



**TRILLIUM LAKELANDS DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2015
Time: 5pm
Location: Video Conference

Members Present: A. Brown, J. Balfour, D. Callan, A. Gordon, D. Morrison, J. Read,
R. Vernescu

Regrets: S. Burke, L. Burgess, J. Hermer, L. Morin

Staff Present: J. Andreasen, K. Cutler, B. Kaye, K. MacIver

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by A. Brown, seconded by S. Binstock
That the agenda be approved as presented
Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2015

Moved by A. Brown, seconded by J. Read
That the minutes from the May 5, 2015 SEAC meeting be approved as presented
Carried.

3. Updates

Superintendent Kevin Cutler provided the following updates to SEAC regarding Board, staff and department initiatives:

- New legislation that has come out called Ryan's Law. The legislation addresses access to inhalers for students who have asthma. The Ministry will be rolling out a PPM and TLDSB will be developing a policy and procedure in 2015-2016
- In the fall we will be moving into phase 2 of the CaPS implementation plan
- Power to Change camp occurred May 7-9, 2015. 23 students attended along with TLDSB & Me to We Staff. Students who have relational issues with others work on leadership, goals, and personal action plans at Power to Change
- On Friday, May 8, TLDSB hosted a GSA conference at Bark Lake Leadership Camp. About 80 students between grades 8-12 attended

District Principal of Specialized Services Katherine MacIver provided the following updates to SEAC regarding department professional development and system initiatives:

- The EA allocations for next school year have been allocated and distributed to schools for 2015-2016
- FFSS held a social inclusion and leadership summit at Kinark last week as part of a PEG grant
- Sally Gribbons at RHPS is the recipient of the Heather Penny Memorial Award for 2014-2015. The Heather Penny Memorial Award is sponsored by the LDAO and recognizes EAs or Child and Youth Worker in the school system who are exceptional; the criteria is for someone who actively enhances student participation, is an exceptional role model and treats students with care and respect

4. Presentation: Special Education Budget Information for 2015-2016
(Superintendent Bob Kaye)

5.

- Superintendent of Business for TLDSB, Bob Kaye shared information about the Special Education Funding & Budget for 2015-2016
 - In 2005 there was a process by which the Ministry funded High Needs Students based on their specific student needs; files were submitted to the Ministry for review and boards were funded based on submissions
 - The amount was frozen for a few years following
 - In 2009 the ministry instead tied the High Needs Amount (HNA) to enrolment, and turned it into a Per Pupil Amount (PPA)- declining enrolment affected that distribution model negatively
 - Last year the Statistical Prediction Model (SPM) and the Measures of Variability (MoV) became the determinant of Board funding. The Ministry looks at 16 different factors- socio-economic, cultural factors, demographic factors etc. within your area/ region to determine funding levels in Boards- no new funds were put into Special Education, rather, it was re-distributed based on the new formula. The changes to Boards from the PPA model to the SPM/ MoV model are being rolled out over 4 years.
 - TLDSB dropped approx. \$1,600,000 over last two years (\$800,000 per year); Superintendent Kaye predicts over the 4 year reduction cycle TLDSB will be down 2.6 million in total compared to four years ago
 - In the 2015-2016 Budget, TLDSB will be down about 1.2 million in Special Education Funding compared to the previous budget
 - Superintendent Kaye is projecting the overall Special Education envelope in TLDSB will be overspent by 2.3 million in order to meet the needs in the system for 2015-2016. This has been reflected in the budget that was recently presented to Trustees

6. SEAC Input on 2015-2016 Special Education Budget (Superintendent K. Cutler)

- The *Report to SEAC: Special Education Department Budget for the 2015-2016 School Year* was presented to SEAC, outlining the budget for 2015-2016 compared to the budget for 2014-2015
- Comments:
 - Although there is enrolment decline in TLDSB, there is not a decline in students access special education support
 - There is not a large discrepancy in the bottom line compared to 2014-2015, however that is partially due to EPO funding that has already been received and approved funding of projects from Surplus Management which has been granted to help support programs and initiatives
 - Staffing levels for Central Staff in Specialized Services has remained the same with the exception of Consultants, which has been reduced by 1.0 due to attrition. The department is working with consultants on how to build capacity in schools
 - Educational Assistant support did decline by 20 EAs across the Board. The ratio of EAs per student based on enrolment is 1:53; TLDSB still has the highest EA to pupil ratio in all of the Barrie Region
- SEAC was provided the opportunity to provide feedback and input to the budget which specifically included the following recommendation for consideration:
 - Professional Development for FASD support and capacity building within the current budget and/or specific funds allocated for FASD in the future

Moved by J. Balfour, seconded by R. Vernescu

That the TLDSB Special Education Advisory Committee accept the *Report to SEAC: Special Education Department Budget for the 2015-2016 School Year* for information.

Carried.

7. SEAC & Board Initiative Updates:

- Special Needs Data (Superintendent K. Cutler)
 - Available for further review as required or requested

- Community Situation Table Update (Superintendent K. Cutler)
 - City of Kawartha Lakes is developing a Community Situation Table
 - Frontline providers for individuals who may be in crisis: Police, Hospital, CCAC, EMS, CAS, School Boards, Mental Health and Addictions providers and other social services providers
 - The table gathers to discuss individuals or families who are in a situation of acutely elevated risk; there is a four filter approach that helps providers to determine what the needs are and volunteers get together to do intervention within 24-48 hours
 - Initially piloted in Scotland and in Prince Albert, Alberta
 - Data shows crime and violent crime is declining in communities but calls for support and anti-social behavior are increasing
 - Assists individuals and families (from birth to seniors) from being in a position of further harm and provides community supports
 - Superintendent Cutler went to Woodstock last week and observed one of their Community Situation Table meetings (provide reports and updates on existing situations and bring forward new situations)
 - In CKL term will be Community Mobilization Table

- Special Needs Strategy Update (Superintendent K. Cutler)
 - Co-ordinated Services Planning
 - Only three meetings left for this year
 - Coordinated Service Planning Proposals for both regional tables will be submitted in 2 weeks
 - Feedback to be provided by July 17, 2015 regarding changes
 - Integrated Rehabilitation Planning Processes
 - Review regional SLP, OT, PT support
 - How to integrate processes to better service families and children
 - Looking at seamless transitions, less paperwork/ applications, reducing waiting lists for children

- Section 10 Special Education Plan Review (District Principal K. Maclver)
 - At the May 2015 SEAC meeting District Principal Maclver shared a draft of the revised Section 10 for the Special Education Plan
 - SEAC was provided with an opportunity to provide feedback
 - Input included:
 - Categories of Exceptionalities need to be reframed in the big picture- a future discussion or input to the Ministry and/or MACSE may need to be considered
 - Range of placement settings had parent-friendly language
 - SEAC felt that the re-write was clear and acceptable to post

- SEAC website (District Principal K. MacIver)
 - Website was posted live and was sent out as a link
 - Lots of connections to community partners
 - Hosted under the parent and community page
 - SEAC is welcome to give input on additions and or changes at any time

8. SEAC Schedule for 2015-2016

- Schedule was presented to SEAC
- SEAC approved the schedule as presented

9. Association and Community News

- Amber Gordon from Community Living Huntsville shared:
 - That Community Living Huntsville hired a Community Connections Position to re-start a Muskoka Family Support Network.
- Roxana Vernescu from FASD ONE shared:
 - Roundtables and Stakeholder meetings occurring across the province regarding FASD
- Janice Balfour from LDAP shared:
 - The LDAO Educators Institute will run August 25 & 26 2015; the professional development opportunity is directed to Classroom Teachers and Administration to better assist individuals with LD be successful. TLDSB has 5 individuals registered to attend.

10. Items for Discussion/ Consideration for Action

- SEAC Chair Janice Balfour:
 - To draft a letter, with SEAC input, to the Ministry of Education sharing that the current Special Education Model does not adequately meet TLDSB needs.

11. Future Business

- Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs/ Initiatives (Fall)
- Department Vision and Mission Updates/ Input (Fall)
- Presentation on FASD (Fall- SEAC Member R. Vernescu)
- Adult Education Review (Fall)

12. Next Meeting – New SEAC

Tuesday, September 8, 2015
5pm – Teleconference

13. *Adjournment*

Moved by A. Brown
That the meeting be adjourned
Carried.