

Minutes

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, Oct 10, 2024
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Small Boardroom
Accessibility for All Committee

Chairperson: Karen Spenceley

Recorder: Ashleigh Faulkner

Members: Chantal Bouillon, Ashleigh Faulkner,
Justin Kroezen, Karen Spenceley, Jonathan Di Ianni, Eric
Hansen, Galen Eagle, Theresa Godin, Pamela O'Brien, Vicki Blakely, Della
Stewart-Figueira, Tom O'Grady, Linda Gendron, Teri Smith

Absent: Jordan Busch, Shawna Belcourt, Nora Shaughnessy, Kathleen Tanguay, Corrie
McInroy, Melissa Featherstone

A. Call to Order

1. Land Acknowledgement
Chantal Bouillon led the land acknowledgement
2. Opening Prayer
Jonathan Di Ianni led the committee in prayer
3. Additions to the agenda
Excusal from attendance (A 5)
Shawna Belcourt, Jordan Busch, Kathleen Tanguay, Corrie McInroy, Melissa
Featherstone, Nora Shaughnessy

MOTION: Linda Gendron

Second: Justin Kroezen

That the excusal from attendance item be added to the agenda under Call to Order, #5 and that Committee members Jordan Busch, Shawna Belcourt, Nora Shaughnessy, Kathleen Tanguay, Corrie McInroy, Melissa Featherstone .

Carried

4. Approval of the agenda

Motion: Linda Gendron

Second: Vicki Blakely

That the Accessibility for All Committee Meeting Agenda of Thursday, October 10, 2024 be approved.

Carried

5. Excusal from Attendance

6. Approval of the Minutes from the May 9, 2024

Motion: Galen Eagle

Second: Vicki Blakely

That the Minutes of the May 9, 2024 Accessibility for All Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business arising from the minutes

- a. There was none.

B. Information and Discussion Items

1. **Welcome and review of committee members**

2. **Department Plans and Updates:** in reviewing the updated [2022-2023 Multi-year Accessibility Plan and Compliance Report](#) and the [IASR requirements](#) particular to your specific departments, updates from stakeholders:

a. Plant

- i. Large Boardroom light switches were re-visited and adjusted this week

- Installation of 16 handicap door operators/wave controllers are various sites
- Wheelchair ramps/curb cutting, repairs and new installs at various sites
- Low vision painting/vinyl tape at various sites
- Installation of LED Dimmable lighting to Learning Commons space at two sites
- New universal washrooms completed at 3 sites.

b. IT

- i. All websites and AODA banners are meeting accessible standards
 - Google meet transcription option are in use until Windows 11 is available
 - Testing a new tool for accessibility benchmark score. This tool creates a report locally for compliance.

c. Transportation

- i. First Responder Program: There were a few changes for the 2024 First Rider Program. Due to some challenges with past commercial sites, all three programs were run at secondary schools. This ensured accessible buildings, ample parking and easy access for buses. The dates were changed over several weekdays from 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. offering two dates per site. Also new this year was the addition of a small accessible bus on site available for use. Each site had a minimum of one large bus and one small accessible bus. The Buzzy the Bee Safety video was played approximately every ½ hour, with a safety review followed by a bus ride around the neighbourhood as in past years.
 - Start up has been in full swing and busy as usual. STSCO has added temporary call centre staff to assist with the volume of calls. The route specialists are shifting their focus now to bus stop change requests.
 - All operators are up to date on their required compliance documentation (CVOR, Insurance, Vehicle Information Sheet, etc.)
 - Operators are scheduling and completing the required bus evacuation drills at schools. These are to be completed semi-annually with deadlines of November 30 and May 30. Operators are encouraged to work with schools when booking to see if any accessibility measures need to be put in place for the evacuations such as wheelchair accessible buses. The driver had the opportunity to verbally go over what would take place in the event of an emergency.

d. Special Education

- i. Overview of all PD within the Board this year to all staff
 - Ensuring equity and inclusivity in the promotion of responsive pedagogy (UDL)
 - AAC training to all staff
 - Leveraging technology - SEA trainers and tech at my desk
 - Working with Dr Laurie Faith, Executive Functioning Skills
 - Social/Environmental/Communication/Academic Accessibility

e. Human Resources

- i. None

f. Health and Safety

i. None

g. Communications

- Liaising with IT to ensure we have AOD tracking in place for the websites. We will continue to review to ensure compliance as the website ages. We have met with a third party to see what is available on the market and costing.
- Notification template (for example when elevator , why out of service, timing, who communicates when disruption is over)

h. CUPE

i. None

i. OECTA

i. None

3. Desk Audit Update

A report was submitted in December of 2023. In July, they reached out for additional information around procedure, transportation and staff training. The responses were submitted.

4. Accessibility week in May 2024. A sub committee worked together to create a package with activities including, did you know questions and information to help the schools with the week. Theresa Godin provided a further update. 4 themes were incorporated into this week, environmental, academic, social and communication accessibility. Holy Cross requested a presentation from the Committee, which Eric Hansen gave to a few classrooms. Next step is to discuss how this presentation can be incorporated in future weeks.

5. Accessibility Features of the New School (Clarington)

Tom O'Grady spoke to the Committee about the new school in Bowmanville. Recently the Ministry has mandated that any new school must be a repeat school from the past 2 years. Simcoe Muskoka has a school that matches the size, etc of the school the Board is looking to build. A group toured the school and had discussions with an architect. We will be following the Ontario Building Code, elevator, each floor is level, required curbs at bus drop off, horns and alarms will be audible and visual, interior designer will be reviewing contrasting colours and so on.

6. Update to the Multi year plan and annual status report

Karen Spenceley discussed the Multi year plan. The plan is required to be posted on the website and needs to be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

In the coming months we will be reviewing the plan, discussions will take place with various departments and then we will be updating the report.

C. Conclusion

1. Next Steps

2. Future Meetings

a. Accessibility for All Meetings 2023-2024:

- i. Thursday, October 10, 2024 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - ii. Thursday, February 27, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - iii. Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Land Acknowledgment GalenEagle
Opening Prayer Jonathan Di Ianni
Closing Prayer Linda Gendron

3. Closing Prayer Theresa Godin

4. Adjournment

Motion: Vicki Blakely

Second: Chantal Bouillon

That the October 10, 2024 Accessibility For All Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:38p.m.

Carried