



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee information meeting held on April 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

**Present:**

Administration: Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator  
Jennifer Palangio, Secondary Curriculum Lead – Special Education  
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

Trustees: John Willemsen  
Jacques Begin (Alternate)  
Leo de Jourdan (Alternate)

Associations: Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member  
Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member  
Dan Lachance, Community Living, Member  
Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP, Member

**Regrets:** Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Tracy Hanzlik, Nipissing First Nation  
Barb McCool, Trustee  
Tammy Rheaume-Fortin, HANDS, Member  
Susan Wright, CAS, Member

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**1. PRAYER**

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

**2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by John Willemsen THAT the agenda of Tuesday, April 2, 2019 be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by Dan Lachance THAT the minutes of Tuesday, March 5, 2019 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Program Presentation – May 14, 2019 (Numeracy)

NPSCDSB Numeracy Facilitators – Fundamental of Mathematics and Supporting our LD Learners Presentation is scheduled for the May 2019 SEAC meeting.

## 6. UPDATES / CORRESPONDENCE

### a) Student Roundtable

The secondary student roundtable occurred on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11AM (SJSH). SEAC members, secondary staff and administration met with selected Grade 12 students to facilitate questions and record answers. This item will be a future agenda item.

### b) Final School Visit

SEAC visited St. Hubert on March 26, 2019. Ms. Derosier shared highlights of the visit such as the LAC, HUB and system specialized programs.

### c) Letter to Minister of Education

SEAC discussed that although it is important to advocate for special education funding, it may be beneficial to hold sending a letter pending the 2019-2020 spring funding announcements specifically related to special education. SEAC may also wish to review and update advocacy issues based on recent announcements. SEAC agreed to keep this item on the monthly agenda and review it in May.

### d) Provincial Updates

Ms. Weller encouraged SEAC to review regular updates provided by the Ontario government at: <http://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en>. This site will provide updates to all government programs and services, including education. SEAC was encouraged to view this site for updates related to the MCCSS - Ontario Autism Program (OAP).

### e) Board of Trustees – Presentation

The presentation to Board is scheduled for April 30, 2019. Ms. Weller will send out an invite so that SEAC may prepare collaboratively. Ms. Weller will confirm the start time.

### f) Carousel 2019 – Update

In March, SEAC indicated an interest in having the 2019 Carousel Evening keynote focus on enabling adults to learn skills to help children understand how to be calm, listen to others, understand body cues, communicate respectfully, and improve social skills. Overall SEAC thought this discussion, around building healthy and positive relationships, aligned with the board's Tools For Life framework.

Trish Tessier, Mental Health Lead, and Lori Schleuting, VP at St. Theresa, have agreed to provide the Carousel Evening Keynote: Promoting Well Being.

SEAC discussed having fewer breakout sessions however ensuring the sessions were complimentary to the keynote. Possible breakout sessions include: Christian Meditation, Mental Health & Physical Well Being, Self Regulation, Yoga, Tools for Life and Building Resiliency in Teens.

The event theme is Building Bridges.

A SEAC Carousel Evening Subcommittee will be held on May 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

## 7. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update:

As the board representative, Ms. Weller shared the Special Education Report. Highlights included:

- NPSC Mathematics and the LD Learner
- April 8, 2019 – System Professional Activity Day
- NPSC Parent Engagement – SAVE THE DATES
- NPSC Parent Involvement Committee Presents: Alyson Schafer on April 24<sup>th</sup>: Raising Responsible and Resilient Children
- Provincial Updates

Shared correspondence included:

- OCSTA – Memorandum – Toronto Catholic DSB Motion regarding the Ontario Autism Program

Motion:

SEAC recommends to support the Toronto Catholic District School board motion regarding the changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Moved by Marie Derosier and seconded by Shannon O'Connor.

Letter from Durham CDSB – Letter to Minister Lisa Thompson

Memorandum to Directors of Education from Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister: New Vision for Education. Ms. Weller reviewed the highlights such as class size, e-Learning, cellphones, technology, curriculum upgrades and revisions etc.

#### ii) Coordinator's Update:

NIL Report

- iii) Secondary Curriculum Lead Update:
- SJSH students were highlighted on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Police Station as athletes attending the World Youth Games.
  - SJSH attended the Raising of the Flag for the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics. Athletes were interviewed and appeared in various media Nugget, Baytoday, CTV News and Cogeco news. The Bear Drum line also participated in the flag raising.
  - The Student SEAC Forum was held April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nine students who have IEPs attended and gave valuable input.
  - OSSLT was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parent teacher interviews will be held at SJSH on April 4<sup>th</sup> 3:30-6:30 PM.
  - SJSH students are planning to sell paper torches for a toonie during April at lunch time to raise money to support athletes going to the world youth games. The school who raises the most money during April will win the honor of carrying in the regions banner.
  - Letters for the IPRC meetings are being sent home to parents and guardians.
  - Transition meetings and visits continue.
  - Bear Day was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> - Feeder school grade 8's toured and participated in fun activities for half day.

b) Association Reports

- i) Community Living – Dan Lachance, Member
- Celebrating Autism Awareness Day – April 4, 2019
  - May 4, 2019 – Spring Fling – Casino Night
- ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member
- Electronically shared the April 2019 LDAO SEAC Circular.
- iii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member
- NIL Report
- iv) Shannon O'Connor, CCCNIP, Member
- Shared information on Changing Patterns - A free program open to women and children (Ages 7-14) which is aimed to assist children understand and deal with abuse – April 4, 2019

**8. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

In response to questions, Ms. Weller:

- shared information on the April 4, 2019 Student Walkout in protest of the provincial government's recent proposed changes to education.
- clarified that electronic board meeting packages are for SEAC information only. Board Meetings are not a requirement for SEAC members.

Ms. Derosier asked that SEAC Handbook be shared with new SEAC members.

**9. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting will be on May 14, 2019 in the Board Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m. A Carousel Evening SEAC subcommittee meeting will begin prior at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Office Board Room.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mary Grise and seconded by Dan Lachance THAT the meeting of April 2, 2019 was adjourned at 7:09 PM.