

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 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

HELD WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 2021

PRESENT:

Trustees:

N. Crawford
D. Di Giorgio
A. Kennedy

External Members:

George Wedge, Chair – In Person
Melanie Battaglia
Geoffrey Feldman
Lori Mastrogiuseppe
Tyler Munro
Lisa McMahon
Deborah Nightingale
Mary Pugh

Staff:

D. Koenig
V. Cocco
S. Di Nallo
M. Gendron
G. Iuliano Marrello
R. Macchia
M. Meehan
J. Mirabella
D. Reid
P. Stachiw

S. Pellegrini, Acting Recording Secretary

3. Roll Call & Apologies

Apologies were extended on behalf of Glenn Webster and Wendy Layton.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Agenda be approved.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 7a) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2021-2026 – Gina Iuliano Marrello, Superintendent of Student Success and Alternative Education be dealt with after Item 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update – May 2021.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 8a) Notice of Motion from Deborah Nightingale regarding Grade 4 assessments, Identification Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements be added to the agenda.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion as Amended, was declared

CARRIED

6. Declarations of Interest

Trustee Kennedy declared an interest in Items 10c) PRO Grant Update (Verbal) – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services and 10d) Student Grants/Budget Approval Updated 2021-2022 (Verbal) – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services, as she has family members who are employees of the Board.

Trustee Kennedy indicated that she would not vote nor participate in discussions regarding those Items.

Geoffrey Feldman joined the virtual meeting at 7:15 p.m.

7. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the Minutes of the Meeting held April 21, 2021 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Mary Pugh joined the virtual meeting at 7:19 p.m.

8. Notices of Motion

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 8a) be adopted as follows:

8a) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Grade 4 assessments, Identification

Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements that the By-laws 30-day requirement be waived, and that the Notice of Motion be considered at this meeting as Item 14a).

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Melanie Battaglia that the Item be presented to the Board of Trustees at the May 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

The Chair ruled the AMENDMENT out of order.

Trustee Di Giorgio joined the virtual meeting at 7:45pm.

On the Vote being taken, the Main Motion was declared

LOST

Trustees Crawford and Kennedy, Lori Mastrogiuseppe, Lisa McMahon, Tyler Munro and George Wedge wished to be recorded as voted in opposition.

The Notice of Motion from Deborah Nightingale regarding Grade 4 assessments, Identification Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements will be considered at the June 9, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

WHEREAS: The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has committed to creating school communities focused on the success, mental health and well-being of all students, including special education students;

WHEREAS: The TCDSB annually tests all Grade 4 students using the universal screen OLSAT-8 to identify areas students are struggling in and their learning needs as well as to determine giftedness. These tests are normally conducted for all TCDSB Grade 4 students between January and March;

WHEREAS: Special needs students without an initial or an annual IPRC review before the end of August 2021, will not have their support requirements updated and will not be prepared for the return to school on September 7, 2021;

WHEREAS: Parents and students should be afforded a fair and reasonable opportunity to be offered, consider and respond to student placements before the end of August 2021;

WHEREAS: IPRCs and offers of placement were conducted late last year;

WHEREAS: It has been proposed at SEAC that any Grade 4 tests not concluded in person can be administered virtually;

WHEREAS: The TCDSB is required by the Ministry of Education and our Special Education Plan, to have prompt and equitable assessment of all students in a timely manner;

WHEREAS: There was a delegation to the Board on April 8. This highlighted the need for timely testing of all Grade 4 students as well as IPRCs and placement offers for students identified as gifted as a result of those Grade 4 tests before school starts in September 2021; and

WHEREAS: This issue was extensively discussed at the SEAC meeting on April 21.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to Board that all Grade 4 TCDSB students, whether attending school “in person” or “virtual”, have the OLSAT-8 assessment administered, if not in person, then virtually;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In order to accomplish the required goal of having all students placed in the correct program at the start of September, SEAC recommends that the TCDSB take the following steps:

1. Complete all OLSAT-8 assessments for all Grade 4 students, whether attending school in person or virtual, as soon as possible, and in any event, no later than June 30, 2021.
2. Complete all IPRCs for students identified with the exceptionality of gifted as soon as possible, and in any event, no later than July 31, 2021,

3. Issue all offers of placement for students identified with the exceptionality of gifted as soon as possible, and in any event, no later than August 20, 2021.
4. So that parents and students have time to consider and make inquiries with destination schools to make their decisions, allow parents to reply to placement offers on a rolling basis, at their earliest opportunity;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In order to conclude all of those steps for all Grade 4 students in an equitable manner, TCDSB does not wait to process IPRCs until the last assessment is written. Instead, as soon as students are assessed, their IPRCs should be held so that all students can equitably start in their appropriate placement at the start of the school year; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: It is not acceptable or equitable to not try to complete those steps this school year for a specific population. SEAC urges and strongly recommends that the TCDSB affirm that it will fulfill its obligation, as required by the Ministry of Education and Special Education Plan, to complete all assessments before the end of June and all resulting IPRCs and offers of placement for all special education students, including all Grade 4 students, before the end of August so that all students are equipped to start in their correct placement on the first day of school in September 2021.

9. Consent and Review

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

- 7a) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2021-2026 - Gina Iuliano Marrello, Superintendent of Student Success and Alternative Education – Trustee Crawford;
- 10b) Special Education Plan Review - Input from Special Education Advisory Committee Informal Working Group – Trustee Crawford;
- 10c) PRO Grant Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services – Tyler Munro;
- 10d) Student Grants/Budget Approval Updated 2021-2022 (Verbal) -

Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services – Deborah Nightingale;

- 11a) Letter of Interest from Michelle Da Costa to Serve as Ontario Parent's Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC) Representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee – Tyler Munro;
- 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update - May 2021 – Trustee Crawford; and
- 20a) Pending List as at May 19, 2021 – Geoffrey Feldman

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe 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

- 10a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of May 19, 2021

10. Annual Calendar

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 10b) be adopted as follows:

- 10b) Special Education Plan Review - Input from Special Education Advisory Committee Informal Working Group - Accessibility (AODA)** received and referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy recused herself from the virtual room at 8:11 p.m. due to a Declaration of Interest in Items 10c) and 10d) below, as earlier indicated.

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 10c) be adopted as follows:

- 10c) PRO Grant Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that Item 10d) be adopted as follows:

- 10d) Student Grants/Budget Approval Updated 2021-2022 (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Education Special Services** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual meeting at 8:25pm.

11) Nominations

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

- 11a) Letter of Interest from Michelle Da Costa to Serve as Ontario Parent's Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC) Representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee** that SEAC recommend to Board that the letter of interest from Michelle Da Costa to serve as Ontario Parent's Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC) Representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee be accepted.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Mary Pugh wished to be recorded as voted in opposition of the motion.

13) Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees

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

- 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update – May 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy did not vote/respond.

7. Presentations

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

- 7a) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2021-2026 - Gina Iuliano Marrello, Superintendent of Student Success and Alternative Education** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

20) Pending List

MOVED by Mary Pugh, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 20a) be adopted as follows:

- 20a) Pending List as at May 19, 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

21. Adjournment

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR