



Durham Catholic District School Board
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m.

DCDSB CEC Boardroom

650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER

a.1 Memorials and Prayer L. Smart

a.2 Roll Call and Apologies

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

b.1 Changes to Printed Agenda

b.2 Approval of Agenda

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

D. CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

E. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

e.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

F. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

f.1 Approval of Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee Meeting of May 5, 2015

f.2 Business arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee
Meeting of May 5, 2015

f.3 Approval of the Special Education Plan

G. PRESENTATIONS

g.1 Summer Rays Program S. McKenna

H. DELEGATIONS

I. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

K. STAFF REPORTS

- k.1 Coordinator's Report
- k.2 Superintendent's Report

K. Remiz
J. Bowyer

L. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

M. CORRESPONDENCE

- m.1 Upper Grand District School Board – May 25 (June Meeting)
- m.2 Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB – March 24
- m.3 Near North District School Board – May 21
- m.4 Durham District School Board – June 15
- m.5 Wellington Catholic DSB - June 17 (FASD)
- m.6 Wellington Catholic DSB – June 17 (Reg 274/12)

N. INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

- n.1 SEAC Handbook
- n.2 Draft Correspondence to Minister of Education

O. PENDING ITEMS

P. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre.

Q. CLOSING PRAYER



**UPPER GRAND
DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD**



m.1

Carrie Proudfoot

Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Board Office: 500 Victoria Road N. Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

Email: clproudfoot@rogers.com

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Michael Barrett
President, OPSBA
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
439 University Avenue, Suite 1850
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1Y8

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Members of the Upper Grand District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (UGDSB SEAC) have reviewed the correspondence from November 25, 2014 between Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) and the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB).

The UGDSB SEAC strongly agrees with the motions put forth by the TVDSB which request that the OPSBA lobby the Provincial government and raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and the difficulties school boards are experiencing due to lack of service supports and assessment mechanisms.

In addition the UGDSB SEAC believes it is imperative that a coordinated provincial strategy on FASD be developed. There is a need to move beyond raising awareness towards lobbying for direct funding, action and support of students and families affected by FASD. The current lack of appropriate and effective supports for students with FASD often results in school boards spending financial and human resources inefficiently. We ask that you lobby for such changes to help students affected by FASD experience educational success.

We believe that your action on these motions will greatly improve the quality of education provided to all Ontario students.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Carrie Proudfoot, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Upper Grand District School Board

Upper Grand District School Board

- Mark Bailey; Chair
- Linda Busuttil
- Kathryn Cooper
- Barbara Lustgarten Evoy
- Martha MacNeil
- Marty Fairbairn; Vice-Chair
- Susan Moziar
- Bruce Schieck
- Lynn Topping
- Barbara White



- cc. The Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education
- L. Elliott, Director of Education, TVDSB
- OPSBA Member Boards
- Cheryl Lovell, Ministers Advisory Council for Special Education
- English Public School Board to Special Education Advisory Committees
- French Public School Board Special Education Advisory Committees
- English Catholic School Board Special Education Advisory Committee
- French Catholic School Board Special Education Advisory Committees
- Ontario Public School Board Association

Upper Grand District School Board

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- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Mark Bailey; Chair | • Linda Busutil | • Kathryn Cooper | • Barbara Lustgarten Evoy | • Martha MacNeil |
| • Marty Fairbairn; Vice-Chair | • Susan Moziar | • Bruce Schieck | • Lynn Topping | • Barbara White |



March 24, 2015



The Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education
14th 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 BHNCDSB 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,

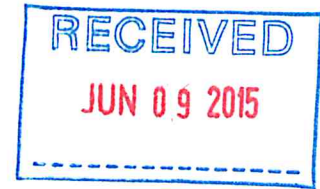
Lisa Stockmans
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

c.c. BHNCDSB Board of Trustees
SEAC Chairs, Ontario School Boards



Near North

District School Board



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

Office
 of the
 Director of
 Education

May 21, 2015

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www.nearnorthschools.ca

RE: Learning for All

Dear Minister Sandals,

Each school year, the Near North District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee undertakes a literature study in regards to Special Education. This past year, we have studied the "Learning for All" document as it relates to the students, teachers and administration in our board.

We were very impressed with the scope and positive ideas in "Learning for All". Our Board has adopted many of the assessment and instructional strategies contained in this document. As a SEAC, we fully support the view that what is beneficial for special needs students is beneficial for all.

We further recommend that "Learning for All" be the underlying focus of all courses in the new two year teacher education program. This could only further benefit education as a whole in Ontario.

In our opinion, the assessment strategies cited as best practices in the "Learning for All" document are at odds with the EQAO assessment practices. We believe that a review of the EQAO is needed to align the instructional and assessment strategies that our teachers are being encouraged to use with how the EQAO is administered.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Walker, SEAC Chair
 Near North District School Board

Cc: SEAC Chairs Public and Separate



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Monday, June 15, 2015

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

RE: Ontario Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices

Dear Minister Sandals:

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of Durham District School Board (DDSB) is adding its support to the views expressed by many other school boards regarding the Ontario regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices.

The DDSB SEAC members are in agreement that the method of seniority based hiring may not be in the best interests of students with special needs.

In the *Ontario Regulation 274: Final Report* submitted by the Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group, LLP., suggests that input they received from Boards indicates, "We can't require additional experience or certificates beyond the requirements of Regulation 298 (for divisional and teachable qualifications, and Special Education or FSL where applicable)." Additionally, the report explains, "Regulation 274 may inadvertently contribute to the discontinuity of instruction that results when different teachers are assigned serially to the same group of students." There are clear indications that these shortfalls encumber the achievement and well-being of students, particularly those with special education needs.

In conclusion, the Durham District School Board SEAC members ask the Minister to consider revising the Regulation 274/12 to work towards supporting fair and transparent hiring practices that promote all students' achievement and well-being.

Sincerely,

Tara Culley
 Interim SEAC Chair
 Durham District School Board, SEAC

cc: Durham DSB, Board of Trustees
 ✓ SEAC Chairs, Ontario School Boards



@DurhamDSB



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durham-District-School-Board/447874875238636>



www.youtube.com/DurhamDSB



June 17, 2015

Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON N7A 1L2

Dear Minister Sandals:

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Wellington Catholic District School Board would like to add its voice to the concerns expressed by other Ontario school boards and SEAC groups about the challenge schools face in meeting the needs of students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). However, we feel strongly that rather than dedicated funding for students with FASD, Boards would be better served if the varied and challenging needs of students with FASD were considered in the allocation of special education funding for all students.

Conservative estimates suggest that 1 in 100 individuals are affected by FASD. However, far fewer numbers are actually diagnosed, as some of the criteria are difficult to confirm (e.g., prenatal alcohol exposure). Nonetheless, individuals with complex presentations and many of the secondary disabilities that occur with FASD are within our schools and have cognitive, social, emotional, and academic needs that exceed the capacity of regular student support. The resulting demand upon special education and student support resources makes it challenging to provide targeted, effective support with existing special education resources.

Further, for youth with FASD lack of clarity around the diagnosis and, subsequently, lack of access to treatment services, contribute to increasing difficulty at the intermediate and secondary level and into adulthood. As such, we fully support the Ontario School Boards' Association and membership in their appeal to raise awareness among educators about FASD, and ask that the Ministry of Education consider the needs of this often overlooked and underserved population in its allocation of funding for students with special needs.

These children and youth are valued members of our school community and, like all children in our system, deserve the specific accommodations they need to fully achieve their potential in their learning communities. Generally increasing funding for special education and student support, and acknowledging the very high needs of this often underserved population, will enable all schools to better achieve this goal.

Sincerely,


Gil Lavalley, Chair
Wellington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

Cc: Wellington Catholic District School Board of Trustees
Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs of Ontario District School Boards





June 17, 2015

Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Sandals:

Re: Ontario Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices

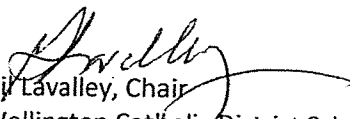
The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) is adding its support to the request from other district school boards to consider revisions to Ontario Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices.

WCDSB's SEAC members agree that the method of hiring teachers heavily weighted by seniority is not always in the best interests of the students, particularly students with special needs. In addition, basing teacher hiring primarily on seniority does not allow school administration the ability to select the best candidate to meet the needs of students and the school.

Students who have special education needs have been identified as requiring both specialized individualized services and transition planning support. Therefore, minimizing changes to teaching staff in classrooms where measurable progress is being demonstrated by teachers whose personality, experience, attitudes, and education/qualifications are well suited to specific needs benefits the students. Hiring the best teacher for the job and not the teacher with the most seniority assists in ensuring those teachers with specialized skills are matched with students who can most benefit from those skills.

In conclusion, Wellington Catholic District School Board's SEAC members strongly urge you to consider revisions to the Regulation which would support and value the special skills required to achieve those goals.

Sincerely,


Gill Lavalley, Chair

Wellington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

Cc: Wellington Catholic District School Board of Trustees
Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs of Ontario District School Boards



Draft

n.2

Durham Catholic District School Board



June 3, 2015

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

Dear Madame Minister:

The SEAC of the Durham Catholic District School Board is writing to express our concern about the unintended consequences of Reg. 274 as it has great impact on the students who have special education needs.

The Durham Catholic District School Board, like many other Ontario school boards takes great pride in accommodating students with special education needs within the regular, inclusive classroom. In order to accommodate for the rising number of students with special education needs within these classrooms it requires Administration to assign teachers who would best support the achievement and well-being of all students, in particular students with special education needs. An unintended consequence of Reg. 274 has resulted in the Administration having to hire based on seniority rather than based on hiring the best candidate to meet the needs of the students, including those students with special education needs.

Further impact to the student is the challenge of teacher mobility throughout the province. Hiring in remote areas by seniority does not necessarily provide all students with the opportunity to be taught by teachers with training in their specific area of need, thus putting the students with special educational needs at a disadvantaged in the regular classroom. Providing the school board Administration the opportunity to hire candidates with specific skills and experiences would help to encourage teachers to consider remote areas for teaching positions. Ultimately, it is students, and particularly students with special education needs who do not benefit from the impact of Reg. 274.

Durham Catholic District School Board would like to thank you for your consideration of the challenges identified by our SEAC, but also by the other SEACs, Boards, and Administration. It is our hope that Reg. 274 will be reconsidered in order to promote fair, consistent and student focused hiring.

Sincerely,

Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 7C4

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www.dcdsb.ca

Anne O'Brien B.A., B. Ed., M. Ed. Director of Education / Secretary-Treasurer