



Special Needs Advisory Committee

Monday, May 8th 2023, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Via MS Teams

[Google Drive Folder](#)

PRESENT:

Megan Feltham, Jessica Fortier (Chair, EDHAA), Carolyn Hayes, Jennifer Idone, Trina Lasch, Sarah McGough, Sharon Pinkston, Kathy Needham, Cindy Smith, Jennifer Jones-Girard, Kim Kourtsidis (Parent Com Alt), Kathlene Vibert, Andrea Gage

Observers: Lisa Falasconi (DG Rep)

Guest: Eldon Keon (Lord Aylmer principal)

Regrets: Stephanie Michaud (Vice-Chair), Karenne Lachapelle, Michaela Montour (Parent Com Rep), Dana Scott, Paul Dostaler, Jenna Jenkins

1. Reading of Land Acknowledgement

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 cultures of the Anishinaabe people.

2. Secretary selection (at random) – Kathlene Vibert selected

3. Approval of Agenda (2 min)

4. Approval of Minutes (2 min)

3.1 Minutes from *April 11th, 2023*

5. Reports (5 min)

4.1. SEAC Chair Report / EHDA Parent Commissioner Report – no report, many in camera meetings since last SEAC meeting, new DG to be named at end of the month.

4.2. SEAC Parents' Committee Representative Report (Kathy Needham) – Creation of an events committee for volunteer appreciation event for parents, discussion about surveys, sexual health curriculum, low return for Commitment to Success survey.

~~4.3. Sub-Committee Reports~~

6. Motion (see following page) (25 min)
7. Roadmap to Health parent info session – Eldon Keon (10 min)

Parents are having difficulty accessing health services, French families access CLSC, English families look to school for support, Event to be supported and 'advertised' on SEAC website.

22/23-37 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Sharon Pinkston to have Jessica Fortier add the event to the SEAC website as a pop up for maximum attention. CARRIED

8. Red Files – Lisa Falasconi (30 min)

Discussion of what is in files, who can access, how to access.

9. Good News Piece (5 min)

Bright and Quirky Summit May 15-19

10. Varia (5 min) – Lisa mentioned TEVA event on May 18 from CISSO

11. Adjournment

- Date of Next Meeting ~ Monday June 12th, 2023

SEAC Motions

Agenda item 2

1. Adoption of Agenda

22/23-38 IT WAS MOVED by Jessica Fortier and seconded by Jen Idone that the agenda be adopted with the addition of a motion to be put forward by Trina Lasch. CARRIED

Agenda item 3.1

2. Approval of Minutes

22/23-39 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Sharon Pinkston that the minutes of a meeting held on *April 11th, 2023*, be approved as such. With the amendment of attendance being added to the minutes. CARRIED

Motion on 2-Year Mandate

3. Whereas, the motion put forward by our outgoing Chair *Letitia Taylor* at the first call to order; on a two-year mandate for committee members lacks sufficient structure and foundation; and

Whereas, it is understood that an alternating 2-year mandate would provide a more effective and balanced approach to committee membership;

Be it resolved that:

The previous motion proposing a two-year mandate for committee members be revised and replaced with the following:

- Committee members shall serve an alternating two-year term, with half of the members' terms ending each year. *Appointed staff members are not affected by this internal policy.*
- A record of member terms will be kept in the Google Shared Drive and updated before June - by the Chair, Vice-Chair and or Secretary to ensure accuracy.
- An official memo will be sent to the Chair of Parent Committee and the Secretary General (*Edu Act. 190*) each year as to the number of members and alternates required.
- Members may be reappointed for repeat consecutive terms, but only after they have been selected by Parent Committee as per *Edu Act 185 and 185.1.*
- A member may withdraw from the committee and is not bound to these terms. Should a member exit, the alternate will take their place and the remainder of their noted term.

The revised motion shall be implemented immediately upon approval.

The Chair shall ensure that all committees and members are informed of this motion and its implementation and furthermore be entered into the handbook as such.

22/23 – 40 IT WAS MOVED by Andrea Gage and seconded by Cindy Smith that the following motion be approved. CARRIED

Motion: Updating Two-Year Mandate Member List by Individual Vote

1 Year Term	2 Year Term
Jenna Jenkins	Jessica Fortier
Sarah McGough	Trina Lasch
Carolyn Hayes	Jennifer Idone
Megan Feltham	Kim Kourtsidis
Sharon Pinkston	Michaela Montour
Paul Dostaler	Stephanie Michaud (not present)
Dana Scott	
Karenne Lachapelle	Kathy Needham

1 year and 2 year terms will be discussed again at final SEAC meeting to give information to different councils to detail the number of members needed in September.

WHEREAS, the two-year mandate member list of the committee is in need of updating, due to vacancy and the forementioned motion that carried; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to update the member list by individual vote of preference before year end;

Be it resolved that:

1. The committee shall update the two-year mandate member list by individual vote.
2. The Chair shall present the current member list to the committee.
3. The Chair shall then read out each member's name and ask the named committee member to vote, by filling one of the vacancies of the two-year mandate.
4. Committee members may vote either "yes" to be placed on the two-year list or "no" to remain on the one-year list.
5. The Chair will record each member's vote.
6. Taking into consideration the number of vacancies remaining in the two-year term section; should there be more members than required, names could be chosen by way of name randomizer if the committee so chooses.
7. The updated member list shall hereby be approved by the committee upon completion of the vote. The Chair shall ensure that all parties concerned are informed of the updated member list.
8. The list shall then be entered into the Google Shared Drive.

22/23 – 41 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Megan Feltham that the following motion be approved. CARRIED

Meeting Extension

22/23- 42 IT WAS MOVED by Kathy Needham and seconded by Sharon Pinkston to add a 20 minute extension to the meeting. CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn

4. **22/23 – 43** IT WAS MOVED by Trina Lasch and seconded by Sharon Pinkston that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 p.m.
-

Motion brought be Trina – many discussions were brought up, Jessica adjusted draft motion as discussion progressed. Final motion below that was moved by Sharon and seconded by Trina. CARRIED

Motion: Creation of a Disability Inclusion Working Group in the Western Quebec School Board.

Whereas, the number of students with special needs is increasing in the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) and it is important to ensure that all students have equal access to education;

Whereas, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) hereby advises the creation of a Disability Inclusion Working Group, to identify barriers and promising practices for disability inclusion in the WQSB;

Whereas, the Disability Inclusion Working Group would include representation from the WQSB Council of Commissioners, WQSB staff members, SEAC, parents, and community experts;

Whereas, the Disability Inclusion Working Group would review policies, procedures, and practices related to accessibility, accommodations, and staff training, and consult with experts in inclusive education, school administrators, resource staff and educators, as well as parents of children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs);

Whereas, the Disability Inclusion Working Group would prepare a report on their work that identifies barriers to and promising practices for disability inclusion in the WQSB and provides recommendations to the Council for consideration;

Proposed Motion To Council;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Commissioners create a Disability Inclusion Working Group in the Western Quebec School Board with the above-mentioned objectives.

Be it further resolved that the Disability Inclusion Working Group report to the Council of Commissioners, on a regular basis and that their findings and recommendations be considered in the development of policies and practices related to disability inclusion in the WQSB.

Be it further resolved that the Disability Inclusion Working Group be given the resources necessary to fulfill its mandate and that the Council of Commissioners ensure that the Disability Inclusion Working Group is supported and valued.

This motion shall come into effect at the start of the new 2023/2024 school year.

22/23-43 IT WAS MOVED by Sharon Pinkston and seconded by Trina Lasch that the following motion be approved and submitted to council.