



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

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
Time: 5pm  
Location: Video Conference

Members Present: A. Brown, J. Balfour, S. Burke, L. Burgess, A. Gordon, L. Morin,  
D. Morrison, J. Read, K. Round  
Regrets: D. Callan, J. Hermer, R. Vernescu  
Staff Present: J. Andreasen, K. Cutler, K. MacIver, C. Roffe, C. Shedden

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by K. Round, seconded by D. Morrison  
That the agenda be approved as presented  
Carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2015**

Moved by K. Round, seconded by A. Gordon  
That the minutes from the February 3, 2015 SEAC meeting be approved as amended  
Carried.

**3. Updates**

Manager of the Director's Office Catherine Shedden shared the following updates regarding *PeachJar*:

- PeachJar is a communication tool:
  - New way of communicating and connecting with parents and community partners;
  - Flyers, events and notices that would have historically gone into a newsletter are now available electronically;
  - Community partners can register with PeachJar and any flyers they upload are automatically sent to Director's Office for approval. Once approved, flyers are posted to school PeachJar pages/distribution lists (which parents sign up for and receive notices from);
  - If an event has participation fee, there is a fee to use PeachJar based on the number of schools you sign up to reach;
  - Community Partners can sign up as agencies/ organizations and upload their own flyers.

- Trustee Round recommended a SEAC Bulletin/Newsletter/ Flyer with information from SEAC to parents and the community.
  - Superintendent Cutler's office will look at the information that comes through SEAC on a monthly basis and consider a SEAC Bulletin or other communication tool.

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

- On March 11, 2015 Dr. Ross Greene will be at the Muskoka Education Centre to present on Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CaPS)
  - Dr. Greene will be presenting to NTIP Teachers (New Teacher Induction Program) and teachers from the schools we are piloting CaPS in;
  - Long term plans include implementing and utilizing this strategy in all of our schools;
  - We are currently developing internal CaPS Coaches/ Proficiency Trainers within TLDSB and the community to build capacity in the system;
  - TLDSB has adopted the philosophy: *All kids will do well if they can*;
  - Dr. Ross Greene Books: *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School*;
  - Website [www.livesinthebalance.org](http://www.livesinthebalance.org).

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

- A Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Professional Development opportunity occurred on February 20, 2015 at MEC:
  - D.J. Cunningham was the guest speaker and was extremely well-received. He spoke primarily about Assistive Technology and being a student with Special Needs.
  - The Book *Be Our Guest* (Customer Service Model in Disney World) was shared with all attendees and was used as the anchor for the day with a focus on 'customer service' in TLDSB.
- The Special Education Advisory Team Committee (SEAT) met on March 5, 2015 at HCEC:
  - The SEAT committee includes: Principals, EAs, DECEs, Elementary and Secondary Teachers, SERTS, Special Education Heads, System Class Teachers, Central Staff, Union Representation;

- Goals include:
  - Revision of EA Handbooks
  - Reviewing the System Class Models & Participation
  - IEP Professional Development
    - Update Handbook (FAQ)
    - Adopt an IEP checklist- for school board
    - Develop staff professional development tools for use at staff meetings

**4. Presentation: Update on Mental Health Initiatives in TLDSB** (Manager of Mental Health and Student Well Being Cheryl Roffe)

TLDSB Manager of Mental Health and Student Well-being Cheryl Roffe shared an update with SEAC on some current and upcoming initiatives in relation to Mental Health in TLDSB including:

- safeTALK:
  - Trains individuals over the age of 15 to become Suicide Aware. Provides resources and knowledge for individuals to connect people who require support, with professional supports;
  - Training has been occurring for students & teachers; excellent training opportunity. About 350 people across the Board have been trained thus far.
- City of Kawartha Lakes & Halliburton School Initiatives:
  - Race Against Drugs May 19-22
    - Fenelon Falls Arena- TLDSB will have two pit stops to focus on wellness;
    - All Grade 7 & 8 students from OPP community supported schools;
    - Community Partners involved;
  - Wellness days
    - Occurring on Grade 10 Literacy Test Day at HHSS and FFSS for students who are not participating in the test;
- Muskoka School Initiatives:
  - BMLSS is involved in an Emotional Awareness Project:
    - 20 students participating in Wellness each month
    - Journaling, Climbing, Mindfulness, DrumFit etc.
  - Mindfulness:
    - Bracebridge Public School featured in article about mindfulness and MindUp Curriculum in Today's Parent
  - 1 in 5 Mental Health Day:
    - Occurring at BMLSS in the Spring for grade 10 students.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters In School Mentoring:
  - Occurring in Muskoka and CKL
- Mental Health Steering Committee:
  - Student Membership on Committee- 6 students; lots of insight on how to support students with Wellness activities
  - Also Central Staff, Principal, Teacher, EA, DECE membership
- In School Supports- Mental Health:
  - FYCSM, CHIMO, Point in Time offering supports in school for students
- Connections to Special Education:
  - Assistive Technology is connected to Wellness; right tools for students help achievement and support wellness;
  - Excellent Professional Resources: Dr. Jean Clinton & Dr. Stuart Shanker teach about connections, relationships, early learning;
  - Psycho-educational Reports in TLDSB are down to 5 pages long and are now using language that parents, teachers and students are able to understand.
- Mindful Martial Arts
  - MMA program is running successfully at HHSS;
  - Partnership with TLDSB, Integra & Point in Time.
- Feed All Four (FA4):
  - Being rolled out by Cheryl Roffe (Manager of Mental Health and Student Well-Being), Heather Truscott (Special Programs Consultant), Dave Lyons (Healthy Active Living Consultant);
  - Based on medicine wheel and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs;
  - FA4 about Balance in Spirit, Mind, Body and Emotion; supports achievement and wellness;
  - Not a new initiative. FA4 can be done in context of curriculum and existing activities/ initiatives;
  - Connected and do-able with parents/ community.
- Mindful Working Group as part of Safe and Accepting Schools Committee:
  - Offering after school workshops for Professional Development.

**5. Discussion: Information Brochures for TLDSB**

- The consensus from SEAC is to move forward with brochure development;
- Will start with 5 topics, with the intention of the development of more in the future;

- The five topics that SEAC decided to proceed with first were the top five exceptionalities in TLDSB including:
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - MID
  - Behaviour
  - Multiple Exceptionalities.

## **6. Initiative Updates:**

- Special Needs Strategy Update (Superintendent Cutler)
  - Special Needs Strategy: Provincial Initiative in two regions of our Board (Nipissing/Parry Sound/Muskoka and Peterborough/ City of Kawartha Lakes/ Halliburton);
  - Four Ministries across the province are involved- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services
  - In each area there are three Committees:
    - Steering Committee
    - Coordinated Service Planning Working Group (CSP)
    - Integrated Rehabilitation Services Working Group (IRS)
  - Expressions of Interest (EOI) from agencies to be the lead on CSP have come forward;
  - The lead agency must be considered to be a Health Information Custodian by the Province:
    - One agency in CKL submitted an EOI
    - Two agencies in Muskoka submitted and EOI;
  - The role of the lead agency is to determine what the Coordinated Services Planning is going to look like in our region: if a child has complex needs and is receiving a number of services, the CSP Lead will be 'one stop' for coordination and connections to services to support families;
  - The Facilitators/ Consultants (Laridae) that were hired to help with this project have been seeking out stakeholder engagement from families and agencies;
  - The IRS proposal development will start in late March;
  - Parents will be participating in all working groups.
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
  - Human Resources Department has compiled the AODA Plan;
  - Any input SEAC members have can be submitted via email;
  - Feedback will be incorporated in the final report to Board.

## **7. Association and Community News**

Leslie Burgess from Tourette Canada- Muskoka Chapter shared:

- Professional Development opportunity for students is coming to BPS: virtual presentation for grades 6/7/8 on Tourette around the end of March;
- Annual Trek For Tourette is occurring on March 29, 2015.

Steve Burke from Community Living Kawartha Lakes shared:

- There will be an Early Learning Children's Conference in Haliburton in November 2015:
  - Dr. Jean Clinton and other speakers
  - Lots of Community Partners will be attending and presenting.

Jamie Read from Autism Ontario- Peterborough Chapter shared:

- Recently completed the PEERS Training which is social skills training. About 100 people attended from across the province;
- On March Break there are some events occurring for students with ASD; information will be distributed to SEAC members;
- There will be an ASD Mental Health Conference on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at Fleming College (Anxiety, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, ADHD);
- Autism Awareness Day/ Raise the Flag Campaign is occurring on April 2, 2015. Resources for schools available at [www.raisetheflagforautism.com](http://www.raisetheflagforautism.com).

Janice Balfour from LDAP shared:

- On March 19, 2015 there will be a safeTALK presentation open to the community- \$10 per person at the Library.

Amber Gordon from Community Living Huntsville shared:

- On March 5 was the Spread the Word to End the Word (End the R word) Campaign: CLH worked with students from HHS and sponsored a rally over the lunchhour; it was well attended and a great success. Amber will share the video with SEAC;
- People First Huntsville, who are a self-advocacy group for adults who have disability are working on a language project with grade 6/7/8 students. They will be presenting a one hour presentation to schools interested on the importance of respectful language. A support person from CLH will assist with the project;
- Partners for Planning Resource is a free resource available through the website, webcasts, resources, expert links;
- Community Living Huntsville has 5-6 staff trained in TIP for Transition Aged Youth; CLH met with Community of Practice and getting ready to train the rest of the staff.

## **8. *Items for Discussion/ Consideration for Action***

Consideration for Action:

Jamie Read from Autism Ontario recommended an IEP Checklist for parents/community.

- Action: Katherine MacIver will take this back to the SEAT team for review.

Trustee Round recommended development of a SEAC Bulletin to be posted on PeachJar.

- Action: Superintendent Cutler's Office will look into options for the development of some type of resource.

Catherine Shedden from the Director's & Communications Department will ensure instructions for PeachJar sign up for Community Partners to sign up and for individual to sign up to receive the bulletins.

## **9. *Correspondence***

- Invitation Letter to attend MACSE SEAC Conference on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Toronto:
  - Team of 5 to attend: Chair, SO, Trustee, New Member, Existing Member
  - Share effective practices, feedback, updates
  - Anyone interested submit names to Jen Andreasen by March 26
  - The following members put forward their names:
    - Kevin Cutler (Superintendent)
    - Janice Balfour (Chair)
    - Leslie Burgess (Existing Member)

## **10. *Future Business***

- Feed All Four (April)
- Special Education Plan Review (April)
- Community Hub Tables
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs/ Initiatives
- Presentation on FASD
- Update on Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (Dr. Greene)
- Department Vision and Mission Updates/ Input
- Adult Education Review (Fall)

## **11. *Next Meeting – New SEAC***

Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
5pm via Video Conference

## **12. *Adjournment***

Moved by K. Round, Seconded by L. Burgess  
That the meeting be adjourned  
Carried.