



Special Needs Advisory Committee Minutes

October 29th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Via TEAMS

Attendance: Jessica Fortier, Lisa Butcher, Sara Menard, Amanda Peck, GERALINE Chayer, Laura Campbell, Karen McDonald, Adrienne Fleming, Karolyn Cassidy, Maxine Martel, Emily Sibbald, Francine Janura, Veronique Semexant, Sasha Heeney, Hannah Patrick, Cindy Smith, Tracy Charles, Kathlene Vibert, Lisa Falasconi

Regrets: Ryan Sullivan, Oussama Sidhom

1. Reading of the land acknowledgments

Jessica Fortier read the land acknowledgement.

"We acknowledge with respect that the lands on which we live, learn, and work are the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples.

As an organization, as educators, and individuals, we commit to fostering a continued relationship that honors and upholds these lands, traditions, and cultures of the many diverse Indigenous peoples. As we gather for our meeting, let us reflect on the importance of reconciliation, understanding, and collaboration."

2. Approval of Agenda (1 min)

24/25 – 01 IT WAS MOVED by Tracy Charles and seconded by Karen McDonald that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. Welcome and Introductions (30 minutes)

- Round Robin Introductions

4. Reports (15 min)

4.1 SEAC Chair Report / EHDA Parent Commissioner Report

Jessica Fortier read her report to the committee, as follows.

Dear SEAC Members,

As we come together to kick off another year, I want to start by expressing my deep gratitude for the opportunity to have served as your Chair over the last two years. I'd also like to warmly welcome our new members to SEAC this year. We are truly excited to have you join us on this important journey of advocating for students with special needs across the vast WQSB community.

To our returning members, I am so incredibly grateful for your unwavering commitment and dedication over the last year. Together, we made significant progress, and I have

no doubt that we'll continue building on that success again this year. Your experience, insight, and passion have been key in shaping SEAC into the strong and supportive community it is today.

I also want to express how deeply I have cherished these past two years as the EHDA Parent Commissioner. When I was elected, I had no idea the amount of work it would entail, but what a rewarding journey it has been! This role has given me such purpose, and my passion for this work has only grown stronger. I sincerely hope to be considered again this year, so that I can continue to serve and advocate for our community.

In the words of Temple Grandin, "The world needs different kinds of minds to work together." This idea has been our guiding light—the belief that inclusivity and diversity in abilities make us stronger. We carry the responsibility to ensure that every child has a voice and the opportunity to thrive. As Judith Heumann wisely said, "If I have to feel thankful about accessibility, when am I ever gonna be equal in the community?" This powerful reminder speaks to the core of our mandate. As we embark on a new year, let us continue to champion inclusivity and accessibility with the same spirit of collaboration and determination.

I am incredibly excited for what lies ahead. With the passion, empathy, and expertise around this virtual table, I have no doubt that we will continue to make great strides this year. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chair—it has been an absolute honor. Here's to a year of growth, learning, and continued advocacy!

Warmly,

Jessica Fortier

Outgoing Chair, SEAC

EHDA Parent Commissioner

4.2 Parents' Committee Representative Report

4.3 Sub-Committee Reports

4.4 Director of Complementary Services Report –

Lisa Falasconi presented a Power Point outlining Special Needs at WQSB. The presentation was moved to the end of meeting – slides 1-8 were presented with the remaining to be continued at November meeting. Questions and discussion to follow.

4. Elections (40 mins)

Election Procedures

24/25 – 04 IT WAS MOVED by Karen McDonald and seconded by Hannah Patrick that the election procedures be held by secret ballot.

Carried

5.1 Scrutineer

Scrutineer

24/25 - 05 IT WAS MOVED by Karolyn Cassidy and seconded by Emily Sibbald that Lisa Falasconi and Eldon Keon be appointed as scrutineers for the election procedures.

Carried

5.2 Chair

24/25 - 06 IT WAS MOVED by Karen McDonald and seconded by Geralina Chayer that the

Committee accept nominations for the position of Chair of SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Karolyn C nominates Jessica Fortier	accepted

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 07 IT WAS MOVED by Maxine Martel and seconded by Laura Campbell that nominations for the positions of Chair of SEAC cease.

Carried

Appointment of Chair

24/25 - 08 Parent Representative Jessica Fortier is appointed by acclamation as Chair of SEAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

5.3 Vice-Chair

24/25 - 09 IT WAS MOVED by Karolyn Cassidy and seconded by Hannah Patrick that the Committee accept nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Jessica F nominatd Emily Sibbald	accepted

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 10 IT WAS MOVED by Veronique Semexant and seconded by Laura Campbell that nominations for the positions of Vice-Chair of SEAC cease.

Carried

Appointment of Vice-Chair

24/25 - 11 Parent Representative Emily Sibbald is appointed by acclamation as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

5.4 Secretary

24/25 - 12 IT WAS MOVED by Sara Menard and seconded by Karolyn Cassidy that the Committee accept nominations for the position of Secretary of SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Geraline Chayer self nominates	NA

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 13 IT WAS MOVED by Cindy Smith and seconded by Adrienne Fleming that nominations for the positions of Secretary of SEAC cease.

Carried

Appointment of Secretary

24/25 - 14 Geraline Chayer is appointed by acclamation as Secretary of SEAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

5.5 EHDA Parent Commissioner

24/25 - 15 IT WAS MOVED by Geraline Chayer and seconded by Veronique Semexant that the Committee accept nominations for the position of EHDA Parent Commissioner for the WQSB/SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Jessica Fortier self-nominates	NA

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 16 IT WAS MOVED by Lisa Butcher and seconded by Hannah Patrick that nominations for the positions of EHDA Parent Commissioner for the WQSB/SEAC, cease.

Carried

Appointment of EHDA Parent Commissioner

24/25 - 17 Parent Representative Jessica Fortier is appointed by acclamation as the EHDA Parent Commissioner for the WQSB/SEAC for the duration of the 24/25 - 25/26 school years.

Carried

5.6 Parent Committee Rep

24/25 - 18 IT WAS MOVED by Geralina Chayer and seconded by Veronique Semexant that the Committee accept nominations for the position of Parent Committee Representative for SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Veronique Semexant self-nominates	NA

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 19 IT WAS MOVED by Karen McDonald and seconded by Karolyn Cassidy that nominations for the positions of Parent Committee Representative for SEAC cease.

Carried

Appointment of PC Representative

24/25 - 20 Parent Representative Veronique Semexant is appointed by acclamation as Parent Committee Representative for SEAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

5.7 Alternate Rep for Parent Committee

24/25 - 21 IT WAS MOVED by Geralina Chayer and seconded by Karolyn Cassidy that the Committee accept nominations for the position of Alternate Representative for Parent Committee for SEAC.

Carried

Nominations	Accepted/Rejected
Karen McDonald self-nominates	NA

Cease Nominations

24/25 - 22 IT WAS MOVED by Laura McDonald and seconded by Veronique Semexant that nominations for the positions of Alternate Representative for Parent Committee for SEAC cease.

Carried

Appointment of Alternate PC Representative

24/25 - 23 Parent Representative Karen McDonald is appointed by acclamation as the Alternate Representative for Parent Committee for SEAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

5. Meeting Dates – 24-25

24/25 - 02 IT WAS MOVED by Emily Sibbald and seconded by Hannah Patrick that the meeting dates be scheduled as follows:

1. *October 29th, 2024
2. November 5th, 2024
4. *January 8th, 2025
5. February 4th, 2025
6. *March 12th, 2025
7. April 1st, 2025
8. May 6th, 2025
9. June 3rd 2025 (If needed)

Meeting dates will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, however dates marked with an asterisk () are on alternating dates due to holidays or board PD days. Meetings will be held from 6:30pm-8:30pm via TEAMS, unless otherwise discussed by the committee.*

Carried

6. SEAC handbook

WHEREAS the handbook of policies and procedures was updated in June to culminate any remaining changes and;

WHEREAS the internal policies and procedures states the handbook be accepted by the committee at the first meeting of the year.

24/25 - 03 IT WAS MOVED by Karolyn Cassidy and seconded by Geralina Chayer that the Handbook of Policies and Procedures be adopted by the committee for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried

7. Closing Circle– there was no closing circle held.

8. Adjournment

Jessica Fortier, calls for the adjournment of the meeting at 8:32pm.