



BOARD (PUBLIC)
Report No. 19-049

23 April 2019

SEAC Policy Revision – Appointment of Association and Associated Representatives

Key Contact: Michele Giroux, Executive Officer
613-596-8207

PURPOSE:

1. To revise policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to include VIEWS for the Visually Impaired (VIEWS) as well as confirm the appointment of a member and alternate representing that association on SEAC.

CONTEXT:

2. SEAC has been seeking to expand its membership. VIEWS, an organization representing children, youth and young adults who have low vision or are blind was formally an association with representation on SEAC and left the committee in 2009. VIEWS has applied to be an association on SEAC and to appoint a representative and an alternate. SEAC supports this appointment which will require a policy change.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Expanding Membership

3. Expanding SEAC's membership has been a topic of discussion by the Committee and the Board. Following the motion passed by the Board in January 2016 to "increase the association voting membership on SEAC to twelve from the current seven", the District initiated the process to appoint up to five local associations to SEAC in accordance with PR.538.GOV.

Given that Regulation 464/97 prescribes a maximum of 12 associations under the "Local association category" four additional associations could apply and be appointed as members under this category at a later date.

Nomination Process

4. The nomination period began on 15 January 2018 and closed on 26 January

2018. The information was distributed to the public through the School Council newsletter, the website, Facebook, and Twitter. Letters were also sent directly to several local organizations identified by SEAC as potential candidates for representation on SEAC inviting them to apply. The District received no requests during the process.

Application from VIEWS

5. In November of 2018 VIEWS contacted Board Services regarding the possibility of membership and followed up with a formal request (circulated to trustees under separate cover). VIEWS meet the definition of a local association under the Ministry Regulation and previously held a seat on SEAC, but were removed in 2009 due to the resignation of the representative.

The composition of the Special Education Advisory Committee is outlined in section 4.2 of Board Policy P.019.GOV: Special Education Advisory Committee (attached as Appendix A).

Additional changes are suggested to Board Policy P.019.GOV: Special Education Advisory Committee to improve clarity, remove redundancies and align language with other Board policies. Section 4.8 was added based on the motion passed by the Board at its 26 January 2016 meeting.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6. There are no resource implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

7. The Chair and Vice-Chair of SEAC have been advised of the nomination request from VIEWS to become a member association on SEAC.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

8. Appointing additional associations to the Special Education Advisory Committee supports the District's commitment to implementing sound governance structures, as well as encouraging broad community engagement in District initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. THAT VIEWS for the Visually Impaired be approved as a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee under the local association category, and that Board Policy P.019.GOV, Special Education Advisory Committee be revised accordingly; and
- B. THAT Lisa Paterick be appointed as a regular member representing VIEWS for the Visually Impaired on the Special Education Advisory Committee and Johnna MacCormick as the alternate member for the term ending 30 November 2022.

Michele Giroux
Executive Officer

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee