

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, JUNE 07, 2023

PRESENT:

Trustees:

F. D'Amico – Virtual and In Person
A. Kennedy – Virtual
M. Rizzo

External Members:

G. Wedge, Chair
G. Feldman, Vice-Chair – Virtual
R. De Belchior – Virtual
L. Mason – Virtual
L. Mastrogiuseppe - Virtual
T. Munro
D. Nightingale
M. Pugh – Virtual

Staff:

A. Della Mora
C. Fernandes
M. Meehan
V. Cocco
M. Gendron
P. Klim-Conforti
R. Macchia
D. Reid
P. Stachiw

S. Stephenson, Acting Recording Secretary
S. Hinds-Barnett, Assistant Recording Secretary

External Guest:

Alasdair Robertson (Parliamentarian)

3. Roll Call and Apologies

Melanie Battaglia was absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the Agenda, as amended to include the following Inquiries, be approved.

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual room at 7:06 pm.

Richelle de Belchior joined the virtual room at 7:07 pm.

Inquiries from Deborah Nightingale regarding:

18a) The Creation of Identification, Placement and Review (IPRC) and Individual Education Plan (IEP) Meetings and Documents; and

18b) The Graduation Statistics for 2021-2022;

Trustee D'Amico joined the virtual room at 7:15 pm.

Inquiry from Richelle de Belchior regarding:

18c) If a Child needs the Empower Comprehension (the second part of the Program) why is the Board still removing this second part?;

- I. What will happen to the Children that need the Comprehensive Program as a follow up to the Decoding?;
- II. Will the Empower Program be in-house (where TCDSB will have the Teachers trained instead of having Sick Kids Teachers come into the schools to teach this Program?);
- III. Is the Program going to be at every School in September?; and
- IV. Is the Board planning on cutting the Program due to Budget Issues?

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Trustee Angela Kennedy, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the Minutes of the Meeting held May 10, 2023 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

10. Consent and Review

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

- 11b) Develop Draft Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Goals for Next School Year – Deborah Nightingale;
- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – May 2023 – Tyler Munro;
- 15a) Communication from Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education and Success for All Branch, regarding Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Questions from Meeting Held Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – Deborah Nightingale;

Inquiries from Tyler Munro regarding:

- 15b) What are the expectations of teaching Staff to apply Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design for Learning when planning and conducting lessons? How much training do Staff receive to develop these skills? Have all teaching Staff been trained? If not, is there a plan to accomplish this and how far along is it? How is this monitored – Tyler Munro;
- 15c) The College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO) Standards require that “Members working as employees must make best efforts to ensure that their work setting adheres to the *Standards of Professional Conduct (2017)* in the planning, delivery, supervision and billing practices of all psychological services provided”. What does the TCDSB’s Psychology department consider an appropriate setting when delivering services and meeting with parents to discuss their child? Would there be exceptions to this? Please elaborate on exceptions if any – Tyler Munro;
- 15d) When Principals are preparing Staff assignments for the next school year, how much emphasis is placed on considering the teacher qualifications (Additional Qualification courses etc...) or other experience when the Principal knows there will be a student with a disability in the class – Tyler Munro;

Inquiries from Deborah Nightingale regarding:

- 15e) Gifted Programs for 2023-2024 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 18a) The Creation of Identification, Placement and Review (IPRC) and Individual Education Plan (IEP) Meetings and Documents – Deborah Nightingale;
- 18b) The Graduation Statistics for 2021-2022 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 18c) Inquiry from Richelle de Belchior regarding If a Child needs the Empower Comprehension (the second part of the Program), why is the Board still removing this second part? – Richelle de Belchior;
- I. What will happen to the Children who need the Comprehensive Program as a follow up to the Decoding?;
 - II. Will the Empower Program be in-house (where TCDSB will have the Teachers trained instead of having Sick Kids Teachers come into the schools to teach this Program?);
 - III. Is the Program going to be at every School in September?; and

IV. Is the Board planning on cutting the Program due to Budget Issues?

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, 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

11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of June 7, 2023.

11. Annual Calendar Items

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

Trustee D'Amico left the virtual room and joined the horseshoe at 7:42 pm.

11b) Develop Draft Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Goals for Next School Year – Committee Members received and that the following draft Annual Goals be referred to the September 13, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting for a fulsome discussion and for the Special Education Advisory Committee Members to receive a copy of the draft Annual Goals list prior to September 13, 2023 meeting:

1. To "Covid-proof" Testing, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Identification and Placement Review Committees (IPRCs) processes that are essential to identifying and supporting our Special Education students;

2. To review and discuss information made available to SEAC about Assessments and Testing used to identify and support Special Education students;
3. To make time at each SEAC meeting for discussion about Special Education matters in which all members can participate;
4. To review the 2023-2024 goals of the Empower Program;
5. To review timelines of Psycho-educational Assessments and how they are going to be handled;
6. How SEAC can support Special Education Students transitioning out of our educational system and entering the world;
7. To increase Committee membership;
8. Continued work on the Special Education Plan;
9. Review policies that impact Special Education Students and make recommendations for revisions that might be helpful;
10. Review handbooks for parents and guardians to comment on changes that need to be made to assist Special Education students; and
11. Continue to provide feedback to the Special Education Plan on a monthly basis.

Time for business expired and was extended by 15 minutes, as per Article 12.6 of the By-law, to complete the debate on the Item and as per the will of the Assembly.

Trustee Rizzo joined the horseshoe at 8:04 pm.

Trustee D'Amico left horseshoe at 8:06 pm. and returned at 8:08 pm.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

12. Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees

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

Trustee Kennedy left the virtual room at 8:11 pm.

Trustee D’Amico left the horseshoe at 8:12 pm.

Trustee D’Amico returned to the horseshoe at 8:18 pm.

12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – June 2023 received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Mary Pugh, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Peter Stachiw, Chief of Autism, and Don Reid, Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) Principal, be congratulated on their retirement and acknowledged for their years of dedication, loyalty and commitment to the children of the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

15. Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 15a) be adopted as follows:

- 15a) **Communication from Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education and Success for All Branch regarding Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Questions from Meeting Held Wednesday, March 8, 2023** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

The Chair declared a 10-minute recess.

The meeting resumed with George Wedge in the Chair.

PRESENT (following Recess):

Trustee: F. D’Amico

External Members: G. Wedge, Chair
R. De Belchior
L. Mason
L. Mastrogiuseppe
T. Munro
D. Nightingale

15. **Matter Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 15b) be adopted as follows:

Geoffrey Feldman rejoined the virtual room at 9:11 pm.

- 15b) **Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding What are the expectations of teaching Staff to apply Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design for Learning**

when planning and conducting lessons? How much training do Staff receive to develop these skills? Have all teaching Staff been trained? If not, is there a plan to accomplish this and how far along is it? How is this monitored? received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 15c) be adopted as follows:

- 15c) **Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding The College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO) Standards require “Members working as employees must make best efforts to ensure that their work setting adheres to the *Standards of Professional Conduct (2017)* in the planning, delivery, supervision and billing practices of all psychological services provided”. What does the TCDSB’s Psychology department consider an appropriate setting when delivering services and meeting with parents to discuss their child? Would there be exceptions to this? Please elaborate on exceptions if any received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 15d) be adopted as follows:

- 15d) **Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding When Principals are preparing Staff assignments for the next school year, how much emphasis is placed on considering the teacher qualifications (Additional Qualification courses etc...) or other experiences when the Principal knows there will be a student with a disability in the class received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee D'Amico, that Item 15e) be adopted as follows:

Trustee Rizzo returned to horseshoe at 9:24 pm.

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual room at 9:27 pm.

- 15e) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding Gifted Programs for 2023 – 2024 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

18. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 18a) be adopted as follows:

- 18a) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding The creation of Identification, Placement & Review (IPRC) and Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and documents received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Rizzo, that Item 18b) be adopted as follows:

Geoffrey Feldman left the meeting at 9:45 pm.

- 18b) Inquiry from Deborah Nightingale regarding The Graduation Statistics for 2021-2022?** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Richelle de Belchior, seconded by Trustee Rizzo, that Item 18c) be adopted as follows:

- 18c) Inquiry from Richelle de Belchior regarding If a Child needs the Empower Comprehension (the second part the Program), why is the Board still removing this second part?** received.

- I. What will happen to the Children that need the Comprehensive Program as a follow up to the Decoding?;**
- II. Will the Empower Program be in-house (where TCDSB will have the Teachers trained instead of having Sick Kids Teachers come into the schools to teach this Program?);**
- III. Is the Program going to be at every School in September?; and**
- IV. Is the Board planning on cutting the Program due to Budget Issues?**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

20. Adjournment

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR