

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:30 P.M.

An on-line meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on this date.

ROLL CALL:

Claudine Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
Craig Cameron, Member At Large
Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) (SEAC Chair)
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
Hanah Nguyen, Easter Seals Ontario

Trustees: Donna Edwards Christine Thatcher

Staff: Superintendent Andrea McAuley
Special Education Officer Michelle Crawford-Eade
Chief Speech Language Pathologist Lisa Drake

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests; Carla Kisko Interim Associate Director of Corporate Services and Jennifer Machin, Senior Manager of Finance.

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

3. **Regrets:**

Absent:

- Craig Cameron, Member At Large

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for July 7, 2020 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Christine Thatcher SECONDED BY: Carolyn McLennon

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from June 18, 2020:**

That the minutes from June 18, 2020 be approved.

MOVED BY: Hanah Nguyen SECONDED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

CARRIED

6. **Presentation:**

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Interim Director of Corporate Services Carla Kisko and Senior Manager of Finance Jennifer Machin who provided SEAC members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Special Education Funding Model. Carla and Jennifer highlighted: special education grant; CUPE supports for students' fund; 2020-2021 special education revenues and expenditures; and priorities and partnership funding (PPF). The DDSB's Education Finance Committee - Public Sessions dates have been set for: July 2, July 8 and July 15, 2020. They also answered questions from SEAC members.

Education Finance Committee – Deputation

The Education Finance Committee Public Deputations meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. SEAC members provided input and additional feedback for the SEAC budget presentation that Tara Culley will be presenting on behalf of SEAC tomorrow evening. Superintendent Andrea McAuley and SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides thanked Tara Culley for preparing and presenting the deputation.

7. Update: Summer Supports for Students:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided an update on the Ministry's Summer Learning and Mental Health funding in the amount of \$520,334.00 allocated to the Durham DSB.

Three Program Focus and Funding:

1. Regulated mental health professionals to provide direct supports to students on existing caseloads and to respond to crisis situations
 - DDSB Funded at: \$186,259.00
Highlights: Three Tier Model of Support
 - Tier One: Psychoeducational Podcasts on Mental Health topics
 - Tier Two, Three: Direct service support for students with mental health needs
 - Tier Three: Crisis response for students/families, including liaison with community partners.
 - Supports for Student Transitions – clinical consultancy team

Connect with our Mental Health Team

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of daily life and we want you to know that we're here to help.

Staff from DDSB Psychological Services and Social Work Services are available to speak with students or their parents/guardians when there is a need to talk things through or to seek more immediate advice about directions for support.

This is not a crisis service.

If the need or risk is imminent, contact 911 or call KidsHelpPhone at 1-800-668-6868.

Access to DDSB Psychological Services and/or Social Work staff will be provided through an online format or by telephone, during regular work hours (Monday-Thursday). If students, parents/guardians are interested in speaking with a clinician, they can click on the button below to fill out a short form. One of the team members will be in contact with them as soon as possible.



2. Staffing resources to support students with special education needs in both expanded and new summer program offerings including special education resources teachers and educational assistants.

7. Update: Summer Supports for Students: (cont'd)

- DDSB Funded at: \$162,003.00

Highlights:

- SERTs for Summer Learning including facilitation of a Virtual Learning Hub (Academic Resource) and Credit Recovery Specific support
- Educational Assistant Support
- DASS Program Support GLE supported students
- Interpreter Support (August Session/single student)

3. In person transition back to school programs and/or supports in the two weeks prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year for students with special education needs and mental health concerns. School boards will have the flexibility to design programs within their funding allocation to address student need based on local priorities. Eligible expenditures: Educational Staff (teachers, educational assistants), Professional/Paraprofessional Staff (e.g., mental health professionals, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, child & youth workers etc.), program materials and Administrator/Supervisor expenses.

- DDSB Funded at: \$172,072.00

Highlight:

- School based model to provide transition support to 5-6 students of focus per school
- Support team includes Orientation & Mobility Specialist support, Transition Coordinator for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Integrated Clinical Team Support

8. Association Reports:

Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter

Autism Ontario Durham Chapter is hosting Zoom Bingo sessions during the month of July. Further registration details can be found on their Facebook page.

9. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – September 17, 2020

10. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by: Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair