

## REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2005 April 05  
12:20 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

### Members

P. Sattler, Trustee (Chair)	P. Gillis, Integration Action for Inclusion London Chapter (+12:35)
D. Anstead, Trustee	Jane Steele, Learning Disabilities Association - London Region
L. Stevenson, Trustee	A. Loebus, London Down Syndrome Association
D. Ensing, Association for Bright Children (Thames Valley)	W. Rodic, Madame Vanier Children's Services (-2:25)
S. Wilson, Community Living London, Oxford, Elgin, Middlesex	B. Bocking, Thames Valley Children's Centre
A. Morse, Easter Seal Society	R. Tisdale, Thames Valley District School Council
	L. Wilhelm (Alt.), VOICE

### Administration and Others

B. Bialik (Alt) London Down Syndrome Association	G. Orr, Educational Consultant
P. Cook, OPC - Elementary Principal	C. Stewart (Alt) Thames Valley District School Council
M. Hubert, Corporate Assistant	V. Towell, Secondary Principal
C. B-MacDonald - Elementary Principal	B. Tucker, Superintendent of Education

Regrets: S. Seymour, B. Hoffman, J. VanBommel, L. Manicom  
Absent: C. Oke, J. Ross, G. McGahey

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 12:20 p.m. in the Katherine Harley Room at the Education Centre.

#### 2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

"Timing of SEAC Meetings" was added under Item 6.0, SEAC Updates. "IPRC Waivers" and "Transportation Funding Model" were added under Item 6.1, Urgent Issues. Two items of correspondence from the March agenda were added under Item 9. The agenda was confirmed as amended on a motion by B. Bocking.

#### 3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### 4. REPORT OF MEETING FROM 2005 FEBRUARY 01

The report of the 2005 February 01 meeting was approved on a motion by D. Ensing.

#### 5. REPORT OF MEETING FROM 2005 March 01

The 2005 March 01 meeting was cancelled because of a lack of quorum.

#### 6. SEAC UPDATES

##### 6.1 Inclusion Symposium

Superintendent Tucker introduced Gwen Orr, Educational Consultant. Ms. Orr outlined plans for a one-day symposium to discuss the issue of Inclusion. Using a gap analysis approach, the deviation between current and best practices will be examined. Based on the results of the analysis, recommendations will be made in response to the following motion passed by the Board:

"That the Senior Administration explore initiatives to enhance current opportunities for the inclusion of students with exceptionalities in regular classrooms."

Community agency representatives, Board administration, school representatives, and students will be invited to attend. An agenda will be sent to SEAC members when a date and location have been determined. Those who are unable to attend were encouraged to send their input by e-mail to J. Parker at [j.parker@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:j.parker@tvdsb.on.ca).

#### 6. SEAC UPDATES - continued

##### 6.1 Inclusion Symposium - continued

A suggestion to include representation from Safe Schools and other special interest groups was

discussed and it was determined that the focus of the forum should remain on Special Education. Members were invited to send ideas and suggestions for the symposium by e-mail to Gwen Orr at [grorr@skynet.ca](mailto:grorr@skynet.ca).

#### 6.2 Ministry Communications

Copies of a letter from B. Levin, Deputy Minister of Education, to F. Kelly, Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), were distributed. The letter, dated 2005 March 31, identified professional development for all teachers in the area of special education as a priority and announced that the government of Ontario has allocated \$25 million to support CODE's work with school boards that provide Ontario teachers and school administrators with specific strategies to improve learning.

Copies of a memorandum from Deputy Minister of Education B. Levin to Directors of Education, were distributed. The memorandum, dated 2005 March 31, announced the disposition of the government's Effectiveness and Equity Fund related to special education and outlined the criteria for accessing the fund. Superintendent Tucker explained that two of the criteria are linked to reserve funds previously clawed back and the third is to provide funding for high-needs students newly enrolled in 2004-05.

#### 6.3 ETFO Sanctions

Superintendent Tucker stated that the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), in initiating Stage Two sanctions, has directed teachers not to update or complete Individual Education Plans (IEP's). He explained that, although the "work to rule" is also affecting teachers' participation in Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRC's), the reviews can go forward without teacher involvement, if necessary. Long-term occasional teachers are not affected by the sanctions.

#### 6.4 Gifted Review

The Gifted Review Committee will meet on 2005 April 07 to discuss incomplete sections of the draft Gifted Program Review 2004 Results and Recommendations. Results of the discussions will be reported to SEAC at the 2005 May 03 meeting. Members were asked to bring their copies of the draft Review.

#### 6.5 Road Map

The Special Education Road Map, a long-range plan outlining the direction of the Special Education Plan for the next five years, has been refined based on input from Special Education staff. Discussion of the enhancements was deferred to the 2005 May 03 meeting. Members were invited to send comments to Superintendent Tucker by e-mail ([w.tucker@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:w.tucker@tvdsb.on.ca)) or by phone at 452-2103.

#### 6.4 Timing of SEAC Meetings

In 2004 December, SEAC members were surveyed to determine the impact of changing the SEAC meetings to an evening time frame. An analysis of the results was distributed and after a lengthy debate, the following motion was moved by D. Ensing and supported:

That for the twelve-month period ending in 2006 June, the meeting schedule accommodate three or four evening meetings, the effectiveness of which will be evaluated by 2006 June 06. Based on the evaluation, a recommendation will be made as to the time of the meetings for the next three-year term effective 2007 January 01.

**6. SEAC UPDATES - continued**

6.5 Urgent Issues

6.5.1 Seac Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for 2005 May 11 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Special Education Plan and the Special Education Budget prior to these items being presented to the Board. An agenda will be set and notification of the meeting sent to School Councils and Home and School Associations as well as SEAC members.

6.5.2 Transportation

Chair Sattler outlined the implications of the Ministry's proposed transportation funding model, Scenario G. Based on an analysis by the Transportation Department, the proposed formula would result in a \$3.2 million shortfall in the Transportation budget, thus potentially jeopardizing the level of service provided to Thames Valley special needs students. She has drafted a letter to the Minister of Education stating SEAC's concerns and requesting a review of the proposed funding formula before a transportation grant model is implemented. Copies of the draft letter were distributed for review. A motion by A. Morse to send the letter to the Minister was supported.

6.5.3 Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Waivers

The appropriate use of IPRC waivers was discussed and concern was expressed that some parents are receiving the forms for signature without adequate explanation of their meaning. It was suggested that a waiver form sent to parents be accompanied by a letter from the principal explaining the meaning of the waiver and the implications of signing it. It was recommended that a letter is to be sent to Principals to ensure that the waivers are used appropriately. A draft will be prepared for discussion at the 2005 May 03 meeting.

**7. SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN**

Copies of the draft 2005 -2006 Special Education Plan were distributed. Members were invited to send their comments regarding changes to the Plan to J. Parker, Program Services, at [j.parker@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:j.parker@tvdsb.on.ca) by 2005 April 18. The initial draft is to be presented to the Board at the 2005 April 26 meeting. Copies of community feed-back were included with the draft and a question was raised whether the raw input should be included with the final plan when it goes before the Board for approval. Members were invited to respond to Superintendent Tucker by e-mail at [w.tucker@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:w.tucker@tvdsb.on.ca) or by phone at 452-2103.

With a mandate to return a balanced budget, the draft was completed under the assumption of stable funding and includes a reduction in the amount of funds transferred to the Partnerships for Excellence program as well as a proposed 2% reduction in staffing across all levels of teaching and support staff in both the elementary and secondary panels. It is expected that staff reductions will be accomplished through attrition. No lay-offs are anticipated.

Copies of the SEAC membership list were distributed. Members were reminded that changes in membership must be communicated in writing and must be approved by the Board. It was determined that the Special Education Plan will include the addresses and telephone numbers of the member Associations. Representatives who wish their personal contact information to be published as part of the Plan will be required to provide a signed release to J. Parker, Program Services.

Superintendent Tucker announced that in 2006 September, the Junior Gifted class at Mountsfield P.S. is to be moved to another school. The location is yet to be determined. The Intermediate Gifted class currently offered at Mounstfield P.S. will remain, maintaining the link to the South S.S. Academy Program. A letter, dated 2005 March 29, stating this intent was sent to the staff and members of the Mountsfield Public School community. No feed-back has been received to date.

**8. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

8.1 Communications

The SEAC Communications sub-committee met on 2005 April 05 to discuss Section 3 of the Special Education Plan. Comments and suggestions resulting from the meeting will be communicated to J.Parker. The 2005 May meeting of the Communications sub-committee was cancelled.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9.1 2005 January 26 letter from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board SEAC re: Special Education

A copy of a letter, dated 2005 January 26, from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board SEAC to the Minister of Education re Special Education was received.

- 9.2 2005 February 16 letter from Halton District School Board SEAC re OPSBA Position Paper on Special Education Funding

A copy of a letter, dated 2004 February 16, from the Halton District School Board SEAC to the Minister of Education re the OPSBA Position Paper on Special Education Funding was received.

- 9.3 2004 December 15 letter from the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board

A copy of a letter, dated 2004 December 15, from the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Minister of Children and Youth Services and the Minister of Community and Social Services re issues facing medically fragile and medically complex students was received.

- 9.4 2005 February 08 letter from Aldborough Public School Council

A copy of a letter to SEAC, dated 2005 February 08, from a School Advisory Council member at Aldborough Public School re resources for Educational Assistants was received. Chair Sattler will respond on behalf of SEAC.

**10. FORUM: ASSOCIATION UPDATES**

Copies of a report of the proceedings of the Ontario Association for Families of Children With Communication Disorders (OAFCCD) were distributed for information.

The Association for Community Living will hold a conference on 2005 May 28 and 29 at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Road, London.

The Coaching to Inclusion Conference will be held at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Road, London, on 2005 November 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on November 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rich Villa will be the guest speaker.

Community Living London reported that the summer Leisure Program will operate again this summer in two TVDSB schools. Three two-week sessions will be held during July and August.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. on motion of D. Anstead.

**P. SATTLER,**  
Chairperson