



AGENDA – SEAC MEETING

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON

Virtual Meeting Link: https://bit.ly/SEACApr21_2021

Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

1. **WELCOME**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
5. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**
 - 5.1 **Presentation: Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process** – Principal Mike Blackburn, Vice Principal Karen Leggett, and Assistive Technology Resource Teacher Jessi Lalonde

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board** – Letter to Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Regarding: Prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff. (Page 3)
- 6.2 Superior-Greenstone District School Board** – Letter of Support to Minister of Education Regarding On-Line Learning Supports/Universal Design for Learning. (Page 4)
- 6.3 Durham District School Board** – Letter to Ministry of Transportation Regarding: Proposed Transit Mall, Town of Whitby, Accessibility Concerns for Students of Durham District School Board. (Pages 5-6)

7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- 7.1 Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston (LDAK)** – Provided information regarding the LDAK and United Parents (UP) free annual conference, Speak Up for Ability: Online Parents Forum. For more information use this link: [Online Forum](#)

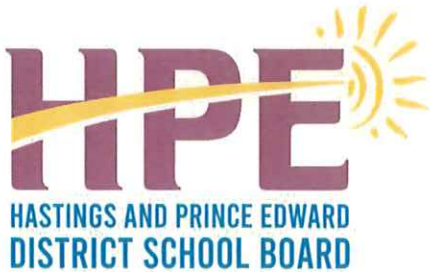
8. OTHER BUSINESS - Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report (Pages 7-9)

- 8.1 Special Education Plan 2021-2022 - Consultation Process** – Superintendent Alison McDonnell, Principal Mike Blackburn, and Vice Principal Karen Leggett
- 8.2 Tri Board SEAC - Thursday May 27, 2021** – Superintendent Alison McDonnell
- 8.3 Programming for Students with Special Needs during Remote Learning** – Superintendent Alison McDonnell
- 8.4 Vaccines for Special Education Staff** – Superintendent Alison McDonnell

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

10. ADJOURNMENT



156 Ann Street, Belleville ON K8N 3L3
613-966-1170 | 1-800-267-4350
www.HPEschools.ca

LEARNING TOGETHER

RECEIVED

Limestone District School Board

MAR 11 2021

Alison McDonnell

February 19, 2021

Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Medical Officer of Health
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
179 North Park Street
Belleville ON K8P 4P1

Dear Dr. Oglaza:

Re: Prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff

As staff and students in Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) and the rest of the province pivot between face-to-face and remote learning, members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) would like to request the Ministry of Health and our local health unit to strengthen its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of students and HPEDSB employees who work directly with students with high special needs, in regional and self-contained placements. Further, we wish to impress upon the Ministry and our local health experts the urgent need to provide students who are of appropriate age and their staff, with access to vaccinations as quickly as possible.

It is important to note that many students within our regional programs are adults and not children. These adult learners often have underlying health conditions, comorbidities (e.g., developmental disabilities such as Down's syndrome, spina bifida etc.) and would benefit from vaccines whether they reside in group home settings, or at home with parents/guardians.

Employees who work on a day-to-day basis within regional classrooms are at high risk for potential infection due to the proximity they must have with students and other staff. Students often routinely require assistance with eating, bathroom support, and transferring or lifting in order to access their programming. Employees are in effect, required to be in close proximity to their students, which adds to the risk of transmission. We value the added responsibilities that these individuals take on and feel they should have access to vaccination programs and information as early as possible.

In conclusion, we stress to the Ministry that, while we understand that there is a phased approach being employed and that resources have been put in place to ensure that vulnerable populations receive their vaccines in a priority sequence, we would also appreciate that our district leaders be informed of procedural steps as soon as possible so that these can be shared with our employees and families.

Sincerely,

Kelly Allan

Kelly Allan, Chair,
Special Education Advisory Committee
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Jason Sweet

Jason Sweet, Vice-chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

c.c. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte
Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board
Lee-Anne Kerr, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



Small Schools Make a Difference

March 18, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Distributed by Electronic Mail

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB), I am writing in support of the concerns brought forward by Durham District School Board (DDSB), regarding On-line Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning. We agree with the statements put forward by DDSB, that a focus on creating accessible resources for the delivery of online content is critical for the ongoing learning of students with special needs.

Furthermore, we agree with the DDSB's recommendations that E-Learning courses be regularly maintained with up-to-date links and accessible resources that both reflect and meet the needs of the diverse students of the province. This supports allowing all students to have more choices in customizing their education based on their strengths, needs and interests.

We agree that a commitment by the province is necessary towards the procurement of provincial access to technology which integrates accessibility and allows UDL to be more easily integrated. This is an important step in the province's work towards achieving the goal of universally accessible learning for all.

We kindly request consideration of our suggestions outlined above to support the updating of online learning supports, E-Learning opportunities and creating accessible opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,

Margaret McIntyre
Chair

cc Ontario District School Boards SEAC
Nicole Morden-Cormier, Director of Education



Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6
Ph: 905-666-5500
1-800-265-3968
ddsb.ca

March 25, 2021

Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON. M5J 1E6

Attention: Phil Verster, President and CEO
(ceo@metrolinx.com)

Karla Avis Birch, Chief Planning Officer
(Karla.Avis-Birch@metrolinx.com)

Heather Platt, Chief Legal Officer
(Heather.Platt@metrolinx.com)

Mayor and Members of Council
Town of Whitby
575 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 2M8

Attention: Chris Harris, Town Clerk
(harrisc@whitby.ca)

Ministry of Transportation
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON. M4A 1Z8

Attention: Honourable Caroline Mulroney
(minister.mto@ontario.ca)

Michael Beaton, Chief of Staff
(Michael.Beaton@ontario.ca)

Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Attention: Honourable Raymond Cho
c/o Emma Lim, Executive Assistant to the
Minister (Emma.Lim@ontario.ca)

To whom it may concern:

Re: Proposed Transit Mall, Town of Whitby
Accessibility Concerns for Students of the Durham District School Board

I write on behalf of the Durham District School Board's ("DDSB") Special Education Advisory Committee ("SEAC"). The SEAC at the DDSB is made up of representatives from several local advocacy groups supporting families whose children are identified with a broad-range of disabilities. Many children with disabilities rely on door-to-door pick up and drop off transportation service from the Durham Student Transportation Services ("DSTS"). It is important to note that DSTS provides school bus transportation services to both DDSB and Durham Catholics District School Board students. These children receive this service when their disability prevents them from being reasonably expected to travel from home to a congregate bus stop as other children would. This service is deemed to be a necessary accommodation for these students and failure to provide this service would be a violation of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* ("AODA").

It is our understanding that there was a virtual question and answer event hosted by Metrolinx on January 7, 2021, which was attended by DDSB Planning Staff. At that Q & A, it was confirmed that school buses would **NOT** be allowed to travel along this section of Highway #2. This restriction would also apply to school buses serving students with special education needs, including students using wheelchairs and other mobility devices. If this policy stands, students with special needs who live along this section of Highway #2, would no longer be able to receive the necessary door-to-door pick that they currently receive and would then be required to travel outside of this section of Highway #2 to access their bussing. This scenario creates an accessibility barrier for these students in accessing the education that they have a right to in a fair and equitable way, especially in inclement weather.

We note that in regard to accessibility, the Metrolinx webpage states as follows:

“Metrolinx aims to provide the same level of service for all people in an integrated environment, to the greatest degree possible. See how we’re complying with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.”

We would assert that the position to not allow DSTS School busses catering to students with special needs requiring door-to-door pick up and drop off to travel this corridor on Highway #2 is contradictory to that accessibility statement on the Metrolinx webpage. We further question whether Metrolinx’s position to disallow school busses providing door-to-door service for children with special education needs to travel through this corridor would meet the threshold of undo hardship required to in order be in compliance with AODA.

We ask that you reconsider this position and allow access through this section of Highway #2 to school busses providing door-to-door service to students with special education needs.

Yours truly,



Special Education Advisory Committee
Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

04/21/2021

1. Special Education Plan 2021-2022-Consultation Process

The Limestone District School Board Special Education Plan (2020-2021) can be found at <https://bit.ly/3qf8qUs>. In advance of the April SEAC meeting, please review the following sections: Transition to School for Students with Special Education Needs (p.41) and Special Education Professional Learning for Limestone District School Board Staff (p. 99).

The Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans (2000) can be found at (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf). In advance of the April SEAC meeting, please review the following sections: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies (B5) and Staff Development (B13).

In addition, please consider the following questions that we will use to elicit feedback:

- What are LDSB strengths related to the Standards: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies and Staff Development (LDSB Special Education plan p. 41 and p. 99)?
- What are LDSB opportunities for improvement related to the Standard: Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies and Staff Development (LDSB Special Education plan p. 41 and p. 99)?

2. Tri Board SEAC - Thursday May 27, 2021

Tri Board SEAC will be held virtually on Thursday May 27. Please note this is a date and time change. The LDSB regular SEAC meeting will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a Tri Board SEAC presentation from 6-7 p.m. by Theresa Wilson, School Mental Health Implementation Coach, and Dr. Deanna Swift, School Mental Health Implementation Coach and Special Education Portfolio Lead, School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) on Supporting Student Mental Health through the COVID 19 Pandemic. Flyer attached.

3. Programming for Students with Special Education Needs during Remote Learning

While remote learning will be in place for most students with special education needs, elementary and secondary students with significant special education needs who attend full-time, self-contained district programs, and those accessing School to Community services who cannot benefit from remote instruction, will be offered the option of face-to-face learning. These families will receive more details directly from educators on April 19. Face-to-face learning for these learners will start later during the week of April 19 to 23. Remote learning will be offered to all other students with special education needs including those who meet the criteria above but prefer not to attend face to face.

4. Vaccines for Special Education Workers

As per Ministry of Education direction, some special education workers are eligible for vaccination. According to provincial direction, education staff who provide direct supports to students with complex special needs are defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- who require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures;
- are unable to wear masks for medical reasons;
- have complex medical needs; and/or
- cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

In LDSB, those special education staff (teachers and EAs) who have been determined to meet this criteria have now received notification.

Prepared by: Alison McDonnell, Superintendent of Education, Learning for All

TRI-BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 27, 2021

<http://bit.ly/TriBdSEAC>

AGENDA

- 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Individual SEAC meetings (virtual)
- 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Presentation from School Mental Health Ontario

PRESENTATION - *Rising to the Challenge!*

Supporting Student Mental Health through the COVID-19 Pandemic

School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) is an organization that provides evidence based resources and implementation support to all Ontario school boards to support student mental health. Guest speakers Theresa Wilson (Implementation Coach) and Dr. Deanna Swift (Portfolio Lead for Special Education), will share some of the targeted resources, training, and strategies that have been developed to support school boards and students through this year of challenge and opportunity. Information regarding the provincial SMHO Strategy and Action Plan and the role in supporting the board mental health lead and superintendent, will be featured in this presentation.

PRESENTERS

- Theresa Wilson, Implementation Coach
School Mental Health Ontario
- Dr. Deanna Swift, Implementation Coach & Special Education Portfolio Lead
School Mental Health Ontario

Event hosted by:

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board