

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, MAY 8, 2024

PRESENT:

Trustees:

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

External Members:

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

Staff:

A. Della Mora
C. Fernandes
M. Meehan
V. Cocco
D. Comacchio
O. De Figueiredo
M. Gendron
P. Klim-Conforti
R. Macchia

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

External Guest:

A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

3. Roll Call and Apologies

Deborah Nightingale was absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Agenda be approved.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the following Inquiries be added to the Agenda:

18a) From Geoffrey Feldman regarding Transitioning of Special Education Students out of Our Educational System;

18b) From Tyler Munro regarding the Impact to the Board with changes to the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Funding for Next Academic Year; and

18c) From Trustee Rizzo regarding Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) Classes.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

Trustee D'Amico disconnected from the virtual meeting and joined the horseshoe at 7:13 p.m.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Jennifer Di Francesco joined the virtual meeting at 7:15 p.m.

6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Trustee D'Amico, that the Minutes of the Meeting held April 10, 2024, be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

9. Notices of Motion

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Trustee D'Amico, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) From Jennifer Di Francesco, representative of Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC) regarding Record Keeping** that this item be considered at the June 5, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting:

WHEREAS: Parents can find navigating the maze to get their child(ren) special educational help very daunting. Parents are usually faced with speaking to multiple people at school or at the Board and having to recite the conversations repeatedly. This can create frustration and resentment that their child(ren)s story is not already being captured and kept for future reference by and for teachers /staff / administrators at the school or Board level.

WHEREAS: It is not fair to expect that all parents have the means or ability to keep their own records and parents expect that the school and/or Board maintain a consistent and elevated level of record keeping that helps all parties involved know what is always happening with the child(ren).

WHEREAS: Not keeping proper records can also lead to a child(ren) missing opportunities or not getting on lists for assessments/programs that could potentially help them in their educational journey, especially children that require Special Education resources.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommends to the Board of Trustees that parental or TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board) teacher /staff / administrator correspondence with teacher/staff/administrators at the school or Board level, whether the correspondence be through phone conversations, emails, at all and any meetings and face to face be noted on the child(ren)s file for future reference for all party's involved.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommends to the Board of Trustees that the current policy or guidelines surrounding record keeping be looked at and that staff come back to Board with a breakdown of what is not working, recommendations on how to improve the current system and what will be implemented to resolve this systemic issue.

Geoffrey Feldman disconnected from the virtual meeting and joined the horseshoe at 7:17 p.m.

10. Consent and Review

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

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update – May 2024 – R. De Belchior;

Inquiries:

- 18a) From Geoffrey Feldman regarding Transitioning of Special Education Students out of Our Educational System;
- 18b) From Tyler Munro regarding the Impact to the Board with changes to the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Funding for Next Academic Year; and
- 18c) From Trustee Rizzo regarding Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) Classes.

MOVED by Tyler Munro, 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 Annual Calendar (Draft) as of May 8, 2024

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

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

12a) **Special Services Superintendent Update – May 2024** received.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

18. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that Item 18a) be adopted as follows:

18a) **From Geoffrey Feldman regarding Transitioning of Special Education Students out of our Educational System** received.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that Item 18b) be adopted as follows:

- 18b) **From Tyler Munro regarding the Impact to the Board with Changes to the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Funding for Next Academic Year received.**

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 18c) be adopted as follows:

- 18c) **From Trustee Rizzo regarding Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) Classes received.**

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

20. Adjournment

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR