



Special Needs Advisory Committee - MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Via MS Teams
[November Google Drive Folder](#)

ATTENDANCE:
REGRETS:

1. Reading of the land acknowledgments

“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 many diverse Indigenous peoples.”

2. Approval of Agenda (1 min)
3. Guest - George Singfield (20 mins)
4. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
5. Reports (2 mins)
 - 4.1 ~~SEAC Chair Report / EHDAA Parent Commissioner Report~~
 - 4.2 ~~Parents' Committee Representative Report~~
 - 4.3 ~~Sub-Committee Reports~~
 - 4.4 Director of Complimentary Services Report
6. Motions (see following page) (15 mins)
7. Sub-Committee Selections (20 mins)
8. Presentation and Q&A period; by Lisa Falasconi (60 mins)
9. Closing Circle (10 mins)
10. Adjournment

SEAC Draft Motions and Meeting Kit

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Via TEAMS

2 - Adoption of the Agenda

22/23 – 22 IT WAS MOVED by Trina Lasch and seconded by Andrea Gage that the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

3 - Guest George Singfield Q&A

DISCUSSION

Jessica - Asked for comment on the interview given yesterday by a teacher at Greater Gatineau - lack of resources in special education/staff leaving/private sector. [CBC Report WQSB](#) George will look into it, Jessica will follow-up for comment.

Trina - Asked about our input to RAC and the low hanging fruit that can be implemented but gets ignored. George commented on the structure and inner workings of RAC, boils down to a simple yes/no. She also asked about the 5 psych ed assessments and the reality of that number. George commented about the posting for a psychologist and the length of time the listing has been up, the issue surrounding Ontario vs Quebec qualifications.

Sasha - Followed up on the psych ed question. If we aren't hiring them, where are these implemented funds going? Lisa replied CAFCO is outsourced in the interim with the WQSB psych being on extended leave. This year they can only provide 2 psych ed assessments, Lisa is outsourcing in other pockets to be able to fill the gap. Funds are being used for assessments.

Andrea - Commented on visibility in CTSP, that some of our suggestions are actively in place.

4 - Approval of Minutes

[October Minutes](#)

22/23 – 23 IT WAS MOVED by Trina Lasch and seconded by Emily Sibbald that the minutes from the October 30th meeting, be adopted as presented. **Carried**

5 - Reports (Lisa Falasconi)

Update on the budget, Commissioner Fortier brought the motion to council in September - motion was approved to the increase in SEAC's budget from \$1000 to \$3000 for the committee. Opening budget is full.

6 - Motions

1. Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Plans

WHEREAS, students with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to bullying and violence in Canadian schools, with the Canadian Human Rights Commission reporting that more than one in four persons with disabilities report being bullied at school due to their condition and;

WHEREAS, Statistics Canada has reported that 42% of youth with a disability have experienced bullying at school because of their condition, and this percentage increases to 62% among those with a more severe disability and;

WHEREAS, addressing and preventing bullying and violence against students with disabilities is of paramount importance to creating an inclusive and safe educational environment and;

WHEREAS, the Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence (ABAV) plans are essential tools for schools to combat and prevent these issues;

WHEREAS, there is a need for specific guidance within ABAV plans that explicitly addresses the unique challenges faced by students with disabilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) recommends that the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) take the following actions:

- Develop and implement guidance for all WQSB schools to ensure that their Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence (ABAV) plans explicitly consider and address the needs and vulnerabilities of students with disabilities.
- Including best practices and resources that schools can use to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for students with disabilities, with a focus on preventing bullying and violence.
- Emphasize the importance of staff training and awareness to ensure that school staff are well-equipped to provide a safe and inclusive environment for students with disabilities.
- Encourage schools to actively involve parents, guardians, and students with disabilities in the development and review of ABAV plans to ensure that their voices and perspectives are considered.
- Periodically monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the guidance, seeking feedback from schools and SEAC, and making necessary adjustments to improve the support provided to students with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, SEAC recognizes the urgency of addressing bullying and violence against students with disabilities and is committed to working collaboratively with the WQSB to ensure the successful implementation of this motion.

This motion is proposed in the best interest of our students with disabilities and is intended to create a safer, more inclusive, and supportive educational environment for all. We kindly request that the WQSB give due consideration to this motion and take necessary actions to address this critical issue.

22/23 - 24 IT WAS MOVED by Ryan Sullivan and seconded by Maxine Martel that the above proposed motion be submitted to Council by Commissioner Fortier, presented to Parent Committee at their November meeting and be added to the SEAC website under official advice. **Carried**

2. Special Projects Sub-Committee

SEAC has a well-established structure with various standing subcommittees dedicated to specific objectives and responsibilities. While these sub-committees

play a crucial role in the achievement of our organizational goals, there are occasions when unique and time-sensitive projects arise that do not neatly align with the existing sub-committees' mandates. These special projects are often vital to our organization's growth and success, and they require a dedicated, ad-hoc team to ensure their successful completion.

Composition:

- The "Special Projects" sub-committee shall consist of a minimum of 2 members. The sub-committee's composition will be open to all active members of the organization, and interested members can express their willingness to join.

Responsibilities:

- The "Special Projects" sub-committee shall be responsible for identifying, planning, and executing projects that do not fall within the scope of existing standing sub-committees.
- The sub-committee will work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders and other sub-committees as needed to carry out these projects effectively.
- The sub-committee will provide regular progress reports and updates to the members of the organization.

Term and Duration:

- The "Special Projects" sub-committee will operate on an ad-hoc basis, being reviewed annually.

Project Proposal and Approval:

- A project proposal, including the project's goals, timeline, budget, and resources required, will be presented to SEAC for approval.

Reporting:

The "Special Projects" sub-committee shall provide regular monthly updates and a final report to SEAC upon the completion of each project.

Conclusion:

By creating a "Special Projects" sub-committee, we can ensure that our organization remains agile and responsive to emerging opportunities and challenges. This sub-committee will allow us to leverage the skills and enthusiasm of our members for the benefit of the organization and its mission.

I urge members to support this motion, as it will enhance our organization's capacity to address unique and time-sensitive projects that do not fit within the scope of our existing sub-committees.

22/23 - 25 IT WAS MOVED by Sasha and seconded by Francine that a Special Projects Ad-Hoc committee be created as defined in the above motion. **Carried**

7 - Sub-Committee Selections

[SEAC Handbook](#)

pg:17 outlines sub-committees

Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee	Communications Sub-Committee
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Jessica Veronique	Jessica
Special Project Sub-Committee Trina Ryan	Events Sub-Committee Andrea Ryan Maxine

8 - Presentation by Lisa Falasconi with Q&A period

[Presentation Slides](#)

DISCUSSION:

Karolyn - Asked if there was a formula to determine the number of IEP students in the classroom? Lisa responded that 30% of the classroom can be composed of students with IEPs, based on what the ministry determines. George said there is no CAP for students with IEPs. Karolyn followed up with class size vs CAP. George responded with how it all varies based on codes and the Teachers collective agreement.

Jessica - Asked about the missing Sexual Education tech on her portrait/presentation. Lisa responded that it was transferred out of her department and into Educational services.

~~9 - Closing Circle~~

Meeting Extension

22/23 - 26 IT WAS MOVED by Sasha and seconded by Maxine Martel to add a 20 minute extension to the meeting. **Carried**

10 - Motion to Adjourn

22/23 - 27 IT WAS MOVED by Karolyn and seconded by Sasha that the meeting be adjourned at 8:43 p.m. **Carried**