

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

PUBLIC SESSION

PRESENT:

Marilyn Taylor, Chair
Dario Imbrogno
John MacKenzie
Sandra Mastronardi
Mary Pugh
Giselle Romanino
Raul Vomisescu
Glenn Webster

Trustees A. Andrachuk
A. Kennedy
G. Tanuan, Vice Chair

Prayers were offered for Odie Pariselli, Coordinator of Special Services and for the niece of Trustee Andrachuk who passed away recently.

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 16, 2015 be approved,

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Tanuan, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that item 9e) be adopted as follows:

9e) Communication from Paul Matthews, General Legal Counsel regarding Approval of the Special Education Advisory Committee (“SEAC”) Minutes

SEAC recommends to the Board that:

1. On the day following SEAC’s regular meeting, the recording secretary will circulate the draft minutes of the meeting to all voting members of SEAC.
2. All voting members of SEAC will review the minutes for accuracy and advise the recording secretary by email of his or her desired revisions to the minutes, if any, and/or confirming his or her approval of the minutes.
3. After the recording secretary has received notice of approval of the minutes from a majority of the members, the minutes will stand approved.
4. In the event that a member has not advised the recording secretary of his or her approval of the minutes by 12:00 p.m. on the Monday following the meeting, approval by the member will be assumed.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Mary Pugh, seconded by Trustee Andrachuk, to include the words “by 12:00 noon on the Monday following the meeting” to part 2 of the Motion after the words “by email”.

On the vote being taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

On the vote being taken, the Motion, as Amended, was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Giselle Romanino, seconded by John MacKenzie, that item 12a) be adopted as follows:

12a) Report regarding Response to Special Education Advisory Committee Inquiries of May 13, 2015 – received with a direction to staff to come back with additional information with respect to SEAC members sitting on other Committees such as the Safe Schools Committee.

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi to provide the Director with the names of the Boards that allow members of SEAC to sit on other Committees.

Vincent Burzotta - Superintendent, Safe Schools, Alternative Education and School Support Lead, Nadia Adragna, Principal of Safe Schools and Todd Visinki, Vice Principal of Safe Schools, made a presentation to the Committee regarding Safe Schools Report

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that the presentation by Vincent Burzotta, Superintendent, Safe Schools Alternative Education and School Support Lead, Nadia Adragna, Principal of Safe Schools and Todd Visinki, Vice Principal of Safe Schools, regarding Safe Schools Report be received.

CARRIED

Staff were directed to include the item on the November 11, 2015 agenda of SEAC so that feedback could be provided by the Committee.

MOVED by John MacKenzie, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that the Update on Internal Use of the Video Recording – Parliamentary Meeting be deferred pending the terms the Parliamentarian would like to stipulate around the use of the CD.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by John MacKenzie, that items 9a) 9b) and 9c) be adopted as follows:

9a) Communication from Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board - Regulation 274 – received.

9b) Communication from Near North District School Board - Learning for All – received.

9c) Communication from Durham District School Board - Regulation 274 - received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that item 9d) be adopted as follows:

9d) Communication from Peter Stachiw, Chief of Autism Programs and Services, regarding Autism Awareness Month – received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Giselle Romanino, seconded by Mary Pugh, that item 9) be adopted as follows:

9f) Communication from Cristina Fernandes, Superintendent of Special Services regarding Support Staff for Student Needs 2016-2017 – received.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that item 12b) be adopted as follows:

12b) Monthly Report from Cristina Fernandes, Superintendent of Special Services PPM/140 Survey Results 2015 that the following report be received:

Autism

- October is Autism Awareness Month

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- Staff hosted a one day interactive workshop for teachers of students with hearing difficulties. The workshop included presentations, demonstrations, hands on activities and a question and answer panel to help teachers gain an understanding of how to support their students with hearing loss.

Mental Health

- Oct. 19-20, 2015 2 day ASIST suicide Intervention training for guidance, SW, Psych, and administrators
- Oct. 29, 2015 1 day safe TALK suicide awareness , open to All TCDSB STAFF
- Preparing for expansion of Stop the Stigma to 9 elementary schools (it is in all secondary schools)
- Hopefully presenting our revised TCDSB Mental health and well-Being Strategy 2015-2018 to EC / Board
- Presentation to CPIC / OAPCE Parent Involvement Event for Parent Involvement Week on Oct. 24th
- Working on the addition n of Mental health to the SLIP Platform

Psychology

- The implementation of the Empower Reading programs, aiming to develop decoding/spelling, and reading comprehension/vocabulary for students with LD and LI has started in our TCDSB schools. This year the programs are being implemented in 77 elementary schools and in 108 Empower classes. Our data collection and monitoring student progress continues, in collaboration with the TCDSB Research Department.

- In collaboration with the Safe Schools Department, in September Psychology and Social Work staff participated in a 2-day training session on conducting risk assessments with students who present with worrisome behaviours.
- October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, and the Psychology Department posted information about LD on the Psychology website, which was communicated to all TCDSB schools:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/psychology/artgalleryandevents/Pages/Psychology-News.aspx>
- In addition, the Psychology Department will provide a poster (created by the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario) to be posted in each TCDSB school.
- Psychology and social work staff participated in a 2 day training session on risk assessment at the request of the Safe Schools department on September 15 and 16

Social Work

- October is Child Abuse prevention month. The Communications Department in conjunction with the Social Work Department and the Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society has issued information regarding child abuse prevention and the requirement to report suspected child abuse. The Social Work Department continues to collaborate with all Children's Aid Societies, Police Services and the BOOST Child & Youth Advocacy Center to revise child abuse reporting procedures in the City of Toronto.
- A two day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training course has been offered on Monday, October 19th and Tuesday, October 20th for social work, psychology, guidance and administrative staff. Additional training in Suicide Prevention is being offered through SafeTalk to other staff groups.

Speech and Language

- The Kindergarten Language Program welcomed the new cohort of students for 2015-2016. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this early intervention program for students with oral language and early literacy difficulties.
- Staff continue to actively participate on the Special Needs Strategy planning table for the Toronto region.
- Speech-language pathologists attended a joint professional development day with their counterparts at Toronto District School Board and with the Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services staff to share key learnings in supporting students with communication delays.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- Staff hosted a one day interactive workshop for teachers of students with hearing difficulties. The workshop included presentations, demonstrations, hands on activities and a question and answer panel to help teachers gain an understanding of how to support their students with hearing loss.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Glenn Webster, regarding medical screening, that SEAC recommends to the Board that a letter be sent to the Toronto Public Health Committee, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Services, with a copy to the SEACs of other Catholic Boards, requesting that funding be provided for hearing and vision testing to take place within the school setting immediately upon the registration of students.

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that item 12c) be adopted as follows:

12c) PPM/140 Survey Results 2015 – received.

CARRIED

Staff were directed to provide a copy of the survey to Sandra Mastronardi.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Giselle Romanino, arising out of her inquiry regarding the Special Education Plan, that the Special Education plan be presented to SEAC at the November, and to be spread out over several meetings so that SEAC can submit recommendations and input into the Plan.

CARRIED

Arising out of an inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding the Board website for SEAC, staff to update the website.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Giselle Romanino, that a letter be written in conjunction with SEAC and the Board's response to the Multi Year Recovery Plan.

With the consent of the Committee, Sandra Mastronardi withdrew her Motion.

MOVED by Trustee Andrachuk, seconded by Dario Imbrogno, that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR