

## 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, DECEMBER 1, 2021**

## **PRESENT:**

### **Trustees:**

N. Crawford  
A. Kennedy – Virtual

**Non-Voting Trustees:** M. de Domenico - Virtual  
M. Rizzo - Virtual

### **External Members:**

George Wedge, Chair  
Melanie Battaglia – Virtual  
Geoffrey Feldman, Vice-Chair - Virtual  
Wendy Layton – Virtual  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual  
Lisa McMahon  
Tyler Munro  
Deborah Nightingale - Virtual  
Mary Pugh - Virtual

### **Staff:**

V. Cocco  
A. Della Mora  
C. Fernandes  
M. Gendron  
M. Meehan  
R. Macchia  
J. Mirabella  
D. Reid  
P. Stachiw

S. Pellegrini, Acting Recording Secretary

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

**3. Secretary calls the Meeting to Order**

The Secretary, Superintendent Maria Meehan, called the meeting to order.

**4. Roll Call and Apologies**

Trustee Di Giorgio sent his regrets. Michelle Da Costa was absent.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the Agenda, as amended to include the addition of Items 21a) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding Transformational Leadership in Special Education, 21b) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding Attendance and Enrollment, 21c) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding the package Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Members received on the Special Education Plan, 21d) Inquiry From Trustee Crawford regarding a Request for a Verbal Update from the Superintendent of Special Services, 21e) Inquiry From Melanie Battaglia regarding the 2021 Record of Exclusions and 21f) Inquiry From Deborah Nightingale regarding Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) Testing, be approved.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 12a) Notice of Motion From George Wedge, Representative of Easter Seals Ontario regarding Rules of Order and Conduct Formalization and Familiarization be moved to Item 16b).

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

LOST

Melanie Battaglia, Geoffrey Feldman, Lisa McMahon, Lori Mastrogiuseppe, Deborah Nightingale and Mary Pugh wished to be recorded in opposition.

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

CARRIED

**6. Election of Chair**

The Secretary called for nominations for the position of Chair of the SEAC 2021-2022.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the name of George Wedge be placed in nomination.

George Wedge accepted.

There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that nominations be closed.

By unanimous consent, nominations were closed.

George Wedge was acclaimed Chair of the SEAC for 2021 - 2022.

The Secretary called for a 5-minute recess.

The virtual meeting resumed with George Wedge in the Chair and the attendance list remained unchanged.

**7. Election of Vice-Chair**

George Wedge called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the SEAC 2021-2022.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that the name of Deborah Nightingale be placed in nomination.

Deborah Nightingale declined the nomination.

MOVED by Nancy Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the name of Geoffrey Feldman be placed in nomination.

Geoffrey Feldman accepted.

There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that nominations be closed.

By unanimous consent, nominations were closed.

Geoffrey Feldman was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the SEAC for 2021 - 2022.

**8. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**9. Approval and Signing of the Minutes**

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Wendy Layton, that the Minutes of the Meeting held November 17, 2021 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## 12) Notices of Motion

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) From George Wedge, Representative of Easter Seals Ontario regarding Rules of Order and Conduct Formalization and Familiarization** that this Item be considered at the January 19, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting:

**WHEREAS:** SEAC is a Standing Committee of the TCDSB;

**WHEREAS:** SEAC member conduct is not governed by any specific TCDSB set of bylaws;

**WHEREAS:** TCDSB bylaws do not specify the exact Rule's of Order to be utilized in official SEAC Public Meetings, although modified Robert's Rules of Order have been customarily used and accepted as "The Standing Committee Rules of Order"; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees in Public Session have called into question the Rules of Order and Process of SEAC.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** SEAC recommend to the Board that Rules of Order and Rules of Conduct be established or adopted from existing bylaws and formalized; and

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** SEAC members, both sitting and newly nominated, be provided training in document format and/or classroom setting and/or reviewable webinar format.

## 13. Consent and Review

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

- 16a) Consideration of Motion from Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario Special Education regarding One Size Doesn't Fit All – Deborah Nightingale;
- 19b) Special Education Advisory Committee Application – Community Member (Verbal) – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services – Trustee Crawford;
- 19c) Special Incidence Portion Funding Update (Verbal) – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services – Trustee Crawford;
- 21a) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding Transformational Leadership in Special Education – Tyler Munro;
- 21b) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding Attendance and Enrollment – Tyler Munro;
- 21c) Inquiry From Tyler Munro regarding the package Special Education Advisory Committee Members received on the Special Education Plan – Tyler Munro;
- 21d) Inquiry From Trustee Crawford regarding a Request for a Verbal Update from the Superintendent of Special Services – Trustee Crawford;
- 21e) Inquiry From Melanie Battaglia regarding the 2021 Record of Exclusions – Melanie Battaglia; and
- 21f) Inquiry From Deborah Nightingale regarding Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) Testing – Deborah Nightingale

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Items not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**ITEMS NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION**

- 14a) SEAC Annual Calendar (Draft) as of December 1, 2021;
- 18a) Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y32XvjWmDAQ> ;
- 19a) Letter to Minister Lecce with regard to Ontario Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning from the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC); and
- 22a) Pending List as at December 1, 2021

**16. Consideration of Motions for Which Previous Notice has been Given**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 16a) be adopted as follows:

**16a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario Special Education regarding One Size Doesn't Fit All:**

**WHEREAS:** SEAC recognizes and supports a very diverse variety of Special Education needs and the requirement for an appropriate variety of beneficial education options for students both identified and not identified with Special Education needs in the TCDSB;

**WHEREAS:** These options must be based on best practices, and education research on how to meet different students' needs, and should offer relevant options and real parent and student choice; and

**WHEREAS:** In a board of this very large size and diversity of needs, a variety of different options to meet different and diverse needs should be offered in appropriate classroom environments.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) SEAC recommends to the board that the TCDSB deliver a variety of appropriate education options to meet diverse Special Education needs, based on: education research; feedback from educators, parents and students on all relevant options; and advocacy by those with specific involvement and experience with those specific exceptionalities

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual meeting at 8:10 pm.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The TCDSB SEAC recommend to the Board that the TCDSB deliver a variety of appropriate education options to meet diverse Special Education needs, based on: education research; feedback from educators, parents and students on all relevant options; and advocacy by those with specific involvement and experience with students with special education needs and receiving special education programs and services.

MOVED in AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The TCDSB SEAC recommend to the Board that the TCDSB deliver a variety of appropriate education options to meet diverse Special Education needs, based on:

-education research;

-feedback from educators, parents and students on all relevant options; and

-advocacy by those with specific involvement and experience with those specific exceptionalities and/or those with specific involvement and the experience with



students with special education needs and receiving special education programs and services.

Time for business expired.

The Chair called for a vote on a 15-minute extension, as per Article 12.6 of the TCDSB By-law.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Time for business expired.

MOVED by Trustee Kennedy that time be extended by 15 minutes, as per Article 12.6 of the TCDSB's By-laws, to complete the Item.

There was no seconder.

On the Vote being taken, the Amendment to the Amendment was declared

LOST

Trustee Kennedy, Geoffrey Feldman, Wendy Layton, Lori Mastrogiuseppe, Lisa McMahon and Tyler Munro wished to be recorded in opposition.

On the Vote being taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy, Geoffrey Feldman, Wendy Layton, Lisa McMahon and Tyler Munro wished to be recorded in opposition.

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

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy, Geoffrey Feldman, Wendy Layton, Lisa McMahon and Tyler Munro wished to be recorded in opposition.

**19) List of Communications**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 19b) be adopted as follows:

**19b) Special Education Advisory Committee Application - Community Member (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services received.**

Mary Pugh left the virtual meeting at 9:18 pm.

Trustee Crawford left the horseshoe at 9:20 pm and returned at 9:36 pm.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Melanie Battaglia, Lori Matrogiuseppe and Deborah Nightingale wished to be recorded in opposition.

MOVED by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 19c) be adopted as follows:

- 19c) Special Incidence Portion Funding Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 21) Inquires and Miscellaneous**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 21a) be adopted as follows:

- 21a) From Tyler Munro regarding Transformational Leadership in Special Education received and referred to Staff.**

Lisa McMahon left the horseshoe at 9:35 pm.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 21b) be adopted as follows:

- 21b) From Tyler Munro regarding Attendance and Enrollment received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Lisa McMahon returned to the horseshoe at 9:49 pm.

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 21c) be adopted as follows:

- 21c) From Tyler Munro regarding the package Special Education Advisory Committee Members received on the Special Education Plan received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 21d) be adopted as follows:

- 21d) From Trustee Crawford regarding a Request for a Verbal Update from the Superintendent of Special Services received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 21e) be adopted as follows:

- 21e) From Melanie Battaglia regarding the 2021 Record of Exclusions** received and referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy wished to be recorded as voted in opposition.

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 21f) be adopted as follows:

- 21f) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) Testing** received and referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## **21. Adjournment**

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

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

---

SECRETARY

---

CHAIR