

### **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 8, 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Trustees:**

F. D'Amico  
A. Kennedy - Virtual  
M. Rizzo – Virtual

#### **External Members:**

G. Wedge, Chair  
G. Feldman, Vice Chair - Virtual  
R. De Belchior – Virtual  
J. Di Francesco  
L. Mason – Virtual  
T. Munro - Virtual  
D. Nightingale  
I. Novak – Virtual  
A. Pabon - Virtual  
M. Seymour - Virtual

#### **Staff:**

A. Della Mora  
C. Fernandes  
M. Meehan  
V. Cocco  
A. Coke  
D. Comacchio  
P. Klim-Conforti  
R. Macchia

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

#### **External Guest:**

Alasdair Robertson, Parliamentarian

**3. Roll Call and Apologies**

Lori Mastroggiuseppe and Mary Pugh were absent.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Trustee Kennedy joined the virtual room at 7:07 pm.

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Agenda, as amended to include Item 17a) Association for Bright Children Report, be approved.

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 Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Minutes of the Meeting held October 11, 2023 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## 9. Notices of Motion

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

- 9a) **From George Wedge, representative of Easter Seals Ontario, regarding Elected Chair's Alternate Member** that this be considered at the December 6, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting:

**WHEREAS:** Any nominated member who represents an Association, and is elected to the Chair, cannot fully participate in tabled discussions, or properly and fully represent their Association while acting as Chair; and

**WHEREAS:** The Association represented by such Chair may have a nominated Alternate Representative.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** SEAC recommend to Board to adopt the practice of permitting such Chair's Alternate the full privileges of a full member seat at SEAC meetings where such Chair is fulfilling the Committee Chair Role and Duties.

Geoffrey Feldman joined the virtual room at 7:20 p.m.

## 10. Consent and Review

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

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – November 2023 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 12b) Education Quality Accountability Office Assessment Results 2022-2023 - Deborah Nightingale;
- 13a) Consideration of Motion from Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children, regarding Contingency Plans for Special Education Testing - Deborah Nightingale;
- 13b) Consideration of Motion from Richelle De Belchior, Community Representative, regarding Policy for Reporting Injury/Accidents to Parents of Children who need Assistance with Verbal Expression – Richelle De Belchior; and

- 17a) Association for Bright Children Report - Deborah Nightingale.

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, 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 November 8, 2023.

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

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – November 2023** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Tyler Munro, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the Gifted Withdrawal Program report be provided annually at the November Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings and include the number of students in the withdrawal program, as well as those identified with giftedness; and that it be included in the SEAC Draft Calendar for November.

With the unanimous consent of the Committee, Tyler Munro withdrew the AMENDMENT.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy left the virtual meeting at 7:48 p.m.

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

- 12b) Education Quality Accountability Office Assessment Results 2022- 2023** received.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**13. Consideration of Motions For Which Previous Notice Has Been Given**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Rizzo, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

- 13a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children, regarding Contingency Plans for Special Education Testing:**

WHEREAS: It is important that testing be provided in a timely manner to identify Special Education students at Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB); and

WHEREAS: SEAC adopted this goal for the years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board that it develop contingency plans to implement testing should schools close (as they did for COVID) and alternatives be necessary; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: These contingency plans be included in the Special Education Plan.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Richelle de Belchior, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 13b) be adopted as follows:

**13b) From Richelle De Belchior, Community Representative, regarding Policy for Reporting Injury/Accidents to Parents of Children who need Assistance with Verbal Expression:**

WHEREAS: Presentations were held on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regarding Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and how they help children;

WHEREAS: Currently there only exists a Concussion Policy S.26;

WHEREAS: No policy exists regarding any other type of injury/accident /incident and reporting it to parents; and

WHEREAS: Students who require communication assistance may not be able to report the occurrence to their parents.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board that a policy be created that all injuries/accidents/incidents are reported to parents as a requirement especially for students who may or not be identified as needing communication assistance.

Trustee D'Amico left the horseshoe at 9:03 p.m.

Time for business expired.

The Chair put the question, "Is it the will of the meeting to extend debate for a further 15 minutes?"

By unanimous consent, the debate was extended by 15 minutes, as per the TCDSB's By-law, Article 12.6.

Trustee D'Amico returned to the horseshoe at 9:12 p.m.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**17. Association Reports**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

**17a) Association for Bright Children Report** received and Referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**20. Adjournment**

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

---

SECRETARY

---

CHAIR