



## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

December 21, 2016

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: E. Swanson (Chair), B. Morris, K. Dunsmoor-Lough, C. Smith, L. Cobb, S. McBride, T. Williams

Administration: B. McIntyre, B. Smith, H. van der Mark, S. Cassidy-Rouleau,

Guests: N. Edge, A. Gagan, S. French, J. Laderoute, S. Blok, J. Pratt, O. Gallery, A. Harris

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) F. Mick-Johnston, R. Bernard

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair E. Swanson called the meeting to order.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF 21 DECEMBER 2016**

MOVED BY L. Cobb, seconded by B. Morris, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda, as amended, for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 16 NOVEMBER 2016**

MOVED BY K. Dunsmoor-Lough, seconded by B. Morris, that the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016.

The motion was CARRIED.

#### **4. NEW MEMBER**

SEAC recommends the appointment of Shirlee French as a new member of SEAC representing the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO).

#### **5. TECH TEAM PRESENTATION**

Instructional Technology Leader Steve Blok and Technology-Enabled Learning & Teaching Contacts Oliver Gallery, Jonathan Pratt and Alex Harris, demonstrated some technology used in the schools. Digital math tools such as the Explain Everything - Collaborative and Interactive Whiteboard app are used with the Renewed Math Strategy for visible thinking, to aid with assessment and place an emphasis on the process. The Board's electronic library of audio books, read along books, graphic novels and e-books is accessible to everyone and for all students K-12. The library is available through a link on the Board's website and the Tech Academy on YouTube provides help for students and parents.

The committee discussed age appropriate materials and the possibility of being too dependent on technology. While the benefits and risks have to be considered, it was felt that technology can level the playing field for students who struggle. The impact of the recent ruling by the CRTC declaring broadband internet a basic telecommunication service was also discussed.

#### **6. REPORT FROM THE BOARD**

K. Dunsmoor-Lough reported on the following Board activities:

- The Board held its inaugural meeting on December 6 and Director Clarke gave his final 2016 Annual Report.
- Wendy Hewitt was elected as Chairperson of the Board and Susan Humphries as Vice-Chairperson. Committee structure has also changed but Bryon Morris and Kim Dunsmoor-Lough will remain as SEAC representatives.

B. Morris stated that we have a strong Board and they are moving along with the process to select a new Director of Education.

#### **7. REPORTS FROM RESOURCE STAFF**

B. Smith reviewed the SEAC Handbook: Section 6 – Regulations, Section 7 – Special Education Funding and Section 8 – Resources and Supporting Documents. As this has completed the review of the handbook, E. Swanson requested a copy be provided to all members as well as any subsequent new members of the committee.

B. Smith continued to review the Special Education Report: Section 10 – Individual Education Plans, Section 11 – Provincial and Demonstration Schools, Section 12 – Special Education Staff and Section 13 – Staff Development.

#### **8. ASSOCIATION REPORTS – NIL**

## **9. NEXT MEETINGS**

- January 18, 2017
- February 15, 2017
- March 22, 2017
- April 19, 2017
- May 17, 2017
- June 21, 2017

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY K. Dunsmoor-Lough, seconded by B. Morris, that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

The motion was CARRIED.