

## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

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



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

**HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

## **PRESENT:**

### **External**

**Members:** Ashleigh Molloy, Chair  
Sandra Mastronardi, Vice-Chair  
Melanie Battaglia  
Tyler Munro  
Glenn Webster  
George Wedge

**Trustees:** N. Crawford  
D. Di Giorgio  
A. Kennedy – via Teleconference

**Staff:** D. Koenig  
L. Maselli-Jackman  
V. Cocco  
R. Macchia  
J. Mirabella  
D. Reid

S. Harris, Recording Secretary  
S. Tomaz, Assistant Recording Secretary

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

The meeting commenced with Sandra Mastronardi as Chair.

**1. Roll Call & Apologies**

Apologies were extended on behalf of Lori Mastrogiuseppe, Gizelle Paine and Mary Pugh.

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Trustee Crawford.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by George Wedge, that the Agenda, as amended to reorder Item 9j) Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Freedom of Information Request (FOIR) Exclusions prior to Item 9a) SEAC Monthly Calendar Review; include Items 13c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Budget; 13d) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the March 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting; and 13e) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Physically Disabled Students Identified in the Accountability Framework, be approved.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi reassumed the Chair.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

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

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 23, 2019 for PUBLIC Session be approved.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**6. Presentations**

MOVED by Glenn Webster, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 6a) be adopted as follows:

- 6a) Presentation from Alasdair Robertson, Parliamentarian, regarding January 23, 2019 Post-Meeting Review received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 6b) be adopted as follows:

- 6b) Presentation from George Wedge regarding Recognition of March as Easter Seals Month received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**(NB: Items 6a) and 6b) were verbally added to the Agenda during the meeting)**

**7. Unfinished Business**

From the SEAC Meeting Held on January 23, 2019

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 7a) be adopted as follows:

- 7a) A Policy Primer – Ontario Human Rights Commission – Guide to Developing Human Rights Policies and Procedures** that this Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC Meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 7b) be adopted as follows:

- 7b) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Change of Placement Decisions:**

**How long does the Board expect a Principal and Teaching Staff to make efforts to accommodate a child in a regular class before starting the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) to move the Student to the appropriate program?** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Ashleigh Molloy.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7c) be adopted as follows:

- 7c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Equity Plan** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi requested that Item 7d) be withdrawn.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7d) be adopted as follows:

- 7d) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Annual Accessibility Report 2018** that this Item be withdrawn.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7e) be adopted as follows:

- 7e) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Professional Development Focus on Behavior Programs** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7f) be adopted as follows:

- 7f) Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes and Agendas to Trustees received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7g) be adopted as follows:

- 7g) Catholic Teachers Association – Pilot Project: Faith & Wellness received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7h) be adopted as follows:

- 7h) Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7i) be adopted as follows:

- 7i) Easter Seals Web announcement: Statement on the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) – Easter Seals Canada – December 3, 2018** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7j) be adopted as follows:

- 7j) Autism Ontario 2019 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by George Wedge, seconded by Glenn Webster, that the materials be added to the Minutes to the Board.

On the vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

**9. Communications**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9j) be adopted as follows:

**9j) Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Freedom of Information (FOIR) Exclusions received.**

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that the Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC meeting at which time the proposed attached motions should be discussed.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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

**9a) SEAC Monthly Calendar Review received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 9b) be adopted as follows:

**9b) Special Services Superintendent Update received.**



On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9c) be adopted as follows:

- 9c) Verbal Update regarding Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Claims received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9d) be adopted as follows:

- 9d) Verbal Update regarding Feedback on the Special Education Fair held February 2, 2019 that SEAC recommend to Board that the Special Services Resource Fair be held in November 2019 and that SEAC members be available to assist.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9e) be adopted as follows:

- 9e) Post-21 Transition Fair at Bishop Marrocco / Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 9f) be adopted as follows:

- 9f) Service Animal Protocol – Consultation Draft received**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 9g) be adopted as follows:

- 9g) Verbal Update regarding Cancellation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Presentation at the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on March 1, 2019 received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 9h) be adopted as follows:

- 9h) Verbal update regarding Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Reporting Denominator Teleconference received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Glenn Webster, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9i) be adopted as follows:

- 9i) Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAAC) Handbook on Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**10. Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 10a) be adopted as follows:

- 10a) SEAC Motions Received by Board and referred to Staff for a Report received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 10b) be adopted as follows:

- 10b) Annual Report on the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35)** that this Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**13. Inquiries and Miscellaneous**

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

- 13a) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding SEAC Motions:**

**The process where SEAC motions and requests are captured, listed and monitored on the SEAC agenda until their disposition; The process used to list SEAC motions and recommendations on the Board meeting Public Agenda received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 13b) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding the new TCDSB Equity Plan being posted on the Board website noted.**

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 13c) be adopted as follows:

- 13c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Budget** that SEAC recommend to Board that staff provide SEAC with a detailed and comprehensive special education “booklet” which includes and provides an overview with details of TCDSB operational revenues, instructional and non-instructional operation expenditures in relation to special education.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 13d) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the March 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting noted.**

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 13e) be adopted as follows:

- 13e) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Physically Disabled Students Identified in the Accountability Framework** that SEAC recommend to Board that the number of students with physical disability either as their primary or secondary exceptionality be identified.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**14. Association Reports**

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 14a) be adopted as follows:

- 14a) Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC February Circular** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 14b) be adopted as follows:

- 14b) Path 2 Work from JVS Toronto – Employment Program for Adults Eighteen (18) Years of Age or Older with Developmental Disabilities** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 14c) be adopted as follows:

- 14c) Autism Ontario – News Release February 9, 2019 and February 12, 2019:**

- 1. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services announces plan to clear Ontario Autism Program wait-lists; and**
- 2. Statement from Autism Ontario** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that SEAC recommend to Board that a letter be written to the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services relating to this particular concern, and that the draft letter be reviewed by SEAC prior to submission.

On the Vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

**17. Adjournment**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR



**Toronto Catholic District School Board Freedom Of Information Request (FOIR) Exclusions**

Freedom of Information Request dated March 10, 2016 ("FOIR") that lists 21 Exclusions over a multi-year period: 1 in 2013, 4 in 2014, 10 in 2015 and 6 in the first 2 months of 2016. When analyzing those years, we see a clear and rapid trend upward in the use of Exclusions.

a) regarding the enclosed FOIR, that SEAC recommend to Board that staff be asked to provide to SEAC a copy of the template letter created for school principals to adapt and send to parents/guardians in cases where section 265(1)(m) of the Education Act has been invoked;

b) regarding the enclosed FOIR listing exclusions from December 2013 to and including February 2016, that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to whether the exclusions listed were documented as "safety" exclusions or "disciplinary" exclusions, in light of page 5 of the Report, excerpted below:

*"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 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).*

c) regarding the enclosed FOIR listing exclusions from December 2013 to and including February 2016, that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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;

d) regarding the enclosed FOIR, that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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 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;

e) regarding the enclosed FOIR, that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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 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;

f) that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC the number of students excluded from March 2016 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;

g) that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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 and if so, to provide a copy of the web page;

h) that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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

i) that SEAC recommend to Board that staff inquire and report back to SEAC as to 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, ie how many hours of academic instruction per day.

Thank you.

Melanie Battaglia

SEAC Community Representative