY

On Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 all the Special Education Chiefs met with the Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech Language Pathologists and some teaching staff to kick off the year. The focus of the day was on welcoming new staff and providing them a vision for working with students and schools.

It was a great pleasure to have Sam Forbes, grade 12 student from Marshall McLuhan, who attended and engaged staff with a thought provoking and inspirational talk. Sam Forbes also appeared as a guest on the Ellen Degeneres show this past spring and was dubbed the “Dancing Barista”.


### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TEAM

This year we have hired three secondary teachers to assist in delivering training for students, teachers and parents with respect to technology acquired through SEA claims. These teachers will work in coordination with our existing trainers to support students and staff.

This team will work towards building capacity amongst staff to access and use technology in a fluent manner within the classrooms.



2016-17 Special Education Plan Checklist  
Please submit to your regional office by July 29, 2016

District School Board/School Authority: <i>Toronto Catholic District SB</i>		
	<b>Report on the provision of Special Education Programs and Services 2015-16</b>	<b>Amendments to the 2016-17 Special Education Plan</b>
<b>Compliance with the <i>Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans (2000)</i></b>		
<b>Special Education Programs and Services</b>		
Model for Special Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Education Placements Provided by the Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Education Plans (IEP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Education Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specialized Equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Provincial Information</b>		
Roles and Responsibilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other Related Information Required for Community</b>		
The Board's Consultation Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational and Other Assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility (AODA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent Guide to Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Where programs and services have not been provided as outlined in the 2015-16 Special Education Plan, please provide a description of the variance:</b></p> <p><i>Sp. Education Staff - reduction of support staff &amp; teaching staff reduction of Program Coordinators &amp; Contract C.Y.W.s.</i></p> <p><i>Parent Guide to Sp Education will be updated to reflect current board vision</i></p>		

<b>Additional Information:</b>	
Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals (PPM 149) posted on school board website.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special education is included in our ongoing self-improvement with respect to the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Document:</b>	<b>Format:</b>	<b>Please indicate the URL of the document on your website (if applicable)</b>
Special Education Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic file <input type="checkbox"/> Paper copy	
Parent Guide to Special Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic file	
Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals (PPM 149)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic file	

Name of the Director of Education  <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 10px 0;">Angela Gauthier</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           Signature of the Director of Education             _____         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           Date             _____         </div> </div>	
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Ministry of Education  
Minister  
Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation  
Ministre  
Edifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ontario

August 24, 2016

Ms. Angela Kennedy  
Chair of the Board  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
80 Sheppard Avenue East  
Toronto ON M2N 6E8

- A- << -  
Dear Ms. Kennedy,

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 2016, originally addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Liz Sandals, on behalf of the Toronto Catholic District School Board about special education funding. Please know that your sincere commitment to students with special education needs is appreciated, and I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to ensuring that every student has access to the supports they need to succeed in school, including students with special education needs. We are making changes to be more responsive to the needs of all students and to increase our focus on supporting their achievement and well-being.

The Ministry of Education provides Ontario's 72 publicly-funded district school boards with additional funding through the Special Education Grant (SEG) for students with special education needs to support the incremental costs of the additional programs, services, and equipment required to meet their educational needs and to support positive outcomes. This enables equity for all students with special education needs.

Special Education Grant funding is incremental to the Foundation Grants and other special purpose grants of our ministry's education funding model, the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). School boards have the authority and flexibility to use other GSN funding, as well as the Special Education Grant SEG, to meet their responsibility to support students with special education needs.

The SEG is projected to increase to approximately \$2.76 billion in 2016-17. This represents an increase of approximately \$43.2 million or 1.6 per cent over 2015-16; and \$1.14 billion or 70 per cent since 2002-03.

In the case of Toronto Catholic District School Board, its total Special Education Grant funding allocation is projected to be nearly \$121.2 million in 2016-17. This represents an increase of nearly \$42.4 million or 53.8 per cent since 2002-03.

.../2

As you know, the new DSENA allocation (formerly the High Needs Amount) was introduced in 2014-15 to better reflect the variation among boards with respect to students with special education needs, and boards' ability to meet these needs, thus making the DSENA allocation more fair and equitable.

The new DSENA allocation uses three components to reflect this variation: the Measures of Variability, the Special Education Statistical Prediction Model and a Base Amount for Collaboration and Integration. Similar to the geographic adjustment factor that accounts for variations in need for capital construction, the Special Education Statistical Prediction Model estimates the likelihood of students in a school board needing special education programs and/or services. The model does this by taking into account neighbourhood profiles *for* students across Ontario in each school board, and considering long form census factors, such as parent level of education, family income, unemployment and recent immigration to Canada.

Ministry staff have been consulting with stakeholders on the evolution of the DSENA allocation, including meeting with the Special Education Funding Working Group since 2008, and we will continue to work with stakeholders on the evolution of the DSENA funding allocation over the 2016-17 school year.

While this transition to a more fair and equitable DSENA model is provincially fiscally neutral, it will have redistributional impacts among boards, such as the Toronto Catholic District School Board. To mitigate this impact the new DSENA model is being phased in over four years (2014-15 to 2017-18), and despite projected enrolment declines the ministry is holding the provincial DSENA total allocation at \$1.05 billion over the four year transition.

Thank you for writing to share your concerns and recommendations with me. Please be assured that I understand your concerns, and will keep them in mind as we move forward. I trust this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister

**Ministry of Education**

**Office of the ADM**

Financial Policy and Business Division  
900 Bay Street  
20th Floor, Mowat Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

**Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint**

Division des politiques financières et des  
opérations  
900, rue Bay  
20<sup>e</sup> étage, Édifice Mowat  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**2016: B14**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Gabriel F. Sékaly  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Financial Policy and Business Division

**DATE:** **August 12, 2016**

**SUBJECT:** **In-Year Amendments to the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 Grants for Student Needs Funding Regulations**

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I am writing to inform you of the in-year amendments to education funding regulations that have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These amendments make changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years, and are effective immediately.

These amendments will:

- Provide school boards with recently announced School Renewal Allocations, School Condition Improvement, Capital Priorities Grants, School Consolidation Capital, Child Care Capital, Full Day Kindergarten and Capital Priorities Land funding to allow school boards to build new schools to address growth; to consolidate schools through renovations, retrofits and new additions; repair and maintain schools; build new child care spaces in new schools; address full day kindergarten capital funding needs; and support land purchases.

- Make other technical amendments which correct language or tabled amounts in the existing regulations to ensure they are up to date with the existing policy direction. This includes updates to capital funding tables to reflect additional approvals to allow previously approved projects to proceed to construction completion as applicable.

## **School Renewal Investment and School Condition Improvement**

In July 2016, the Government announced an additional \$1.1 billion in renewal funding to school boards for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years to keep schools in a state of good repair. This additional renewal funding responds to the school renewal backlog identified through the Ministry's Condition Assessment Program and the ongoing need to conduct regular maintenance and repairs in schools. This funding is intended to allow boards the opportunity to supplement their existing school renewal activities this summer and address critical building needs that may have otherwise been deferred.

An amendment to the 2015-16 GSN regulation updates School Renewal Investment funding provided under *Table 24.1 – Amount for School Renewal Amounts*. This update reflects the approved capital spending authority for boards for School Renewal Amounts, and corresponding language to introduce the new table. Also, an amendment to the 2015-16 GSN regulation updates School Condition Improvement (SCI) funding provided under *Table 29 – Amount for School Condition Improvement*. This update reflects the approved capital spending authority for boards for SCI.

## **Entitlement for Consolidated Capital, Capital Priorities Grants and Capital Priority Land**

Entitlement for Consolidated Capital, Capital Priorities Grants (CPG/SCC) and Capital Priorities Land funding updates reflect newly approved capital priorities, school consolidation capital and capital land funding projects. These amendments reflect previous funding approvals and will enable school boards to begin planning and construction of approved school consolidation capital priorities projects, including building or purchasing schools, building additions, undertaking major retrofits/renovations to existing schools, and/or purchasing land.

## **Full Day Kindergarten**

Amendments to the 2015-16 and 2016-16 GSN regulations updates FDK capital funding provided under *Tables 31 and 35 – Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Accommodation Maximum Amount*. This update reflects the approved capital spending authority for boards for Full Day Kindergarten.



## **New Child Care Capital**

These amendments include new funding for each approved project under the 2015: B11 memoranda, “Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care” released on May 26, 2015. These amendments ensure that the 2015-16 GSN funding regulation fully reflects the new funding allocations by projects and includes the expected number of child care rooms and spaces to be achieved.

### **Amendments**

1. O. Reg. 160/11, Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2011-12 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2011-12 Table 27.1 (Entitlement for Consolidated Capital Programs)
2. O. Reg. 136/12, “Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2012-13 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2012-13 – Table 25.2 (Capital Priorities Grants)
3. O. Reg. 120/13, “Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2013-14 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2013-14 – Table 27.0.1 (Capital Priorities Grants)
4. O. Reg. 76/14, “Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2014-15 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2014-15 – Table 25.2 (Capital Priorities Grants)
  - GSN 2014-15 – Table 25.3 (Capital Priorities Land)
5. O. Reg. 195/15, “Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2015-16 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 24.1 (School Renewal Investment)
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 29 (School Condition Improvement)
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 30.1 (Capital Priorities Grants)
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 30.2 (Capital Priorities Land Table)
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 30.3 (Child Care Capital Grants Table)
  - GSN 2015-16 – Table 31 (Full Day Kindergarten Grants)
6. O. Reg. 215/16 “Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2016-17 School Board Fiscal Year” under the Education Act
  - GSN 2016-17 – Table 35 (Full Day Kindergarten Grants)

If you require further information about these changes, please contact:

Branch	Contact	Telephone & E-Mail
Capital Funding	Grant Osborn	(416) 325-1705 <a href="mailto:grant.osborn@ontario.ca">grant.osborn@ontario.ca</a>
Early Years Policy	Julia Danos	(416) 314-8192 <a href="mailto:julia.danos@ontario.ca">julia.danos@ontario.ca</a>

*Original signed by:*

Gabriel F. Sékaly  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Financial Policy and Business Division

cc: Superintendents of Business and Finance

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AS AT SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

1. Report on information for the last five years on the number of students that were served through Speech and Language Services and the number of students on the waiting list each year be gathered in a report, and that the report be maintained as an Addendum until the new Special Education strategy is in place. (October 2016).
2. Update to the A23 Policy to reflect Ministry definitions for identifications (October 2016).
3. Update to Parent Guide (October 2016)
4. Letter from SEAC to coterminous boards inviting them to advocate for additional Special Education funding
5. Staff to consider increasing Empower in high schools when the budget is balanced and the accumulated deficit is eliminated and bring it back to SEAC (Pending balanced budget –Date Unknown)
6. Report in January 2017 on the success of the Lexia programme, the number of students involved, and the length of time they have spent before they see results.
7. Parents/students survey on when students enter the Gifted Programme and when they leave. A sample of the survey be brought back to the Committee for review
8. Staff to look at expanding the data provided on Students Identified with Giftedness Congregated vs Withdrawal Analyses and Grade 6 EQAO Results to include the Gifted students in the regular stream and expand the learning skills
9. Report on the number of applicants who applied to the Congregated programme but were not accepted.
10. Report regarding students identified as gifted but not going into the programme and how they are doing in comparison with the students who are in the programme.