
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2020

BOARDROOM

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY THERESA GREAVETTE, (705) 748-4861 ext. 1213

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer: Laurie
2. Land Acknowledgment: I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe First Nations and that we live and work in the 1923 Williams Treaty area. I also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.
3. Motion to Approve Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance
R.A. That, _____ be excused from attendance at the January 16, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the November 21, 2019 Meeting.
7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Arlene)
2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning (*Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Learning/ Special Education*)
3. Update from Trustees:
4. PAAC Survey (see A.1 attached)

5. PPM 149 – Partnership Agreements with External Agencies (*Lia Jenner and Nick Beamish*)

C. Discussion Items:

1. Next steps from presentation

D. Information Items:

1. Durham DSB Letter to Minister Re: MACSE, December 20, 2019 (see A.2. attached)
2. Reports from SEAC members:

Arlene Godby

Autism Ontario - Peterborough Chapter

- Autism Ontario Responds to Announcement Regarding Implementation of the Needs-Based Program
<https://www.autismontario.com/news/autism-ontario-responds-announcement-regarding-implementation-needs-based-program>
- Public Health Agency of Canada Announces Autism Ontario Awarded Strategic Fund to Support Autistic Adults and their Families in Ontario
<https://www.autismontario.com/news/public-health-agency-canada-announces-autism-ontario-awarded-strategic-fund-support-autistic>
- To read Autism Ontario's Position Statements on Education, please visit
<https://www.autismontario.com/autism-ontarios-education-position-statement>

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

G. Next Meeting:

1. **Next Meeting:**
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items:
 - Accessibility, Contingencies, Inclusion, Integration 2025
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer:

Future Meetings

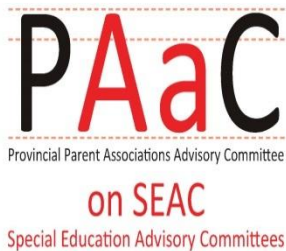
Thursday, February 20, 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Thursday, April 16, 2020
Thursday, May 21, 2020
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Tour/PD To be determined

H. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Arlene
2. Adjournment.



Members: • Association for Bright Children of Ontario • Community Living Ontario • Down Syndrome Association of Ontario • Easter Seals Ontario • Epilepsy Ontario • Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Ontario Network of Expertise • Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community • Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario • Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders • Ontario Brain Injury Association • Parents for Children's Mental Health • VOICE for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children

Affiliate members: • Association Francophone de Parents d'Enfants Dyslexiques ou ayant tout autre trouble d'apprentissage • Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy • Hydrocephalus Canada • Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada • VIEWS for the Visually Impaired

Attn: Chair of SEAC

RE: PAAC on SEAC survey

Dear Chair:

The Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC on SEAC) was established in 1983 and is the only group in Ontario that brings together provincial parent associations to communicate and co-operate on issues pertaining to SEACs. PAAC on SEAC is seeking your assistance with a survey of SEAC members.

In 2009 and 2014 PAAC on SEAC conducted a survey of SEAC members with the intent of gathering valuable information on the effectiveness of SEACs across the province. We are distributing a new version of the survey, with comparable questions, to find out what has changed and whether there are new issues or challenges. After analyzing the results, we will post the results on the PAAC on SEAC Website at: www.paac-seac.ca and will share our report with the Ministry of Education.

The survey should take roughly 10 to 15 minutes to complete and can be found here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYZ3PWY. We would like you to share this information and the link with current members of your SEAC and encourage each SEAC member to individually complete the survey by Friday, January 31, 2020. We have allowed this amount of time so that SEACs can have the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the survey at a SEAC meeting. Some SEACs in the past have submitted a group response to the survey in addition to having individual members respond.

All information collected will be held in the strictest of confidence. Upon closing the survey, the information will be calculated and compiled into a report. This information will inform PAAC on SEAC members about the effectiveness of SEACs across the province.

The results of our 2009 and 2014 surveys can be found on our website: www.paac-seac.ca. It would also be helpful for you to remind SEAC members that the **PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC** is also available on the website.

We thank you in advance for the sharing this information with SEAC members.

Diane Wagner, Chair, PAAC on SEAC

Alison Morse, Past Chair, PAAC on SEAC

PAAC on SEAC c/o Easter Seals Ontario, One Concorde Gate, Suite 700, Toronto, M3C 3N6
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www.ddsb.ca

December 20, 2019

Honourable Stephen Lecce
 Minister of Education
 Mowat Block, 900 Bay St
 Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce

The Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE) plays a very important role in providing feedback and advice to the Ministry of Education and other ministries on special education programs and their delivery.

In reviewing the Ministry of Education's (MOE's) website, the members of the DDSB's SEAC are very concerned with the inactive status of MACSE; a mandated committee outlined in the Education Act. Of the 20 voting member positions representing either exceptionalities or professions, over half of the positions are vacant and another 4 will be vacated by the end of January 2020. The committee is supposed to meet up to 3 times a year and report on its previous year's priorities and achievements. The last time MACSE met was in the spring of 2017, and the last annual report filed to the Minister was for the 2014-2015 school year.

With the growing number of students with special education needs and complex needs; the release of the Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities (2018); the Ontario Autism Program Advisory Panel Report - 2019; and the pending recommendations from the K-12 and Post Secondary Education Standards Committees, we feel that the role of MACSE has increased in importance. We urge the government to immediately work to fill the vacancies so it can resume its meetings.

At the same time, the DDSB's SEAC has reviewed the Ministry's appointment process, and in light of the fact that MACSE has not met since the spring of 2017 nor filed an annual report since 2014-2015, we question the effectiveness and responsiveness of the current structure of MACSE to fulfill its mandate.

In discussing a more expedient method of finding members for MACSE who are experienced in providing advice to school boards on special education programs, we would like to suggest that 6 of the voting members be selected from SEACs in the 6 Ministry of Education's regional areas.

The Education Act, and its Regulation for Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs), sets out the requirements and the role of SEACs. SEAC Members represent local provincial associations of a variety of exceptionalities, agencies, First Nations and Members at Large. SEAC members are active in making recommendations to school boards and school authorities around the delivery of special education programs and services. By looking for members from the 6 MOE's



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regional areas to help fill the vacancies on MACSE, the Ministry can speed up the selection process and ensure geographical and exceptionality representation with knowledgeable and experienced people.

If you would like to further discuss our proposal for the filling of vacancies on MACSE and our desire to see the committee resume its meetings as soon as possible, we would be happy to make a representative available.

Sincerely,



Eva Kyriakides
Chair, SEAC
Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



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