

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, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

PRESENT:

Trustees:

N. Crawford
D. Di Giorgio - Virtual
A. Kennedy – Virtual

Non-Voting Trustee: M. Rizzo - Virtual

External Members:

George Wedge, Chair
Michelle Da Costa - Virtual
Lori Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual
Tyler Munro
Deborah Nightingale - Virtual
Wendy Layton – Virtual
Mary Pugh - Virtual

Staff:

V. Cocco
A. Della Mora
C. Fernandes
M. Gendron
M. Meehan
J. Mirabella
P. Stachiw

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

External Guest:

A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

3. Roll Call and Apologies

Geoffrey Feldman sent his regrets. Lisa McMahon was absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 19a) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students, Item 19b) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results and Item 19c) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding timing receipt of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) be added to the Agenda.

Trustee Kennedy joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Trustee Di Giorgio and Mary Pugh joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Minutes of the Meeting held October 20, 2021 be approved.

Wendy Layton joined the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

9) Notices of Motion

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario Special Education. regarding One Size Doesn't Fit All** that this Item be considered at the December 1, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting.

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 Toronto Catholic District School Board (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 TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee 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.

10. Consent and Review

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

- 11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group (Verbal) – Trustee Crawford;
- 11c) Special Services Parent Engagement Series 2021-2022 – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services – Tyler Munro;
- 12a) Seeking Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Representative for the Student Transportation Working Group (STWG) – Melanie Battaglia;
- 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update - November 2021 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 16a) Consideration of Motion from Melanie Battaglia, representative of Autism Ontario regarding Exclusion Tracking and Reporting – Melanie Battaglia;
- 17a) Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities – Tyler Munro;
- 19a) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students – Deborah Nightingale;
- 19b) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results – Deborah Nightingale;

19c) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding timing receipt of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) – Deborah Nightingale; and

20a) Pending List – Melanie Battaglia

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, 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

11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 17, 2021; and

17b) Challenger Baseball Program

11. Annual Calendar

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 11b) be adopted as follows:

11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group (Verbal) received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 11c) be adopted as follows:

- 11c) Special Services Parent Engagement Series 2021-2022 – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

12) Nominations

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) Seeking Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for the Student Transportation Working Group (STWG)** that this Item be deferred to the December 1, 2021 SEAC Meeting.

George Wedge volunteered to sit on the Student Transportation Working Group.

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Tyler Munro, that George Wedge be approved as the Special Education Advisory Committee representative on the Student Transportation Working Group.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

13a) Special Education Superintendent Update - November 2021 received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

16) Matters deferred from last meeting / Referred from Board

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

16a) Consideration of Motion from Melanie Battaglia, representative of Autism Ontario regarding Exclusion Tracking and Reporting:

WHEREAS: The mission of the Toronto Catholic District School Board is to be an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ;

WHEREAS: Autism Ontario, Association for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) association, Inclusion Action Ontario, Advocacy Resource Center for the Handicapped (ARCH) disability Law and many other organizations and associations in Ontario supporting students with special education needs and/or disabilities (“special needs students”) and their families have repeatedly raised concerns about the frequency of special needs students being excluded under section 265(1)(m) of the Education Act (a “formal exclusion”) and/or what are

frequently referred to as soft exclusions where student hours of attendance are restricted or are requested to stay home for a number of days at the Principal's request, including without limitation for off school premises field trips ("soft exclusions");

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Education's "Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools" has since the 2018/19 school year required school boards to maintain Exclusion records for "audit purposes" (pages 23 and 24), including the following information:

- Documentation that shows the reason for the exclusion;
- Documentation of successful notification of the exclusion and the response between the School Board and the pupil (if the pupil is an adult) or the pupil's parent or guardian;
- Documentation of the plan (signed by the principal) to re-integrate the pupil into the Education system;
- Documentation of communication with other parties involved with re-engaging the pupil (e.g. social agencies); and
- Data on the number of students who have been excluded during the school year (including the name of student, Ontario Education Number (OEN), length of exclusion, and reason for exclusion).

WHEREAS: SEAC recommended to the Board and the Board affirmed the request for a report that would include summary information of Exclusions on March 27, 2019 and to date no report has been presented to SEAC, over 2.5 years later ("reporting delay");

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Education has placed new limits on the suspension and expulsion of students in grade 3 and below effective this school year (2021/2022) and Exclusions may be used as a method to circumvent these Ministry limits on administrator authority; and

WHEREAS: It is clear from the extensive reporting delay that the TCDSB does not have the ability to systematically monitor Exclusions to ensure appropriate use, meet the Ministry's audit expectation as outlined in the "Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools" document or collect data to compile any reliable reports surrounding the use of Exclusions for SEAC or the board in a timely manner.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- SEAC recommend to the Board that the attendance system be updated to track all Exclusions, including formal and soft exclusions;
 - A formal exclusion is defined as under Section 265 (1)(m) of the Education Act.
 - A Soft exclusion is defined as a Principal's request to keep a child home for all or part of a day.
- SEAC further recommend to the Board that the Progressive Discipline Application be updated to keep records associated with both types of Exclusions as required for a Ministry audit and those records should also be kept in a Student's Ontario Student Record (OSR);
- SEAC further recommend to the Board that a Policy be created that will instruct staff on the appropriate use of Exclusions, record keeping and appeal provisions; and
- SEAC further recommend reporting of both types of Exclusions in the Annual Safe Schools report and it indicate the numbers of special needs students affected along with total students.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

17) List of Communications

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

- 17a) Easter Seals: Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities** that this Item be deferred to the December 1, 2021 SEAC Meeting and that the link be updated.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

19) Inquires and Miscellaneous

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 19a) be adopted as follows:

- 19a) From Deborah Nightingale regarding the Status of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8 Testing for Grade 5 Students** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that Item 19b) be adopted as follows:

- 19b) From Deborah Nightingale regarding the timing of Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings after students receive their Assessment Results received.**

Mary Pugh left the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that Item 19c) be adopted as follows:

- 19c) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Timing Receipt of Individual Education Plans received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 20) Pending List**

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

- 20a) Pending List as at November 17, 2021 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

21. Adjournment

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Wendy Layton, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR