

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday February 15, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) SEAC Chair
sensaRAneb Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
Elizabeth Daniel, Member at Large
Morgann Cameron, Member at Large
Charmain Brown, OPVIC Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children
Jennifer McLaughlin, Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Trustees: Donna Edwards Kelly Miller Debora Oldfield

Staff: Superintendent, Andrea McAuley
System Lead, Michelle Crawford-Eade
System Lead Conor Jinkinson

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subject to action with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

The Durham District School Board is committed to learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive, and free from discrimination.

4. **Welcome Guests:** Rema Saati, Vice-Principal-Southwood Park, Lisa Wray, Vice-Principal-McLaughlin CVI.

Regrets: Rowin Jarvis, Morgann Cameron, Trustee-Kelly Miller.

Absent: Trustee Deb Oldfield.

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for February 15, 2024, be approved:

MOVED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

SECONDED BY: Charmain Brown

CARRIED

6. **Approval of the Minutes from January 18, 2024:**

That the minutes from January 18, 2024 be approved:

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: sensaRAneb Burrell

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports:**

Administration:

Michelle Crawford Eade shared February's Inclusive Student Services Impact Update Volume 6 which focuses on Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP).

Education Community Partnership Programs (ECPPs) are collaborative partnerships between school boards and government-approved facilities such as children mental health agencies, hospitals, or youth detention centres. The Durham District School Board (DDSB) provides the educational component ("Education Program") while a community partners provide the care and/or treatment or rehabilitation ("ECPP Services"). (MOE, 2023-24)

ECPPs are an important resource for providing critical support to meet the needs of children and youth who cannot attend school due to their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services and in facilitating transitions to future educational success.

An ECPP is for children and adolescents who cannot attend their regular school because of their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services.

Board: Trustee Donna Edwards shared with SEAC members that Board of Trustees received presentations and information at the Standing and Governance Committee meetings. At the Standing Committee meeting there was a presentation on the Math Achievement Action Plan. There was also a community presentation about the school boundary review for Vincent Massey. The boundary review has been engaged to address the need to redesignate some high growth areas of North Oshawa and West Whitby and Pickering, and to designate some holding schools to accommodate the growth. Discussed boundaries for the new North Oshawa school. Received a memo on the DDSB@Home transition pilot.

At the Governance meeting, Board members looked at the assessment policy which was deferred to the next governance meeting to allow for some research.

8. **Presentation/Working Session**

2024/2025 Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan-Consult

The Inclusive Student Services (ISS) team is planning for the 2024/2025 school year, which includes updating the ISS/Special Education Plan. This is when we look at what is working well and what work needs to be done. The ISS Impact Update is proving to be a helpful communication tool. We have noticed a need to update current information for parents/guardians/caregivers, pamphlets, and class information. Looking for feedback from SEAC around programs and supports as it relates to the Special Education Plan.

[2023-2024 Inclusive Student Services-Special Education Plan](#)

- Standard 9: Special Education Placements
- Section C: SEAC

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides suggested that once reviewed thoughts/suggestions can be sent to Lisa Wry, and shared at the next SEAC meeting, March 21, 2024, when break out groups for discussion can be facilitated.

Some quick observations shared:

- Ensure information is parent friendly,
- Families may want to know the process in decision making.
- Consider links to cited legislation.
- Partial integration for the gifted program in secondary could be explained more thoroughly.
- The SERT is consultative in the regular classroom with indirect support placement.
- Link in the table of contents to go directly to the page.
- SEAC section-share that SEAC members provide consultation of policy and changes at the Board.
- Update association information-Durham Autism is now Autism Ontario-Durham Region
- Include that SEAC members are advocates for students and families.
- Contact your school and/or any members of SEAC.
- Suggestion that members add quotes -Trustees what they do on the SEAC and quotes from SEAC associations as to why they are a part of SEAC.

Superintendent Andrea McAuley asked members to consider if building a pamphlet would be helpful for families to understand the placement "Regular Classroom with Indirect Support" to provide a fulsome understanding of the wrap around supports of this classroom placement. Members agreed this would be helpful information for families to have in a pamphlet format.

9. **Open Discussion**

- Advocacy Engagement Event
 - Confirmation that the event would be held in September 2024.

10. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- SEAC meeting schedule-reschedule of 2 meetings due to lack of quorum.
 - Suggestion to make one meeting for the advocacy night and another for preparation of the deputation to Education Finance.
- 2024-2025 School Year Calendars – Proposal for change to SEAC meetings
 - This is usually the time that dates are drafted for SEAC meeting in the

upcoming school year.

- Currently the Board of Trustees meet the first Monday of the month for Standing Committee and third Monday is the Board meeting. With SEAC taking place the third Thursday of the month, it means that information is getting to the Board two months behind when it is moved by SEAC.
- Request to move from Thursdays to Wednesdays and from the third week of the month to the first week of the month.
- Proposing trying this out for the 2024-2025 school year
- Proposal that it stay Thursday but move to the first of the month.
- Dates need to pass at SEAC by the March 2024 meeting.

11. Association Reports & Committee Reports

- Highlight OPVIC
- Charmain Brown shared with the group the background and supports provided by the Ontario Parents of the Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC) Association.
- Grassroots organization started by parents of visually impaired children that were looking for connection.
- Started as a way for parents to connect as there are fewer students with vision loss/impairments and they are scattered throughout the region. This group helps parents come together in advocacy and support.
- Advocate the government for treatment supports.
- Learning from other families/parents/caregivers and providing support and information to one another.
- Moved to having a SEAC representative in each Board.
- Work in conjunction with Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

The March association highlight will be Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support.

12. Correspondence

- Letter to the Ministry from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB)-Supporting Students with Special Education Needs
- Consider writing a letter supporting the letter sent from the PVNCCDSB.
- Underfunding for Special Education programs effects all Boards.
- Transportation in northern Durham is a huge problem.
- The Ministry in some cases is using old census data to calculate funding.
- Letter about Transportation concerns in Durham Region will be shared at the next meeting.

13. Community Concerns

- Durham Transit has added an additional bus for entry and exit times at Ajax HS.
- SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides had a community concern about a student that left school property, in Ajax.
- Superintendent Andrea McAuley responded to recent concerns about students leaving property or elopement.
- System Lead Michelle Crawford-Eade was out with the school team after the incident reviewing the full safety plan programing and has been in continuous contact.
- There has been a directive given to the system, all schools, to review their planning for students leaving property or elopement.

- Who are your students?
- What are we doing to close those loops?
- What are the strategies?
- How are you communicating those strategies to staff including supply staff?

14. Celebrations & Successes

- Tara Culley shared that Adam is doing some integration, this semester he is taking a food and nutrition class, which he really enjoys, and is a huge motivator for him.
- Trustee Donna Edwards – celebrating that a student in Durham is attending the National Winter Games in Calgary competing in speed skating.
- Charmain Brown is celebrating that the school she works in has moved away from Black History Month to Black Joy - highlighting black Canadians that are current, and that students could contact/connect with. Seeing the positive difference in the students and their confidence.
- sensaRAneb Burrell quoted Dr. Martin Luther King “The time is always right to do what is right.”

15. Next S.E.A.C Meeting

- March 21, 2024

16. Adjournment

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Tara Culley SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Table 1- Action Plan

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Review Standard 9 & Section C of the ISS Special Education Plan	SEAC Members	March 21, 2024
Doodle Poll – for rescheduling meeting from September & December 2023	Lisa Wry – creation/sharing SEAC Members – response	Prior to March 21, 2024 meeting.
Creation of a placement brochure for Regular Class with Indirect Support	Andrea/Inclusive Student Services	For inclusion in the 2024-2025 Special Education Plan

Inclusive Student Services Impact Update

2023-2024 • Volume 6

Education Community Partnership Program (ECPP) Grove School

What are Education Community Partnership Programs?

ECPPs are collaborative partnerships between school boards and government-approved facilities such as children mental health agencies, hospitals or youth detention centres. The DDSB provides the educational component (“Education Program”) while a community partner provides the care and/or treatment or rehabilitation (“ECPP Services”). (MOE, 2023-24)

ECPPs are an important resource for providing critical support to meet the needs of children and youth who cannot attend school due to their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services and in facilitating transitions to future educational success.

An ECPP is only for children and adolescents who cannot attend their regular school because of their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services.

Current Program and Enrolment Information

The ECPP programs facilitated by the DDSB, in partnership, currently supports 205 (December 2023) children and adolescents between the ages of 7 and 21.

Program Impacts and Transitions

Transitions for children and youth accessing ECPP include pathways including return to home school, transition to services of another ECPP partners and/or SE class. Between September and December 2023), 9 students returned to their home school and 13 transitioned between ECPP programs/partners.

Supported by DDSB teachers through ECPP, secondary students completed 39 credits during the same time period.

“I can’t stress the importance of Grove School. I am someone who needs lots of prompting to stay organized. Teachers only see my marks as average and that’s all they look at. For me it is really hard to stay organized and I need a few accommodations and here I can get what I need. Thank you is all I can say. I am beyond grateful to get this help so I can be successful in main stream high school and post secondary.”

–Grade 8 Grove School student

DDSB Agency Partners

The DDSB currently partners with 13 community agencies in the provision of ECPP opportunities for children and adolescents to offer 50 program classes during the school year. This breadth of partnership and programs is the second largest ECPP in the province of Ontario. Many of the ECPPs also operate through the summer months (Summer 2023–17 programs in July and 12 programs in August). The geographical area for access for each partnership is the boundary of the community agency.

Partners for the 2023-2024 school year are (in alphabetical order):

Chimo Youth & Family Services, chimoyouth.ca

Collaborative Community Connections Ltd., collaborativecommunityconnections.ca

Durham Family Court Clinic, dfcc.org

Enterphase Child & Family Services, enterphase.com

Fostering Family Relations Inc., fosteringfamilyrelations.ca

Frontenac Youth Services, frontenacyouthservices.org

Kennedy House, kennedyhouse.org

Kinark Child & Family Services, kinark.on.ca

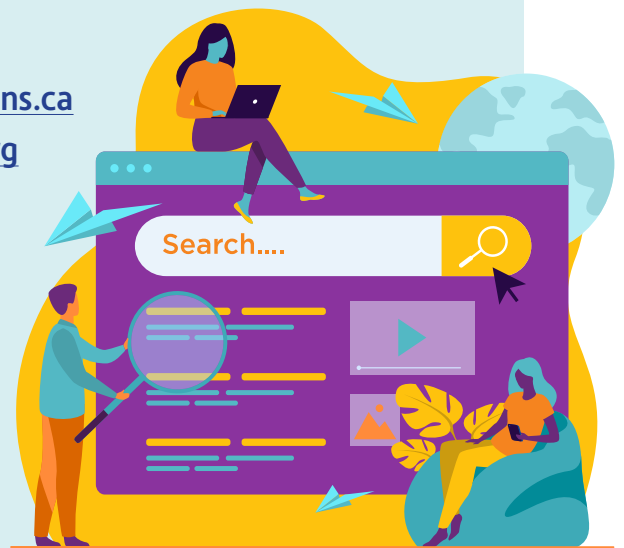
Lake Ridge Community Support Services, lrcss.com

Lakeridge Health, lakeridgehealth.on.ca

Murray McKinnon Foundation, murraymckinnon.ca

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, ontarioshores.ca

Youth Connections Inc., youthconnectionsinc.ca



More information about each community agencies can be found on the Grove School website at grove.ddsb.ca, or through connection direction with the organization.

Ministry of Education ECPP Guide

The Ministry of Education provides support and evaluation of ECPP programs. Each program class is renewed on an annual basis. For further information about ECPP foundations, view the Ministry of Education [Guidelines for Approval and Provision of an ECPP 2023-24](#) document.



“Grove School has positively impacted me in many ways. The staff are very understanding of the situations that have impacted my ability to complete high school in a regular time frame. My mental health was put first which tremendously helped me in being able to complete my courses. My teacher and my mental health nurse were very accommodating and supportive throughout my time here and helped to keep me on track with my goals.”

–Grade 12 Grove School student

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“I want to share how my time at Grove School has been a great experience for me. My teachers and staff have helped me with everything I know to this day. I have learned to be more responsible for my actions thanks to my teachers and Child and Youth Workers.”

–Grade 12 Grove student

“Grove teachers are able to develop relationships with students that allow them to design lessons and learning opportunities that involve the interests of their specific students. We can work one on one with students on a daily basis to determine where the gaps are in their learning and we can concentrate our efforts on those curriculum expectations.

Grove teachers are expected to conduct meaningful assessments frequently to ensure the maximum growth for each student, many of whom only stay with us for a semester or less.

Grove teachers are at the forefront when it comes to providing students with opportunities for Social Emotional Learning and they often have developed strategies for students who have not had the opportunity to be appropriately assessed but still require accommodations to their educational programming. When Grove teachers work in collaboration with the Agency team, they can contribute to the emotional wellbeing of the student long after the student has left Grove school by providing strategies for self regulation which can lead to future academic success.

Grove teachers choose to show up everyday with a renewed sense of determination and they strive to make every child in their classroom be seen.”

–Grove teacher

“Grove School provides a sense of belonging for our students and represents a safe, and non-judgmental space where they can work on their academics with exceptional teaching and support staff. Grove empowers students to achieve their goals while learning valuable life skills.”

–Enterphase Child & Family Services Day Treatment Management,
Jen Phillips and Marissa Simmons

“The Day Treatment Program provides the space for the youth in the program to work through mental health challenges with supportive staff. The staff’s approach of meeting the youth where they are at emotionally and academically has been successful with many of the youth in the programs.”

–Frontenac Family & Youth Services Manager, Melanie Brynaert

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For more information about the
DDSB Inclusive Student Services Impact Update,
 please visit [DDSB Inclusive Student Services](#).

