

**SEAC's KEY VALUES:**

Accountability  
Communication  
Honesty  
Positive Climate  
Respect

**HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, June 10, 2015 [pls. note the date]**

**Location: Education Centre (Room 308, Third Level)**  
**[20 Education Court, Hamilton, ON)**

**7:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order** J. Colantino
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes – May 27, 2015**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes**  
(a) Monitoring Update S. Woon
- 5. New Business**  
(a) Special Education Report S. Woon  
(b) SEAC 2015-2016 Meeting Dates S. Woon
- 6. Members' Update** Members
- 7. Correspondence**  
(a) Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB: Impact of Regulation 274
- 8. Other Business**

**[IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE ADVISE CHIT REVILLA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE –**  
**905-527-5092, EXT. 2273 or e-mail: [crevilla@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:crevilla@hwdsb.on.ca)]**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 MEMBERSHIP**

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE BOARD**

Judy Colantino	<b>Chair</b>
Lita Barrie	<b>Vice-Chair</b>

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 MEMBERSHIP**

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2015, (Room 308, Education Centre)**

**Those present:**

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and SEAC Chair  
 Lita Barrie, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and SEAC Vice-Chair  
 Mark Courtepatte, Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group  
 Fran Doodeman, Community Living Hamilton  
 Doug Foster, CHOICES – Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities  
 Susan Guzina, Association for Bright Children of Ontario  
 Jenny McEwen-Hill, McMaster Children’s Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio  
 Susie Owen, CNIB Hamilton  
 Barbara Reeves, Autism Ontario (H-W Chapter)  
 John Sanges, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton (Alternate)  
 Lorraine Sayles, The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton  
 Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre

**In attendance:**

Stacey Zucker, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer  
 John Whitwell, Principal of Special Education Services  
 Tania Kerr, Vice-President of Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers’ Local  
 Susan Lucek, Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union, Local 527  
 Brent Monkley, Hamilton-Wentworth Principals’ Council - Secondary

**Regrets:**

Christine Bingham, Trustee  
 Larry Pattison, Trustee  
 Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Leadership and Learning  
 Mary Jane Gable-Flock, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre (Alternate)  
 Bernadine Nabuurs, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre  
 Tracy Sherriff, P.A.L.S. – Parent Advocacy Learning and Support Network

**1. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., welcoming everyone.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>	On the motion of J. McEwen-Hill, seconded by M. Courtepatte, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved.</b>  <b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	On the motion of F. Doodeman, seconded by S. Guzina, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting be approved.</b>  <b>CARRIED.</b>  On the motion of B. Reeves, seconded by D. Foster, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that the minutes of the April 29, 2015 meeting be approved.</b>  <b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b> (a) Presentation re Budget	The Chair called on Stacey Zucker (Superintendent of Business and Treasurer) who presented and reviewed the 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget for Special Education. She noted that the HWDSB budget

	<p>would come forward to Standing Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup> and go to Board on June 15<sup>th</sup> for ratification.</p> <p>The following clarifications were provided in response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special equipment funding allocation is now based on student enrolment with the dollar amount received for the 2015-2016 budget is significantly higher. Claims amounts represents a very small portion of the process.</li> <li>▪ The Special Incidence Portion under Revenue is for extremely high needs students.</li> <li>▪ Staffing represents 95% of special education budget.</li> <li>▪ The “Other” line under Professional/Para-professional (reference: Staffing Summary) includes administrative support with some funded from Special Education Equipment funding.</li> <li>▪ The Professional Development budget has decreased by \$400,000 across the Board but increased for special education by about \$130,000. Staff training is usually done on PD day.</li> <li>▪ The combination of decreasing government funding and decreasing enrolment is a big challenge for the Board.</li> </ul> <p>As staff review the role of educational assistants at the secondary level (per the recommendation in the Special Education and Secondary School Opportunities report from SEAC) the members agreed with the Chair’s suggestion of having parental input regarding this issue.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Superintendent Zucker for her time and efforts. She remarked that HWDSB has managed to look after the special education students in spite of adequate funding.</p> <p>SEAC had further discussion on the Special Education 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget, which resulted in the following recommendations for the Board’s consideration:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">SEAC gratefully acknowledges the \$2 million in the proposed 2015-2016 Special Education budget that has been provided by the Board, over and above the Ministry portion of the financing.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">SEAC supports the viewpoint that the budget of the school board should reflect the values of the Board, and we are aware of the impact of the funding for special education services has on the students we serve.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">On the motion of B. Reeves, seconded by S. Guzina, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS that HWDSB continue to support the special education services over and above the Ministry’s dedicated funding every year.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
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	<p>Based on the information in the budget regarding the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding, there is an increase of more than \$300,000.00 from last year. This is an indication that the complex and challenging needs of our students is increasing, and therefore more funding is required to support these students with services. As more students present with more complex exceptionalities, the need for educational assistants has grown exponentially. Our EA complement has not kept pace with those needs.</p> <p>On the motion of B. Reeves, seconded by S. Guzina, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS</b> that <b>HWDSB consider increasing the number of educational assistants as soon as possible to meet the increasing and challenging needs of our students receiving special education services.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
<p><b>5. New Business</b>  (a) June SEAC Meeting Date  (b) SEAC Scroll/Certificate</p>	<p><u>June SEAC Meeting Date</u>  There was consensus that the June SEAC meeting be scheduled for <b><u>Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Room 308 at the Education Centre.</u></b></p> <p>The Chair shared with the members a scroll and certificate from Minister of Education Liz Sandals in recognition of the work of HWDSB SEAC.</p>
<p><b>6. Members' Update</b></p>	<p><u>Hamilton Parent &amp; Caregiver FASD Support Group</u>  Mark Courtepatte provided updates on some activities and projects which the organization has been involved with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Child and Youth Services' Provincial Roundtable meetings on FASD Strategy for Ontario (May 4-July 14, 2015 across Ontario)</li> <li>▪ Support Group Meeting on May 30, 2015 at Hamilton Mountain Police Station (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)</li> <li>▪ Child Mind.org site – two recent articles of interest (Travel with Challenging Children Tips and How to Support Siblings in Special Needs Families)</li> <li>▪ Recent study indicating the high rate of FASD misdiagnosis</li> <li>▪ Research indicating one glass of wine can stop fetus moving and breathing for up to two hours</li> </ul> <p>The Chair requested that a copy of the full report be attached to the minutes; (<b><i>please see attachment</i></b>).</p> <p><u>Ontario Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices</u>  SEAC received clarification and update regarding Regulation 274/12 (Hiring Practices). It was noted that one provision of this legislation: that supply teachers must be hired based on seniority alone may be an issue at negotiations.</p>

<b>6. Correspondence</b> (a) Upper Grand DSB – Support for Raising Awareness re Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)	<u>Upper Grand DSB – Support for Raising Awareness re Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)</u> On the motion of L. Barrie, seconded by B. Reeves, the Committee <b>RECOMMENDS</b> that this letter be received and filed. <b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>7. Other Business</b>	None.

**Adjournment:**

On the motion of L. Barrie , seconded by B. Reeves, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the meeting be adjourned, this being done at **9:05 p.m.**

**CARRIED.**

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Att.

DRAFT

**Member Update: Mark Courtepatte**

**Organization: Hamilton FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group**

1. **Ministry of Children & Youth Services** – Provincial Roundtable meetings to develop a FASD Strategy for Ontario are being held across Ontario (May 4 – July 14). Our group attended the first roundtable meeting in Hamilton on May 4<sup>th</sup>.  
The four key points we made to the Deputy Minister were ....
  - a) Lack of Diagnostic services (noted McMaster as well does not have any doctors to diagnose or treat FASD – one of the SEAC members is with McMaster Hospital Pediatrics)
  - b) Even if they had a diagnostic service available in every city and town in Ontario it would still be inaccessible due to the illegal practice of charging \$4,000-\$5,000 for a FASD diagnosis. The charge for a diagnosis is in contravention with the Canada Health Act, Ontario Human Rights, Ontario Disability Act and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Also noted that no other disability is required to pay for their diagnosis. Ontario is considered as one of the worst provinces to live in for FASD, Alberta and B.C. light years ahead of Ontario.
  - c) The cutoff of services at age 18 however a person with FASD is at a developmental age of 9 or 10 years old. Therefore they are substantially jeopardizing the potential success for a person with FASD. They would never consider stopping support and services to a disabled child who is 9 or 10 years old.
  - d) The need for action and not continued study – referenced the Select Committee on Developmental Services report [http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/committee-reports/files\\_pdf/SCDSFinalReportEnglish.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/committee-reports/files_pdf/SCDSFinalReportEnglish.pdf) which included: 140 presentations, 14 public hearings, over 300 submissions, represented by all 3 political parties, and it is sitting on the shelf now. We expressed that while we appreciated their desire to seek input to develop a formal FASD Strategy for Ontario, we want to express that we are tired of the continued analysis and want the government to know that we expect action.
  
2. **Support Group Meeting** – Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00 Hamilton Mountain Police Station Boardroom. Guest speaker Barbara Studham – a grandmother who has raised grandchildren with FASD for twenty years, and has published her memoir: Two Decades of Diapers describes the events leading to her becoming a grandmother raising grandchildren with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), and the challenges and struggles they faced as a family. She has also published several other books. Her websites [www.challengedhope.com](http://www.challengedhope.com) [www.twodecadesofdiapers.com](http://www.twodecadesofdiapers.com)  
 \*\* Her website challengedhope.com has some excellent resource info, including info such as 52 summer camps in Ontario.
  
3. **Child Mind.org site** - two recent articles that may be of interest ...
  - Travel with Challenging children tips <http://www.childmind.org/en/posts/articles/2011-7-21-tips-traveling-challenging-children>
  - How to Support Siblings in Special Needs Families: <http://www.childmind.org/en/posts/articles/2015-5-19-how-support-siblings-special-needs-families>



**4. Recent Study indicating high rate of FASD misdiagnosis**

- Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D., from the Children's Research Triangle in Chicago, and colleagues collected data from a sample of 547 children among a population of foster and adopted youth who underwent a comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluation. Children were diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome, partial [fetal alcohol syndrome](#), alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder, or alcohol-related birth defects using current diagnostic criteria.
- Among youth, the rate of missed diagnosis or misdiagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is 86.5 percent of youth with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders had never been previously diagnosed or had been misdiagnosed according to a study published online Jan. 12 in *Pediatrics*.

**5. Research indicating One Glass of Wine can Stop Fetus moving and breathing for up to 2 hours** <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/one-glass-of-wine-can-stop-foetus-breathing-study-claims-1.2168703> Professor [Peter Hepper](#) from Queen's University Belfast carried out a study, the first of its kind, looking at the effects of low-level alcohol exposure on foetuses in the womb through the use of 18-week scans on women who drank two and a half units of alcohol per week; the equivalent to a glass of wine (200ml). Professor Hepper said even one glass of wine or small measure of spirits can influence the behaviour of the foetus in the womb. "Our study found even a single glass of wine can have a potentially long-term effect on the foetus in terms of its behaviour in the womb. We observed foetuses that stopped breathing or moving for several hours. That's not normal," he said.

**2015/2016 SEAC MEETING DATES**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>
September 2015	Wednesday	September 30
October	Wednesday	October 28
November	Wednesday	November 25
December	Tuesday	To be announced [[joint meeting with PIC]
January 2016	Wednesday	January 27
February	Wednesday	February 24
March	Wednesday	March 30
April	Wednesday	April 27
May	Wednesday	May 25
June	Wednesday	June 8 or 15 [due to school graduations]

**NOTE:** SEAC meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (except July and August)  
Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Venue: Education Centre – Room 308 (Third Level)



March 24, 2015

The Honourable Liz Sandals  
Minister of Education  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Madame Minister

The SEAC of Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is writing to support other SEACs across the Province regarding what we believe are unintended consequences of Regulation 274 and its impact on students, and specifically students with special education needs.

The BHNCD SB SEAC members agree that the method of hiring teachers heavily weighted by seniority is not always in the best interests of the students we serve. This is a significant factor for special needs students.

In-year staffing changes identify real challenges in ensuring appropriate staff are secured in a timely manner when subject to hiring under Reg. 274. If a teacher absence turns into a leave, occasional teacher(s) cover the time until a competition is completed. This practice can lead to a class of students having multiple teachers during one school year. This lack of continuity and consistency is disruptive and challenging for students of all ages and abilities.

We are aware of and encourage consideration of the challenges identified by Boards and Administration, and hope that the terms of this regulation will be reviewed to promote fair, consistent and student-focused hiring.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stockmans  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

c.c.    BHNCD SB Board of Trustees  
       SEAC Chairs, Ontario School Boards