

To: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

From: Informal Working Group to review the TCDSB Special Education Plan

Date: May 18, 2020

Subject: Report from Informal Working Group's Virtual meeting of May 17, 2020

The informal working group (Members: Nancy Crawford, Sandra Mastronardi, Tyler Munro, and Deborah Nightingale) met via Zoom on May 17, 2020 to discuss the review of the Special Education Plan.

The informal working group recommends the following to the Special Education Advisory Committee:

1. That SEAC recognize that the review of the Special Education Plan is a large task that could best be accomplished over time in a phased approach, such as
 - a. Phase One—user friendly accessibility improvements;
 - b. Phase Two— possible missing items
 - c. Phase Three—providing evidence of meeting the standards specified in Regulation 306 Special Education Programs and Services of the Education Act, and
2. That Phase One focus on:
 - a. physical changes: pagination, headers and footers
 - b. language changes: clear language, use of acronyms,
 - c. add a glossary of terms, and
3. That Phase Two focus on topics that may be missing from the Special Education Plan, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. The relationship between Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Special Education Plan
 - b. The relationship between health conditions (e.g. anaphylaxis, diabetes), Safe Schools policies and the Special Education Plan, and
4. That Phase Three focus on providing more evidence of what the TCDSB is doing to meet the standards listed in Regulation 306 Special Education Programs and Services of the Education Act, and
5. That clarification be sought about what is required of SEAC to report to the Ministry of Education by July 31, 2020. The Ministry of Education website states: “In accordance with Regulation 306, each school board is required, every two years, to prepare and approve a report on the special education

programs and special education services provided by the board, and to submit it to the ministry. Each board is required to maintain a special education plan, to review it annually, to amend it from time to time to meet the current needs of its exceptional students, and to submit any amendment(s) to the Minister for review.”, and

6. That if SEAC is required to submit amendments only to the Minister of Education, and given that we are in COVID pandemic response time, that SEAC resolve to complete and submit Phases One and Two by July 31, 2021, and Phase Three by July 31, 2022, and
7. That SEAC commission the informal working group to keep working on the review, bringing back all recommendations to SEAC and in turn SEAC taking approved recommendations forward to Board.