



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

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2019
Time: 5pm
Location: Video Conference

Members Present: Trustee D. Alton, Trustee D. Morrison, J. Balfour, K. Broadbent, S. Bullock, S. Gray, J. Mann, R. McHugh, S. O'Hare-Gonthier, C. O'Neill, N. Thompson

Regrets:

Staff Present: J. Andreasen, J. Johnston, D. Sornberger

Welcome & Introductions: SEAC Chair Janice Balfour welcomed SEAC members; members introduced themselves.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by R. McHugh, Seconded by J. Mann
That the agenda for the February 2019 SEAC meeting be approved as presented
Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of the January 2019 SEAC Meeting

Moved by C. O'Neill, Seconded by N. Thompson
That the minutes from the January 2019 SEAC meeting be approved as presented
Carried.

3. Presentation: Introduction to Special Education

District Principal Jennifer Johnston shared information with SEAC on the following:

- [Special Education in Ontario Policy and Guidelines Document](#)
 - Document includes information and expectations in relation to Special Education in Ontario:
 - Legislation
 - Special Education Plans
 - Early Identification, Assessment and Transition Planning
 - IPRC Processes
 - IEP Processes
 - Other Programs and Services

- Categories of Exceptionalities in Ontario
 - Section A14 in the [Special Education Document](#) outlines the categories of exceptionalities used in education.
 - The Identification Placement and Review Process (IPRC) looks at exceptionality identification (determines the category in which the students' exceptionality fall into; there is not necessarily a specific category for every diagnosed medical need).
 - The IPRC looks at what the characteristics of each Learner is and the characteristics impact learning.
 - Categories of Exceptionalities:
 - Behavioural Needs
 - Behaviour that impacts learning over a period of time
 - Includes excessive anxiety
 - Intellectual Needs
 - Giftedness
 - Mild Intellectual Disability
 - Developmental Disability (full scale IQ below second percentile)
 - Physical Needs
 - Physical
 - Health Needs
 - Blind/Low Vision
 - Communication Needs
 - ASD
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Language Impairment
 - Speech Impairment
 - Learning Disabilities (also covered in PPM 8)
 - Multiple
 - More than one of the above
 - In TLDSB:
 - IEPs can be put in place without identification.
 - Do not have to have an identification of an exceptionality in order to access special education programming/ services.
 - Focus is on programming to support the student's needs (rather than requiring an identification).
 - The expectation is that parents are consulted as part of the IEP development.
 - IEP quality and development is an ongoing focus for TLDSB
 - The results of the TLDSB SEAC IEP survey regarding communication as an area that requires improvement is a focus for both SEAC and TLDSB this year.

- Special Education Plan Overview (Section 9)
 - Section 9: Categories of Exceptionalities was posted to SEAC with recommended changes for consideration/ review
 - SEAC members are requested to review the recommended changes and provide any feedback the Jennifer Johnston by Friday, February 15, 2019.

4. Discussion: Special Education Plan Review

- District Principal Jennifer Johnston shared a recommended strategy for review of the TLDSB Special Education Plan:
 - The Special Education Plan must align with the Ministry of Education Special Education in Ontario Policy and Resource Guide.
 - SEAC will be provided opportunity to review recommended changes to each section presented at the SEAC meeting.
 - The previous SEAC recently reviewed sections 1-8 and recommended changes.
 - The schedule for review for 2018-2019 will be as follows:
 - March - Sections 10-13
 - April - Sections 14-17
 - May - Sections 18-21 (section 21 is Parent Guide)

5. Department and System Updates

Superintendent David Sornberger shared the following updates with SEAC:

- There are no recent Ministry of Education Announcements to share
- On February 20, the department of Specialized Services will be doing a mid-year check-in at a staff meeting. The Admin Team has asked the 58 staff members to share intentional moves they have made to support the system including something to:
 - Celebrate!
 - Be prepared to share an intentional move that you made that had an impact on a student, a school, a colleague or the system
 - "To be Continued..."
 - Be prepared to share an action you have taken that you feel there is value in continuing with
 - Capacity Building:
 - How have you grown to build capacity in yourself? How are you building capacity in others?

- TLDSB is starting to consider/ prepare for the budget process, pending announcements from the Ministry of Education.

District Principal Jennifer Johnston shared the following updates with SEAC:

- Department Staffing:
 - Superintendent Dave Golden has joined the Specialized Services Department and taking on a leadership role for Safe Schools and Mental Health Services; David Sornberger and Jennifer Johnston will continue to be the lead on Special Education Services.
 - Information about Superintendent Portfolios and Board Departments can be found [here](#)
 - Autism Consultant Linda Hachmer retired on January 31, 2019. The consultant team was realigned to support the ASD portfolio and school assignments.
 - One of our CDAs and one of our SSACs are expecting; postings to cover their maternity leaves will go out shortly.
- Presentations: Board Staff sharing their work in TLDSB and provincially:
 - Consultant Sharon Mortimer will be presenting at the The Ontario Association for Developmental Education in April on the Continuum from School to Community Pathway. The resource supports transition planning.
 - Consultant Sean McCutcheon will be presenting 'Seeing SEA Differently' (what classroom teachers can do to bring Assistive Technology to Life) at a conference
 - Consultants Andrea O'Leary and Matt Beaton shared the IEP Placemat/ Framework with the NTIP (New Teacher Induction Program)
- February 1, 2019 PA Day focus included:
 - BMS Training was offered to EAs
 - School based plans for Special Education Learning for school EAs
 - Teachers had a report card writing day

6. Updates/ Other Items for Discussion

- IEP Process Videos
 - Part of the outcomes that came from the SEAC IEP Survey was to develop some short videos about the IEP and IPRC process
 - A Principal, Consultant and Parent (Jeff Mann) will participate in the filming of the first video

- IEP Survey Results were presented at DSC-PIC in January
 - SEAC Chair Janice Balfour and SEAC member Stasi O'Hare, as well as District Principal Jennifer Johnston shared the results
 - Feedback included:
 - The IEP Process video would be an excellent resource for parent council.
 - Next steps include sharing the IEP survey results publicly.
- LDAO releases SEAC circular 5x per year
 - Will be added to the Community Partners Information Folder in the SEAC Team Drive for member review.
- EQAO - Reporting Denominator (proposed changes) teleconference:
 - Occurred January 30, 2019 between a number of the school boards and EQAO and the Ministry of Education.
 - SEAC Chair Janice Balfour, Superintendents David Sornberger and Katherine MacIver participated.
 - Notes from the teleconference will be shared once distributed.
- Special Incidence Portion (SIP)
 - Jennifer Johnston shared information about the [SIP Application Process](#) that assists in funding staffing for students with high medical or other needs who require a high level of staff support.
 - SIP is a process to help reimburse for Human Resources that the board already has in place.
 - This year we generated \$300,000 more in claims than last year for a total of over \$700,000 in claims this year.
- Special Needs Strategy
 - Jennifer Johnston shared information about the recent funding transfers under the Special Needs Strategy from the LHINs to community partners regarding IDRS (Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services)
 - The services includes OT/ PT and SLP services
 - In CKL/ Haliburton the funding was transferred from the LHIN to Five Counties
 - In Muskoka the funding was transferred to the LHIN to Children's Treatment Network (online portal)

7. Association and Community News

- Stacey Bullock from Community Living Huntsville shared:
 - On February 1st CLH visited schools in Huntsville and delivered treats and a book as an appreciation gesture.
 - [Re:Action4Inclusion](#) is having their 10th anniversary; the conference is at the end of March. The Rotary Club has funded 6 students and 2 adult allies from Huntsville to attend.
 - CLH is working with [PGPS to host a resource/ information fair night](#) on Feb 21, 2019.
 - Huntsville's Got Talent happened on February 2, 2019.
- Carla O'Neill from Muskoka Family Network shared:
 - MFN offered a training session on February 3, 2019 that was well attended.
 - MFN has partnered with CLH and Autism Ontario for a presentation on March 3, 2019 on [ABA Learning Skills](#).
- Stasi O'Hare shared on behalf of Tourette Canada- Muskoka Chapter:
 - The next local Chapter Meeting is February 6, 2019.
 - The Trek for Tourette will occur in March.

8. Correspondence

- cc Letter from DDSB to MOE re: SIP Process
 - SEAC received the letter for information. No response required.
- cc Letter from TVDSB to MOE re: Special Needs Strategy
 - SEAC received the letter for information. No response required.

9. Future Business

- IEP Placemat Framework Presentation (March)
- SEAC Policy/ Procedure Review (March/ April)
- Special Education Plan Review (March/April/May)
- Special Education Funding Summary (April)
- Autism Ontario Presentation (May)
- FASD Presentation (TBD)
- Release of IEP Survey Results to Parents (TBD)
- Continuum from School to Community

10. *Next Meeting*

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5pm via video conference

11. *Adjournment*

Moved by C. O'Neill
That the meeting be adjourned
Carried.