

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

PRESENT: Marilyn Taylor, Chair
Rosanna Del Grosso
Dario Imbrogno
John MacKenzie
Sandra Mastronardi
Ashleigh Molloy
Giselle Romanino
Raul Vomisescu
Glenn Webster

Staff Present Trustee G. Tanuan, Vice-Chair
Trustee A. Kennedy

F. Piddisi
Maria Kokai
A. Coke
L. Maselli-Jackman
J. Wilhelm
S. Menary
D. Reid
R. Macchia
A.M. Cassin

G.Mak, Officer – Corporate Services

Trustee Andrachuk sends her regrets that she could not join the meeting due to technical difficulties.

MOVED by Ashleigh Molloy, Seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED by Ashleigh Molloy, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the minutes of Regular Meeting held March 25, 2015, be approved with an amendment to page 2 to replace the name of Marilyn Taylor with Giselle Romanino for the approval of the minutes.

CARRIED

Students from Dante Alighieri Academy addressed the Committee regarding the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by John MacKenzie, that the presentation by the Students from Dante Alighieri Academy regarding the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi that the Board change the qualification of the ASL interpreter to be a member of ALVIC versus certified by AVLIC.

CARRIED

Agnes Mader addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Ashleigh Molloy, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that the presentation by Agnes Mader regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

Randy Low addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Ashleigh Molloy, seconded by John MacKenzie, that the presentation by Randy Low regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Glenn Webster, seconded by John MacKenzie that the Arrowsmith delegations be given an extension to speak until midnight.

CARRIED

Anne Borrelly addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Trustee Tanuan, seconded by Giselle Romanino, that the presentation by Anne Borrelly regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

Pamela Haines addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Raul Vomisescu, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that the presentation by Pamela Haines regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

William Meaney addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Giselle Romanino, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that the presentation by William Meaney regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

Sheila Guerra addressed the Committee regarding the Arrowsmith Program.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Raul Vomisescu, that the presentation by Sheila Guerra regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

Trustee Del Grande addressed the Committee regarding Acoustic Neuroma / Arrowsmith Program.

The Chair declared a five minute recess.

MOVED Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that SEAC change the Arrowsmith recommendations made on Jan 29, 2015 and commit to an informed review of the program which measures actual outcomes of TCDSB students.

LOST

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Giselle Romanino, that the SEAC recommendation to the Board remain the same as the minutes of Jan 12, 2015.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, that the meeting be extended to 10:30pm.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, regarding Deficit Recovery Plan Reductions and their impact on Special Education Program and Service Delivery:

WHEREAS.....the TCDSB has identified a deficit that has grown into the amount of \$34.3 million dollars due to a clerical error/oversight by TCDSB staff

WHEREAS....the TCDSB is required under the Education Act to produce a balanced budget

WHEREAS....financial reductions to Special Education programs and services have been approved by the board of Trustees that include and are not limited to Junior Literacy and Gifted programs, teachers, EA's, resource teachers, social workers, student supervisors

WHEREAS....according to Director Gauthier at the April 1st 2015 board meeting, "as a general pattern" special education needs have increased

SEAC recommends that the Special Education Advisory Committee be provided with a comprehensive report outlining:

- a) The exact number of identified and non-identified students that are in receipt of special education programs and services by exceptionality
- b) Staffing allocations broken down by programs and services, sub-categorized by ward
- c) The approved program and service reductions by sub-categories including and not limited to Junior Literacy and Gifted programs, teachers, EA's, resource teachers, social workers, student supervisors
- d) The projected impact on student achievement for both identified and non-identified students receiving special education programs and services

e) How the TCDSB will ensure that identified and non-identified students in need of special education programs and services will continue to receive the programs and services necessary for student achievement

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Giselle Romanino, that the communication from Helen Bruni, regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Tanuan, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the communication from Agnes Mader, regarding the Arrowsmith Program be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Giselle Romanino, seconded by Rosanna Del Gross, that the meeting be extended to 10:45pm.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso, seconded by Glenn Webster that legal counsel provide an understanding from both provincial legislation and TCDSB Bylaw on why SEAC is not permitted to sit on other committees in writing.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Ashleigh Molloy that staff provide SEAC with a report on staff allocation focusing on special ed programs and services with comparative data from 2014 – 2015.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Rosanna Del Grosso, SEAC recommends to Board that all budget and finance information pertaining to the TCDSB 2015-2015 Budget be sent electronically to all members of SEAC immediately for review by their respective associations with input to be brought back to the Board of Trustees for consideration before submission to the Ministry of Education deadline of July 31st, 2015.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by John MacKenzie, SEAC recommends to the Board that from this point forward; SEAC be updated in the same timeline as the Board of Trustees on Budget and Finance matters so that SEAC members will be enabled to participate in an effective and informed manner, as per Ontario legislation 464/97, Section 12 (2) and (3) regarding financial statements and budget process thus providing for an opportunity for SEAC members to report to their associations for input.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by John MacKenzie, that staff provide SEAC with a revision of the 2015-2016 estimates, to reflect actual costs of all line items, with no more than a 20% variance of actual costs.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Giselle Romanino that from this point forward; the Special Education Plan be reviewed by SEAC, section by section over a period of several meetings each year.

CARRIED

MOVED by Raul Vomisescu, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the communication from Marilyn Taylor regarding the May 2nd SEAC Conference be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Dario Imbrogno that SEAC recommends that TCDSB Policy A.23 Special Education Advisory Committee be revised to reflect that the Chair and Vice Chair positions be parents.

CARRIED

MOVED by Giselle Romanino, seconded by John MacKenzie, that the communication from Frank Piddisi regarding Council for Exceptional Students Educator of the Year Award - Odilia Pariselli including four students who received the "Yes I can Award" be received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Rosanna Del Grosso and seconded by Giselle Romanino that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR