



Minutes of the WQSB Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday
March 14th, 2023 held via virtual platform (Teams), at 6:30 pm.

[Google Drive – March 2023 Folder](#)

PRESENT:

Stephanie Michaud (SECRETARY), Megan Feltham, Jessica Fortier (Vice-Chair, EDHAA), Carolyn Hayes, Kim Kourtsidis (Parent Com Alt), Karenne Lachapelle, Trina Lasch, Sarah McGough, Michaela Montour (Parent Com Rep), Sharon Pinkston, Dana Scott, Kathy Needham, Cindy Smith, Jennifer Jones-Girard, Kathlene Vibert.

Observers: Lisa Falasconi (DG Rep)

Regrets: Paul Dostaler, Kim Kourtsidis (Parent Com Alt).

1. Reading of Land Acknowledgement – Read by Jessica Fortier

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the lands upon which we live, learn, and work are the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples. We thank them for sharing these lands and commit, as an organization, as educators and as individuals, to an ongoing relationship that recognizes and respects the lands, traditions, and culture of the Anishinaabe people.

- 2. Adoption of Agenda**

22/23-20 IT WAS MOVED by Jessica Fortier and seconded by Sharon Pinkston that the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

- 3. Approval of Minutes**

22/23-21 IT WAS MOVED by Jessica Fortier and seconded by Trina Lasch that the minutes of a meeting held on *January 10th, 2023*, be approved as such. **Carried**

- 4. Committee Reports**

- ~~4.1 SEAC Chair Report~~

- 4.2 SEAC Vice-Chair and EHDA Parent Commissioner Jessica Fortier gave an informal report; The bulk of her activities related to the Parent Commissioner role have been heavily focused on the WQSB Director General (DG) Hiring Committee.

- 4.3 Parent Committee Representative – Informal report given by Kathy Needham & Jessica Fortier. Summary of key points were provided. The sub committees have recently been created. They are the “Academic” and “Health & Safety” committees mandated with oversight on behaviours and discipline. These will be presented at the next meeting of SEAC.

4.4 ~~Sub-Committee Reports~~

5. SEAC Committee Vote to Elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

1. Chair –

22/23 – 22 Trina Lasch nominated Jessica Fortier as Chair of SEAC. Jessica Fortier accepted and was **approved by acclamation**.

2. Vice-Chair –

22/23 – 23 Jessica Fortier nominated Stephanie Michaud as Vice-Chair of SEAC. Stephanie Michaud accepted and was **approved by acclamation**.

3. A nominee was sought for the position of Secretary. None was identified. A nomination was sought for the Secretary position for the meeting. Stephanie Michaud volunteered and was approved to be Secretary for the current meeting. The position of Secretary for future meetings will be on a rotating basis by the membership of SEAC.

6. Committee Motions

6.1 **BUDGET** - WHEREAS the Events committee has not met to date and with only one remaining member on the committee; proposed use of the 2022-2023 budget be allocated to run another postcard campaign for SEAC. Changes and approval by the committee to be made before distribution.

22/23-24 IT WAS MOVED by Sharon Pinkston and seconded by Megan Feltham that the above motion allowing the use of the budget be approved. **Carried.**

6.2 **Ratification of E-vote** - WHEREAS an E-vote was sent out to the committee on March 3rd, 2023, to approve the final RAC document to be submitted by Lisa Falasconi on 03.14.2023. With **11** SEAC members voting in favour, **8** members not voting.

22/23-25 IT WAS MOVED by Stephanie Michaud and seconded by Trisha Lasch to accept the ratification of the E-vote to approve the final RAC document be submitted by Lisa Falasconi on 03.14.2023. **Carried through e-vote.**

6.3 **BLOG** - WHEREAS the SEAC website created a blog in 2022, with a promise of monthly fulfilment; it has since sat dormant. The promise of fulfilment is unattainable this year due to time constraints and as such; I motion to remove the blog for the remainder of the term and revisit it at a later date.

22/23-26 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Trina Lasch that the above motion be approved and amended in the Handbook. **Carried.**

6.4 **DISCIPLINARY MEASURES** - WHEREAS the SEAC Handbook currently has no section that covers a discipline policy or procedure; I hereby motion the framework that was created last term (21-22) by members of The Policy and Procedure Sub-Committee be entered into the handbook.

*Multiple questions arose regarding the procedures surrounding the implementation of disciplinary measures for SEAC. It was requested that the measure be sent back to the Policy and Procedures Committee. **The motion was NOT approved.**

22/23 – 27 AD-HOC MOTION; It was determined that there should be two motions to the original 6.4, to specifically address *Discipline of the Chair* be made separately. A motion was put forward

in reflection of this and was moved to create 6.5 outlining the above criteria. – **Carried Unanimously**

6.5 **CHAIR DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE** - WHEREAS the SEAC Handbook currently has no section that covers a discipline policy or procedure; I hereby motion the framework that was created last term (21-22) by members of The Policy and Procedure Sub-Committee to for measures to *Discipline of the Chair* be entered into the handbook.

22/23 – 28 IT WAS MOVED by Trisha Lasch and seconded by Andrea Gage that the following motion be approved and entered into our Handbook. **Carried.**

6.6 **SEAC Member Alternates** WHEREAS the current structure of the Education Act and internal board policies do not name a specific designate for the decisions surrounding the number of parent alternates chosen each year. In its current standing there are 2 members voted into an alternate position each year by Parent Committee, after the election of sitting members takes place; they are not members until called upon due to vacancy, they do not affect the criteria set out by Council as per the Education Act. I motion that the responsibility be left to SEAC to decide as whole, as to the number of alternates and be clarified in our handbook of internal rules and procedures. The number of alternates will be set at 3 with the possibility of review in the future should the SEAC committee so choose. The responsibility of election will remain as such, Ed Act 185. 1.

22/23 – 29 IT WAS MOVED by Cindy Smith and seconded by Kathy Needham that the following motion be approved and entered into our Handbook. **Carried.**

6.7 **Elective Criteria for Parent Committee** WHEREAS Parent Committee has no internal policy or procedure with respects to how alternates are chosen and that Parent Committee votes alternates in on blind ballot selection. I hereby motion the following criteria list be submitted to Parents Committee for future use in selecting SEAC alternates. As per our Handbook of Internal Rules and Procedures.

- First priority will be given to a designate who would represent a school not already represented by a parent on SEAC.
- Second priority will be given to a designate who would represent and elementary school.
- Third priority will be given to a designate representing an underrepresented region or sector (i.e., high school or rural)

22/23 – 30 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Sharon Pinkston that the following motion be approved and sent to Parent Committee and entered into our Handbook. **Carried.**

7. IEP Presentation – Lisa Falasconi

Changes arising for FY2023-24. Current database platform (ISM) will be phased out and the IEP will be transitioning to the Mozaic Portal. The new IEP will be universal and not all sections will apply to a child's unique situation. Changes in IEP includes changes to Profile which will be replaced by Abilities and Needs. The new IEP has been trialed in different schools and Ms Falasconi expects the greatest change for parents under the Challenges program.

Diagnosis will no longer be included on profile information and the IEP will solely focus on abilities and needs of why the student requires an IEP. There were numerous questions about parent and

SEAC engagement in the elaboration of the document. It was confirmed that no such consultation took place and it was strongly recommended by SEAC that it be consulted moving forward. The response was centered on the language of the Act limiting SEACs role to implementation. The SEAC Chair will be bringing this point up at Council.

Questions were posed on the rollout of the new IEP by the WQSB. Questions were asked on the possibility of working with SEAC to develop communications to parents and also, to develop a survey to parents about the IEP.

22/23- 31 Motion to extend meeting by 20 minutes - IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Stephanie Michaud that the meeting be extended for 20 minutes. **Carried.**

Lisa finished her presentation, short question/answer period.

8. Motion to Adjourn –

22/23-32 IT WAS MOVED by Sharon Pinkston and seconded by Kathy Needham that the meeting be adjourned at 9:02 p.m. **Carried.**