

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday April 21, 2022 6:30 P.M.**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) (SEAC Chair)  
sensaRAneb Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter  
Carissa Lewis, Black Parents Support Group  
Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association  
Christina Salisbury, Easter Seals Ontario  
Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region  
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large  
Donna Edge-Bean, Member At Large  
Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders  
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
Vera Mercier, Early Years Consortium – Non-voting member

Trustees: Donna Edwards Linda Stone

Staff: Superintendent, Andrea McAuley  
System Leads, Kyla McKee, Conor Jinkinson,  
Michelle Crawford-Eade

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

1. **Call to Order:**  
SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Land Acknowledgement:**  
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. **DDSB Human Rights & Equity Statement**  
The Durham District School Board is committed to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from discrimination while placing Human Rights and Equity at the center.
4. **Welcome Guests:** Alison Warren-Instructional Facilitator Special Education, Danielle Denike-Principal DDSB@Home Elementary, Renee Ruddock-Clinical Director LRCSS, Andrea Simpson- Clinical Manager LCRSS, Wanda Harrington Senior Clinical Manager Grandview Children's Centre, Tami Rayner, Principal Sherwood P.S., Rema Saati Vice Principal Carruthers Creek P.S., Anthony Phelen Vice Principal Pickering H.S.

**Regrets:** Rowin Jarvis

**Absent:** Christina Salisbury, Kathy Kedey, Donna Edge-Bean.

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for April 21, 2022 be approved with the following amendments: addition of correspondence from the YCDSB, and Sir James Whitney School.

MOTION BY: Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

6. **Approval of the Minutes from March 10, 2022:**

That the minutes from March 10, 2022 be approved

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Carolyn McLennon

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports:**

**SEAC: April 2022 Administration Report**

Well-being, mental health and learning are intertwined. With the spring weather, school yards and cafeterias are vibrant with the sounds of laughter and connection. We are looking forward to May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, Children's Mental Health Week as students are invited to connect through a series of supports under the theme of "Hope in Challenging Times". The week culminates in Shine Green Friday.

The Ministry of Education has released funding information for the 2022-2023 school year; link to publicly available information provided within the information distributed ahead to SEAC.

Grants for Student Needs for the 2022-2023 includes:

- Partial continuity of Supports for Students Funding. This funding supports districts in supporting student learning needs. For the Durham District School Board, this includes a portion of augmentative SERT allocation and additional Educational Assistant positions.
- Mental Health and Well-Being Bundle funding, through Partnership and Priorities Funding previously, moves into the new Well-Being and Positive School Climates Allocation embedded in the Grants for Student Needs at a base amount of \$10 000 per district + \$1.14 per pupil amount.

The information includes the 2022-2023 Special Education Funding Guide, mental health funding details and some changes for key special education related funding processes.

Changes include:

- SEA increase from base +\$36.10/student to base +\$39.46/student
- Return to SIP student-based submission process and update to SIP maximum claim amount to \$28 803. This is an increase from the former max amount of \$27 405 in 2019 (last year of individual claim submissions)
- Education Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) application process moves to an auto-populated renewal process. This will allow ECPP teams, Grove School in the Durham District School Board, to provide change notification while saving time formerly invested in re-creation of submissions annual for continuity of programs.

The Inclusive Student Services leadership team is currently working through revision of the Special Education Plan. The plan will come to May SEAC for input and feedback and to the Board of Trustees during June Standing Committee. In addition to meeting ministry requirements, the plan will also be based on the principles, objectives and requirements of the Indigenous Education Policy and the draft Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy and procedures. Our goal is to articulate a plan reflective of programs and services for the 2022-23 school year and our District's continued and ongoing learning and evolution as we actively demonstrate our commitment to addressing ableism and upholding Indigenous rights, human rights and equity in our programs, services and learning environments.

The plan will include actions to:

- Meet our duty bearer responsibilities under the draft Human Rights Policy to:
  - Promote and protect human rights.
  - Identify, prevent and address discrimination and discriminatory barriers by embedding inclusive design, universal design for learning and accessibility principles in programs, services and learning.
  - Respond to human rights-related needs, including the duty to accommodate.
  - Support human rights learning, including enhancing understanding of ableism and of the medical versus social models of disability, and how they operate in our learning environments.
  - Correct incidents of discrimination.
- Measure evaluate and report on progress in addressing inequitable and disproportionate educational experiences, opportunities and outcomes.
- Continue to build forward the accessibility of the Special Education Plan as an important community facing document that articulates our commitments to student learning and well-being for those with special education strengths & needs.

All of this work will be informed by the principles of intersectionality, dignity, respect, individualization, participation and integration, with a focus on addressing systemic ableism.

We are listening, learning and shifting practice, grounded in our individual and organizational duties, responsibilities and accountabilities to the students and communities we serve.

Teams are currently working through planning for summer and transition supports as districts have received confirmation of related funding. For the Durham District School Board, supports such as Special Education Resource Teachers and Educational Assistants become embedded in summer learning through Durham Continuing Education. For students, this means the availability of support through the Learning Hub model, providing in-person and virtual access, to supports during summer course learning. We look forward to updating SEAC further in the months ahead and plans for the summer and in transition to the 2022-2023 school year become confirmed.

There are many community-based support changes that have been announced through various Ministries. These include the announcement of Smart Start Hubs, through MCCSS, with the goal of connecting families early with developmental services in an integrated way. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to shift partnerships in support of families of the Durham Region including bringing updates through SEAC for awareness and consultation where there are impacts to DDSB supports and programs.

This continues to be a challenging school year – for students, staff and families. What is strong within that is a commitment to community and each other with a centering on Indigenous rights, human rights and equity.

This is our Administrator report for April 2022.

**Board:** Trustee Donna Edwards thanked Tara Culley for presenting at the Education Finance committee. Trustee Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received information and presentations on: the Donald A. Wilson boundary review regarding French Immersion and regular stream, bell time review consultation and a second consultation for some secondary schools and bell times for 2022-2023 were approved. Also, Motions for the Human Rights policy as well as The Safe and Respectful Workplace Harassment Policy.

Discussions regarding Early Years and French Immersion took place and the committee had the following reflections:

- Two high schools in Whitby will now be hosting French Immersion- Donald A. Wilson and Anderson CVI.
- Julie Payette is a single-track French Immersion school and as of September 2022 the school will become a 1-8.
- Kindergarten will be held at the English-track school;
- Early years program are exclusively English language programs
- French Immersion single track schools will be running solely 1-8, dual track schools will have kindergarten classes.

\*Note: boundary review also inclusive of John Dryden P.S. and Julie Payette P.S. to attend Anderson CVI French Immersion program.

#### **8. Inclusive Student Service Department Report- April 2022**

Updates this month include:

- Planning Ahead: Children's Mental Health Week
- Summer School – Durham Continuing Education
- Learning & Program Highlight – DDSB@Home Gifted Program
- PAAC on SEAC:

#### **Administrative Report: Release of 2022-2023 Funding Information**

The Ministry of Education has released (March 25, 2022) key 2022-2023 Funding Information

Information is publicly available:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-funding-2022-23>

Information includes:

- 2022-2023 Technical Paper
- 2022-2023 A Guide to Special Education Funding
- 2022-2023 Mental Health Funding
- Documents related to key Special Education related funding processes: Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) and Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

#### **Administrative Report: Release of 2022-2023 Funding Information**

- DDSB Updates – COVID Related
- The Ministry removed mask requirements effective for March 21, 2022.
- Within direction, mask requirement remained in place, based on Directive 2, for Regulated Health Professionals (Speech Language & Psychological Services team members) across all settings, including schools, until April 27, 2022 when providing direct, regulated service.
- Supports were created and shared with school communities to promote mask-friendly environments respectful of individual choice.
- April 13, 2022 – Durham Region Health Department recommendation for masking in indoor settings.

### **DDSB Updates – 2022-2023 Planning**

- Preference surveys provided all DDSB families with opportunity to indicate either in-person or virtual learning for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Resulting program and staffing considerations included Special Education programs accessed through IPRC.
- A small number of students, program placement, selected virtual learning for the upcoming school year.
- Practical Learning Program and School Support Program will both run through DDSB@Home; smaller number of classes needed to meet request for virtual.
- Responsive to family preferences and related program viability, the Gifted program, run in both in-person and virtual formats for the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 school years, will be offered solely in-person for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Individualized consultations occurring with families of students (3) in the Developmental Program who indicated virtual preference.

### **DDSB Student Gmail Enabled– Grade 7 & Grade 8 Access**

- On March 24th, all DDSB students enrolled in grades 7-8 will gain access to the Gmail service associated with their student account; access was already open for secondary students.
- Grade 7-8 students will have some restrictions in place for their email accounts. Specifically, students will not be able to send emails to or receive emails from accounts outside of DDSB, other than receiving notifications from approved educational partners (ex: D2L, Google Classroom, Google Drive, WeVideo, Sora, etc.).
- Student email will allow students to receive notifications from services such as Google Classroom and D2L, receive verification emails when signing up for board-approved services such as online book ordering through SORA, and to communicate with their teachers.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

In recognition of Children's Mental Health Week, the Student Senate is hosting a weeklong series of events and activities for all DDSB students in grades 6 through 12 which will serve as an opportunity to promote positive mental health and well-being. Event is taking place from Monday May 2nd - Friday May 6th, 2022.

A Google Classroom for the week is currently in the process of being made and will contain all the information necessary for the events and activities. Included in the resources provided will be a toolkit of mental health and well-being activities for use by all grades during this week as well.

Schools have been asked to ensure to save the date of Wednesday May 4th, 2022 for this virtual and lively broadcasted Student Mental Health Symposium.

We hope that DDSB schools will support us in recognizing Children's Mental Health Week by promoting and participating in this event.

DDSB Student Trustees:

James Kay (Brock-Scugog-Uxbridge)

Kayla Malcolm (Ajax-Pickering)

De-Mario Knowles (Whitby-Oshawa)

## **Mental Health & Well-Being**

- New resource from School Mental Health Ontario.

### Communication Strategies to Support the Mental Health of Students with Special Education Needs

- Created in consult with an SLP Manager Working Group from school board districts

## **Transitions Supports**

### **Recording Link: [Exploring Post-Secondary Education](#)**

*Previously shared with SEAC; updated with link to recording*

- Presented by Faculty from Durham College's CICE Program and the Access & Support Centre (ASC) alongside Fleming Colleges CICE.
- ASC Shared information on services available to Durham College Students—ASD social group, Assistive technology, Peer notetaking, counselling reduced course load/tuition fee policy, test centre etc.
- Fleming and Durham provided a full in-depth overview of their programs allowing students to learn how they can maximize their educational journey as a CICE student followed by a Q&A session.

## **Transitions Supports-Community Connections**

- **Community Connections**, the final webinar from our Life Beyond high school series, will provide students and their parents/caregivers an opportunity to explore community services that support the students' strengths, interests and needs.
- Date to be announced (late May)
- Flier, including date and registration information, will be shared with SEAC via email

## **Special Education Programs - Planning for 2022-2023**

- In continuing our work in honouring identity, we are reviewing the 2022-2023 Special Education Plan with the guiding principles of:
  - Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy
  - Inclusive Design & Accommodation Procedure
  - Human Rights, Responsibilities and Accountability Framework
- Specific lens to Anti-Ableism, Intersectionality and Accountability

System Lead Kyla McKee welcomed two DDSB guest educators that support our Gifted Program. Danielle Denike has been the principal of DDSB@Home grade 7-8 campus for the past two years, and is responsible for all virtual gifted classes. She also was the principal at Alexander Graham Bell that hosts the Gifted Program. She is joined tonight by Alison Warren, our Special Education Instructional Facilitator for the Gifted Program. They are here to share with us some information and experiences around this program delivered through a virtual platform.

## **Student Learning Highlight- DDSB@Home- Gifted Program**

### **Site for Families of Learners in the Elementary Gifted Program Includes:**

- Parent/Guardian Resources
- Message from the Facilitator and contact information
- Updates on important dates including Regional Events
- Highlights of activities going on at the different host schools
- **Rise to the Challenge events and student submissions**
  - 3 non-competitive events introduced throughout the year (Fall, Winter, Spring) – student submissions are posted on the community site.

• **Student Spotlight**

- Highlighting students who have created or are participating in an interesting activity outside of the classroom. This month we are showcasing a published Grade 4 author from Coronation PS  
<https://sites.google.com/ddsb.ca/gifted-families-community/home>
- This site was developed from a need to communicate and collaborate during the pandemic and has grown into a community of sharing between families, students and schools.
- The information is available to students and families through the SERTs for mainstream students with a gift identification.
- Superintendent Andrea McAuley thanked Danielle Denike and Alison Warren for all the incredible work they have put in to creating a fulsome gifted program for our DDSB@home students.

**Graduating DDSB Students: Bursaries, Awards & Funding Reminder:**

Information on bursaries, awards & funding available for graduating DDSB students can be found in a centralized location on the DDSB website: [DDSBScholarships](#)

- These opportunities are also being highlighted through social media @DDSBschools; retweets appreciated
- Note: Easter Seals scholarship opportunity added to these resources.

**LDADR Abilities Scholarship – Spring 2022**

- The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region and the Durham District School Board partner to provide an annual \$1000.00 Abilities Scholarship Award.
- The scholarship recognizes a DDSB high school student who has a diagnosed Learning Disability and who is continuing studies in the upcoming school year.
- The recipient will be recognized at the DDSB Board Meeting on June 20, 2022, and at their school Commencement Ceremony.
- Call for submissions has occurred with process closing date of April 27, 2022

**Antiracism and Universal Design for Learning**

"Traditional systems that perpetuate institutional racism and block on-ramps to learning are designed for a mythical average learner, one who is white, privileged, at grade-level and self-regulated." (p. 48)

This concludes the department report for April 2022.

**9. Presentation: OAP-Entry to School – LRCSS and Grandview Children's Centre**

Renee Ruddock, Clinical Director, LRCSS, Andrea Simpson, Clinical Manager, LRCSS, Wanda Harrington, Senior Clinical Manager, Grandview Children's Centre provided a PowerPoint presentation on The Ontario Autism Program (OAP), Entry to School Program (ETS). The following items were highlighted:

- Partnership Grandview, Lake Ridge, Region of Durham-Resources for Exceptional Children.
- Open to children ages 3-6 if attending JK/SK or Grade 1 for the first time, that have received an invitation from MCCSS
- [OAPEarlyYearsIntake@grandviewkids.ca](mailto:OAPEarlyYearsIntake@grandviewkids.ca)
- To support families & their children on the autism spectrum as they transition to school
- First six months getting ready for school
- Next six months transition within the school and classroom space.

- Focus on six skill building areas:
  - Communication
  - Play
  - Social Interaction
  - Functional Routines
  - Behavioural self-management
  - Pre-academics, learning and attention
- With the families consent the transitions team with help coordinate the transition into school for the first six months.
- The team will share, with the school tips and strategies that have proved effective.
- Taking the lead from the schools and looking for feedback.
- The goal of the families is where we take our lead
- Looking at how the program can fit the student not the student fit the program.
- We meet the students where they are.
- Connections for students through Kinark have been extended for children registered in the OAP for any transition assistance that may be needed within the school setting.
- Smart Start Hub has launched.
- Please direct any questions/comments to: wanda.harrington@grandviewkids.ca

#### 10. **Open Discussion:**

Future SEAC meetings in-person or virtual discussion.

- SEAC seems more fulsome in person, breakout rooms, quality and depth, networking within associations, relationship building.
- Questions around the gallery in the meeting.
- SEAC does not have a space conducive to hybrid.
- Suggestion to survey the committee.

Education finance deputation, thank you to Tara for representing SEAC with the deputation.

[News Article - Budget](#)

- Assessing children and youth and their needs from the start of school; if appropriate and needed to inform programming
- Grade 3-4 is used as a benchmark for testing; (eg:WISC) this allows time for the program to meet student needs.
- Look at it from an inclusive design and accommodation perspective first.
- Want to avoid applying a medical model when it is the program that needs to adjust to meet the needs of the student.
- Significant waitlists for some of our community partner's programs.
- DDSB assessments are completed within the school year once committed to in consultation with student/family.

#### 11. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- None

#### 12. **Association Reports & Committee Reports:**

- VOICE April Newsletter
- May Speech Language Month



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**13. Correspondence:**

- Membership request from The Participation House Project Durham Region
  - Their website lists a fee for service as well as they are funded by the Ministry.
  - Will be reviewed again at the May meeting.
- Grandview Kids
- YCDSB Nursing Shortage
- YCDSB Special Incident Portion Claim Funding
- Sir James Whitney Virtual Open House

**13. Community Concerns:**

None

**14. Celebrations and Success:**

**15. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – Thursday, May 19, 2022.**

**16. Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

**Table 1- Action Plan**

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Add membership request to next agenda.	Lisa Wry	May 19, 2022
SEAC Survey for Meeting Delivery	Andrea McAuley	ASAP