

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday April 3, 7:30 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 7:50 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:** None

Regrets: Elizabeth Daniel, Charmain Brown

Absent: Deb Oldfield

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for April 3, 2024, 7:30 p.m. meeting, be approved:

MOVED BY: Trustee Kelly Miller

SECONDED BY: Morgann Cameron

CARRIED

6. **Open Discussion**

Advocacy Event Planning

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides created a list of possible agenda topics for the SEAC Advocacy Event:

- Welcome
- Overview
- What we do
- And how to find us
- Break out session.

Members of SEAC reflected on possible topics and delivery options:

- Parent/caregiver session
- IEP- as fluid document
- Team meetings who can call a meeting, who can attend.
- Guide to IPRC-a parent/caregiver perspective and recommendations
- Elementary panel and secondary panel considerations
- Reflect variety of placement options (regular class and special education placement programs)
- How to help students advocate for themselves.

Student session

- IEP-Help students understand that an IEP is a legal fluid document, and it supports their right to accommodation and individualized programming
- Advocating for themselves
- What to do if there is a "no" to an accommodation request.
- Scenario that could happen – role play
- Accommodation is provided with dignity and respect.
- How do parents/caregivers fit the process.
- Interactive ways to apply the learning from the SEAC parent/caregiver survey (2023); not solely 'present to' format
- Many years ago, there was an event around IEPs with a speaker and then breakout sessions.
- A singular night with a singular topic can be done well.
- Main speaker with breakout sessions.

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- Start with the IPRC and the IEP sessions:
 - One for the IEP in September
 - Another for IPRC in February or March.
- Need to include sessions for alternative elementary and alternative secondary goals.
- Registration should be required.
- Need to provide an online option.
- Ask for prepared questions.

Administrative questions: Location? Date? Will need to book in advance and reserve media team support.

- Consideration for September 24, 25 or October 1, 2024.
- 1 large room
- 6 breakout spaces; parent/caregiver discussion rooms.

Will require more meetings to put together who will do what.

- Virtual planning meetings in the future for sub-committee.

7. **Next S.E.A.C Meeting-**

April 18, 2024

8. **Adjournment**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Rowin Jarvis SECONDED BY: Trustee Kelly Miller

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Table 1- Action Plan

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Confirm date options for SEAC Advocacy Event	Lisa Wry	ASAP