

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday September 5, 2024 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  
Allyson Eamer, Easter Seals Ontario  
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 Michelle Arseneault

Staff: Superintendent, Andrea McAuley  
System Lead, Conor Jinkinson

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

**1. Call to Order:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, live, and learn.

This statement was co-created in partnership with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Georgina Island.

**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 providing learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive, and free from all forms of discrimination, oppression, harassment, and harm.

**4. Welcome Guests:** Melissa Cook Elementary Representative, Tracey Running Secondary Representative

**Regrets:** Rowin Jarvis, Trustee Kelly Miller

**Absent:** Trustee Michelle Arseneault

**5. Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for September 5, 2024, be approved with the change to the date for the June SEAC meeting should read June 20, 2024.

MOVED BY: Elizabeth Daniel

SECONDED BY: Allyson Eamer

CARRIED

**6. Approval of the Minutes:**

That the minutes from June 20, 2024, be approved:

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards SECONDED BY: sensaRAneb Burrell

CARRIED

**7. Staff Reports:**

Superintendent Andrea McAuley shared updates on the start up of the school year. The Inclusive Student Services Impact update will continue in October. Two elementary and three secondary schools started in August and the rest of the schools started on Tuesday September 3; we have had higher than projected enrolment of approximately 84,000 students. This includes: the new school in North Oshawa, Maamawi Iyaawag P.S., students at Mary St. Community School entered a new school building. All students at Beaver River P.S. have moved into the new location. It is important to note when enrolments shift significantly, there is continual adjustments with transportation planning.

Today we were able to get the entire Inclusive Student Services team together in an integrated way to look at and review the Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). There was an excitement in the air, and we received great feedback on [PPM 128](#) and the code of conduct specifically the use of cell phones in schools and possible accommodations. The code of conduct of consistent across all sites.

The Inclusive Student Services department has drafted a document introducing the different teams and their roles in support of schools; feedback was also sought from the teams on the draft and will be integrated into the final presentation.

We are doing a book study as part of learning about addressing ableism; shared with the Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT). Offering copies of *Ableism in Education*, Gillian Parkekh to members of SEAC, request your copy through Lisa Wry. Quotes drawn and shared with the department and SERTs:

"Students who were identified through special education or were placed in special education programming reported heightened experiences of exclusion." Pg 108 *Ableism in Education*

"An inclusive classroom modifies the environment to fit the student, not the student to fit the environment." Pg 108 *Ableism in Education*

**8. Board:** Trustee Donna Edwards shared with SEAC members that Board of Trustees has had a special Board meeting as there was a change to the Trustees' code of conduct from the Ministry. Updates around electronic meetings and attendance. Standing committee addresses the slow arrival of portables and the delay of installation. Busing is in good shape still working

through some planning and coordination, but we did have our routes up and ready. Welcomed new Student Trustees. Received a response back around education development the response is quite disheartening; Boards do not have the money because of the education development charges can only increase by \$300/year and we already know we are in a significant deficit to purchase lands for new school developments.

**9. Presentation: DDSB Parent/Guardian Guide to IPRC**

[DDSB Parent/Guardian Guide to IPRC](#)

Seeking SEAC's input on updating the Identification and Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Parent Guide Supporting Presentation.

As a district we have many SERTs new to the role as well as many administrators new to the role. We are looking to create a resource for professional learning as well as a tool for families to learn about the process. Plan is to make the document accessible with closed captioning and voice over.

Feedback requested for the slides created and considerations for making speaking notes.

Members discussed and reviewed the draft presentation with the following suggestions for improvement:

- Opening slide that might say when and why an IPRC might happen.
- Reads like the recommendation comes from teacher observation but make it clear that parents may request an IPRC.
- The IPRC should be where consultations are being confirmed. The Parent/Guardian guide to IPRC is presented prior to the IPRC and should be presented annually.
- Font is difficult to read.
- Suggestion to simplify language make it easier to read.
- Include a glossary of terms.
- Let parents know that they can initiate a care conference.
- Want the document to read as if it is for families and caregivers.
- Consideration for longer meeting times for first time IPRC
- A statement about eligibility to access documentation
- Word heavy- consider making this mostly voice notes and then use quick bullet points.
- Make the words more caring toward the parent, build connections.
- Add that families can bring an advocate.
- Put student information before reference to the MYSP.

**10. Open Discussion: Advocacy Webinar Series**

- Consider doing something prerecorded which can be used at the school as part of a parent/caregiver engagement night.
- Concerns about the level of engagement of families limited with a prerecorded session; could be mitigated by watch parties with opportunities for discussion.
- Many other opportunities to use a prerecorded session-schools and committees can request that a SEAC members attend as a support at the events.
- Have the webinar first shared with school teams so there is unity to the messaging.
- Meeting with members of SEAC might be helpful to families to build relationships with members.
- Recording is available for families to rewatch if they wish on their own time.

- Perhaps a compilation of members presentations about their association.

**11. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Finalization: [SEAC Obligations and Expectations](#)

**12. Association Reports & Committee Reports**

- Alternate member for Autism Ontario will attend the next meeting.
- Tara Culley will be presenting on behalf of Down Syndrome Association of Durham at the October 3, 2024, meeting.

**13. Correspondence**

- Received correspondence that Member at Large, Morgann Cameron, has stepped down from SEAC.
- The previous advertisement for Member at Large will be updated with new dates and reposted for community members to submit their interest.
- Volunteers for the review and selection committee for the Member at Large position will be Allyson Eamer, Elizabeth Daniel, and Eva Kyriakides.

**14. Community Concerns**

- Due to the increase in enrolment, there will be increased revenue to the district, through revised estimates.
- Ministry reporting happens October 31, 2024, which is when adjustments to enrolment will be received by the Ministry.
- Increases are a per pupil amount, other funding is done through an application process for example specialized equipment allocation (SEA)

**15. Celebrations & Successes**

Tara Culley shared that her son enjoyed the wrestling and meeting the wrestlers at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) this year.

Eva Kyriakides shared that her friend Niya Hatten has written and illustrated a book called *Let's Get Those Coils Crowned in Satin* <https://niyascoilyworld.ca/>

**16. Next S.E.A.C Meeting**

October 3, 2024

**17. Adjournment**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Allyson Eamer

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Report Special Education Advisory Committee (cont'd)  
September 5, 2024

*Table 1 Action Items*

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Post vacancy of Member at Large	Lisa Wry/Andrea McAuley	ASAP
Slides from Rowin to Members	Eva Kyriakides	ASAP