



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Location: Haliburton County Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Present: J. Balfour, D. Callan, D. McNerney, S. Bullock, J. Saunders
Regrets: K. Irons, B. Reain, A. Rose, R. McHugh, H. Harris, R. McCracken
Guests: W. Hahn
Staff: J. Johnston, M. Lefler, W. Browne

1 Call to Order

2 Roll Call

J. Balfour shared regrets and confirmed, noting that a quorum was not present.

3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by D. McNerney, seconded by S. Bullock that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

4 Committee Action Items

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting

Moved by D. Callan, seconded by D. McNerney that the minutes dated September 5, 2023 be approved.
Carried.

4.2 SEAC policy review

J. Johnston shared the SEAC policy again for review, as well as draft terms of reference and SEAC handbook for consideration and discussion. The committee agreed with the policy being put forward to the Governance and Policy Committee for approval.

5 Administrative Updates

5.1 Welcome from the Director of Education

Director Hahn shared the following updates:

- Changes have been made to the Board’s governance structure, such as the introduction of the Governance and Policy Committee.
- Schools are reporting a smooth and stable start up this year.
- Lots of learning taking place, with a focus on programming and training to support student success.
- There is a focus on well-being and belonging for students based on feedback from the last school climate survey. The survey will be administered again this school year. The director has also been gathering feedback directly from students and teacher groups and will be reaching out to other groups this year. Families will also be surveyed by the Board in alignment with *Bill 98: Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*.

5.2 Presentation: Special Education Review

J. Johnston shared a high level presentation outlining the findings of the Special Education Review that was conducted last year by The Critical Thinking Consortium.

5.3 Presentation: Five Counties Tiered Supports

D. Callan shared a presentation on the new tiered support program pilot that is being introduced in Haliburton County elementary schools.

5.4 System Updates

J. Johnston shared the following updates:

- EQAO results are in but are currently embargoed.
- Feedback is requested from the committee to support a response to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education in advance of the council’s next meeting.

5.5 Department Updates

M. Lefler shared the following updates:

- A new speech and language pathologist has been hired.
- Professional development is focused on building administrator and special education resource teacher capacity with the new Special Programs software and the fulsome and effective IEP development, implementation, and review.

6 SEAC Projects

6.1 Project priorities and work plan

Discussion was deferred.

7 Other Business

7.1 Updates and other items for discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

7.2 Association and community news

- Community Living Huntsville ran a peer job coaching program through Huntsville High School in the summer.
- Outgoing Community Living Huntsville president Michael Jacques will be a guest speaker at an upcoming event at Pine Glen Public School.

7.3 Future business

- Update on Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) implementation
- Discussion on Special Incidence Portion (SIP) modernization

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Next Meeting

Date: November 7, 2023, 5:00 p.m.
Location: Muskoka Education Centre / Lindsay Education Centre

10 Adjournment

Moved by D. Callan that the meeting be adjourned.
Carried.

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