

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday April 3, 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) SEAC Chair
Charmain Brown, OPVIC Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children
sensaRAneb Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Region 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
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:** Jennifer Machin, Senior Manager of Finance.

Regrets: Elizabeth Daniel, Charmain Brown

Absent: Deb Oldfield

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for April 3, 2024, be approved:

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

CARRIED

6. **Presentation:** Special Education Funding

Superintendent Andrea McAuley informed SEAC that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for the 2024-2025 have not yet been released by the Ministry of Education.

Senior Manager of Finance Jennifer Machin shared information with SEAC:

- **Enrolment:** refers to the number of students attending DDSB schools and is the key driver of revenue and expenditure calculations. The Ministry determines funding for school boards through calculations using the Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) as the main component.
- **Official Enrolment Projections (OEP):** student enrolment estimates developed by the Property and Planning department, in conjunction with Workforce Planning and Business staff. Input is also received from elementary and secondary school principals.
- **Full-time Equivalent (FTE):** calculation of student enrolment taking into consideration part-time students. A full-time student would be equal to one FTE; however, a part-time student would only be equal to the portion of the school day when they are attending class. The total FTE for the board will be less than total enrolment for the board unless there are no part-time students.
- **Average Daily Enrolment (ADE):** enrolment based on the averaging of full-time equivalent enrolment counts on the October 31 and March 31 count dates.
- **Grants for Student Needs (GSN):** Ministry of Education allocation consisting of the Pupil Foundation grant, the school foundation grant and sixteen supplemental grants (including the Special Education Grant).
 - Component of the GSN which supports students with special education needs.
 - May only be used for special education programs, services and/or equipment.
 - Unspent funding must be put aside and spent on special education in the future.
 - Minimum amount that must be spent on special education, however, may use other GSN funding on special education programs and support.

The Special Education Grant is made up of six allocations:

- Special Education per Pupil Amount (SEPPA)
 - To assist with the costs of providing additional support to students with special education needs. It is allocated to school boards based on total enrolment of all students, not just students with special education needs.
 - Allocated based on total ADE multiplied by a benchmark rate.

- Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA)
 - To address the variation among school boards with respect to their population of students with special education needs
 - Model includes six components:
 1. Special Education Statistical Prediction Model
 2. Measures of Variability:
 3. Base Amount for Collaboration and Integration
 4. Multi-Disciplinary Supports
 5. Local Special Education Priorities
 6. Early Math Intervention Amount
- Special Equipment Amount (SEA)
 - To support the purchase of equipment that may be required by students with special education needs.
 - Model includes two components:
 - Per Pupil Amount
 - Claims-based Funding
- Special Incidence Portion (SIP)
 - To support those students who require more than two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs.
 - 2023-2024 SIP moved to a formula amount from previous claims-based format.
- Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP)
 - To support provision of education programs to school aged children and youth in care, treatment, or detention facilities
- Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)
 - To provide funding to hire professional staff who have expertise in applied behavior analysis.

Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF) Grants

- Additional funding outside the Grants for Student Needs
- May be one-time only or in place for a limited period of time.
- Governed by agreements that outline the purpose of the funding, expectations and specific accountability requirements.
- Any unspent grants are normally to be returned.
- Majority of these grants are from the Ministry of Education however other ministries and agencies may at times provide similar grants.
- PPF grants may be transferred into the GSN.

Future Finance Meetings:

April 16, 2024, at 7:00 –Public Deputations

May 15, 2024, at 7:00 –Presentation of draft budget

May 28, 2024, at 7:00 –Presentation of updated draft budget from May 15, and Public Deputations

June 5, 2024, at 7:00 – Presentation of updated draft budget from May 28, 2024, meeting, if required, and budget consideration and recommendation to Board for June 17, 2024, Board meeting.

SEAC members discussed the presentation:

Trustee Donna Edwards shared:

- The special education per pupil amount is a very small amount
- The data used is not up to date citing census data used
- Durham region has changed
- Need the public to know how much Boards advocate and it is still not enough.

In response to member inquiries the following was discussed:

- The Ministry provides funding for ECPP-teacher (salary and benefits) and allocated administrator FTE based on number of program classes.
- Questions about the reserve funding for Special Education.
 - The Board as a whole has a requirement for a balanced budget; planned expenditures exceeding the Special Education funding envelope.
 - In principle we should not have a special education reserve. This year's dollars for this year's students.
 - SEA Funding/Deferred Revenue: During COVID we had less spending on equipment for students accessing education at home, but upon the return spending increased to update equipment as students had grown and required newer and updated items.
- Envelope funding-is funding that must be used for a specific purpose. For example, special education, the funds are very specific and not as flexible.
 - Most of the revenue funding received for special education goes toward salaries.
- The Ministry has committed to a SIP/SEA audit for school boards-first meeting is virtual and then school visits.
 - Audit is a time to share student excellence and aspects of the programs.
 - Opportunity to discuss funding models
 - Inquiry into defining complex needs
 - Invitation to a conversation to understand what students need; who is with them and how they are supported.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan- SEAC Section Reflections:
 - Superintendent Andrea McAuley wants to ensure the SEAC section is articulating the advocacy and parent/caregiver support provided by SEAC.
 - Trustee Donna Edwards strongly suggested that it is included that SEAC advises on Board Policy.
 - Suggestion to include SEAC meetings can be viewed on YouTube.
 - Like to see a physical brochure created for sharing.
- SEAC Advocacy: Transportation Letter Observations:
 - Consider adding a summary from the problems addressed within the letter.
 - Advocates for our students as well as our community.
 - Failure to consider these students is inequitable.
 - Improved service will improve ridership and therefore increase revenue.
 - More collaboration between transit and school boards.

- Suggested revisions are requested before the SEAC meeting April 18, 2024.
- Consideration for sharing letter with the other Ministries in addition to Education as well as the opposition education critics.

8. Adjournment

That the meeting does now adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair