

PARTIAL - SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Members:	Christine Boothby (Trustee), Chris Ellis (Trustee), Sonia Nadon-Campbell (Community Representative), Jim Harris (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children), Susan Cowin (Community Representative), Rob Kirwan (Community Representative), Mark Wylie (Down Syndrome Association), Cathy Miedema (Association for Bright Children), Nicole Ullmark (Easter Seals Ontario), Katie Ralph (Autism Ontario, Ottawa Chapter), Lisa Paterick (VIEWS for the Visually Impaired), Michelle Berry (Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils)
Association Representatives (Non-Voting):	Connie Allen (Professional Student Services Personnel), Nancy Dlouhy (Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Operations Committee), Jean Trant (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, SSP), Catherine Houlden (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Teachers), Kelly Granum (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Occasional Teachers), Daniel Bersyniow-Naane (Student Senator)
Staff and Guests:	Lynn Scott (Trustee), Justine Bell (Trustee), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Christine Kessler (System Principal, Learning Support Services), Amy Hannah (System Principal Learning, Support Services), Stacey Kay (Manager, Learning Support Services), Dr. Petra Duschner (Manager of Mental Health and Critical Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager, Board Services), Leigh Fenton (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Nadon-Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory and thanked the

Algonquin people for hosting the meeting on their land. She noted June is Indigenous Awareness month and it is always time to reflect upon and learn the history, contributions and strength of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

The Chair and Superintendent Symmonds welcomed meeting observer, Advisor Carolyn Tanner, the District's Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Sue Cowin,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Review of Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Moved by Katie Ralph,

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated 13 May 2020 be received.

Trustee Boothby requested that the description of the abbreviation of EA on folio 9 be reflected as 'Educational Assistants'.

Moved by Katie Ralph,

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated 13 May 2020 be received, as amended.

Carried

4. Action Item

4.1 Report 20-051, Special Education Plan 2019-2020

Your committee had before it Report 20-051, Special Education Plan 2019-2020, seeking the approval of the plan. Superintendent Symmonds noted that over the course of the 2019-2020 school year, SEAC has reviewed and provided input into all of the standards that comprise the plan. He acknowledged the work of the Special Education Advisory Committee to assist in developing an accessible document for parents and educators.

System Principal Hannah highlighted that the special education plan is a detailed expression of how the District will implement the Board's special education policy. She explained that the purpose of the special education plan is two-fold: to inform the public about the manner in which the school board is carrying out its special education responsibilities; and to report to the Ministry of Education. The special

education plan is also a framework to be leveraged by District staff in which Learning Support Services (LSS) communicates the expectations and requirements essential to serving special education learners across Kindergarten to grade 12 classrooms.

Moved by Sue Cowin,

THAT the Special Education Plan 2019-2020, attached as Appendix A to Report 20-051 be approved.

During the presentation of the Special Education Plan, staff advised that there were five Standards where significant revisions were implemented:

- The “Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings” Standard, beginning on page 37 has been updated to reflect the most current information on delivery of service, eligibility criteria to receive service, the provider who determines eligibility and level of support, and procedure for resolving disputes. Manager Kay worked with Jessica Wilson, Manager of the Champlain Local Health Integrated Network (CLHIN), to ensure accuracy, as this information has changed regularly over the past year.
- The “Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies” Standard includes revisions to the Kindergarten Intake Form, providing an opportunity for parents and guardians to describe their child’s special learning needs. The Kindergarten Education Team are valuable personnel in the early identification process. The Program and Learning Department (PAL) and LSS have worked together to align on the practices of Kindergarten intake practices, ongoing monitoring and intervention. The service to English Language Learners has been added in this section of the Standards;
- The “Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals” Standard and accompanying Parent Guide will be further revised to accommodate the new reality of working from virtual platforms. The intent is to include this information prior to the Ministry of Education submission in July;
- The “Individual Education Plans (IEPs)” Standard has been updated with clear language on the overview of the IEP and that it is a cyclical process. Information on the storage of IEPs was added to this section. A note was added to explain that transition plans are developed as a component of the IEP; and
- The “Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities” standard was re-written to acknowledge that the IPRC process is closely linked with special education placement decisions. There is delineation in this section that specifies the difference between a special education program and a special education service.

System Principal Hannah noted that prior to submitting the final copy of the Special Education Plan to the Ministry of Education some budgetary information and IPRC data is still required.

Moved by Sue Cowin,

THAT the Special Education Plan 2019-2020, attached as Appendix A to Report 20-051 be approved.

Carried

5. Budget Update
6. Department Update
 - 6.1 Superintendent's Report
7. New Business
 - 7.1 Current Challenges and Opportunities
8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Sonia Nadon-Campbell, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee