



**Special Education Advisory Committee  
(SEAC) Meeting  
February 22, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** S. Binder, S. Lewis, A. Card, L. Isenegger, R. Glenn, W. Haystead, D. Vanderkloet, J. Christie, D. Milligan, A. James, L. Solski

**Absent:** N. Hamilton, L. Rashotte, R. Howard, E. Cotman, J. Parker, E. Reynolds  
T. Whittaker, C. Breau

**Resource:** K. Dostaler, S. Taylor-Harvey

**Minutes:** J. Kezar

**1. Call to order**

In the absence of Chair Rashotte, Vice-chair Card called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

**2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

Trustee Lewis offered the Land Acknowledgement.

**3. Roll Call**

Vice-chair Card requested a roll call of members.

**4. Approval of the agenda**

**Mover:** Shannon Binder

**Seconder:** Wendy Haystead

That the revised agenda for the February 22, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There was no conflict of interest declared.

**6. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

(a) January 25, 2024

**Mover:** Wendy Haystead

**Seconder:** Lauren Isenegger

That the minutes of the January 25, 2024 meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**7. Delegations/Presentations**

a) **EQAO data review**

**Primary/Junior Mathematics**

Stephanie Taylor-Harvey, System Lead, presented student achievement data from the 2022-2023 EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments of Math, for Grades 3 and 6 students. Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) student data in comparison to Provincial data was shared with members to review and discuss. Data for all students was shared, as well as for students by Special Education needs status. Suzanne Cholasta, System Lead (Curriculum Services) will attend the March meeting, to share the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP).

**8. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

**9. Staff Reports**

**a) School Year Calendar 2024-2025**

Superintendent Dostaler referred members to the report contained in the agenda package, regarding the 2024-2025 school year calendar planning process.

School boards are required to establish a school year calendar which involves consultation with employee groups, parents/guardians/staff/students, senior administration, trustees, and community members. Public consultation occurred within Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, and Limestone District School Board from January 30 to February 12, 2024. Input regarding three calendar options specific to the start and end dates of the school year and placement of professional activity days/board holidays was gathered via an open survey.

Subsequent to the review of the survey results, the proposed 2024-2025 school year calendar option will be taken to the Public Board Meeting as a recommendation, on February 26, 2024. Three versions are quite similar this year. If members have any information to share, please reach out to Superintendent Dostaler or Julie Kezar.

**b) Special Education Plan – Part 2**

Superintendent Dostaler noted that members were asked to review Sections 2.3 to 2.8 of the Special Education Plan. If members have feedback they wish to provide, please email Julie Kezar at [jkezar@hpedsb.on.ca](mailto:jkezar@hpedsb.on.ca) by Friday, March 8, 2024. Part 3 of the Special Education Plan will be reviewed at the March meeting.

**c) Sub-committee updates**

Vice-chair Card requested an update from the following sub-committees:

**Mental Health**

- Superintendent Dostaler noted that final touches are being completed on the Student Mental Health Survey. The School Climate and Canadian Mental Health Association<sup>14</sup> surveys are also being distributed this year.

**Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**

- The Accessing Supports for Students in HPEDSB document contained in the agenda package has been posted on the Board website and will be shared with learning support coordinators and learning support teachers, administrators, and teachers via school group meetings.
- System Lead Taylor-Harvey will share the document with Highland Shores Children's Aid Society. Members can share this information with agency staff as well.
- The next sub-committee meeting will focus on parent/guardian understanding of their child's IEP.

**10. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- a) Community Transition to Kindergarten for Children with Special Education Needs Form
- b) Welcome to Kindergarten Questionnaire

- c) Waterloo Region District School Board letter – February 14, 2024  
Superintendent Dostaler shared that he was pleased to receive this letter, as Waterloo Region DSB supported our advocacy letter.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.