

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION****REGULAR BOARD MEETING****PUBLIC SESSION****MEETING AGENDA – WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2023**

**PUBLIC SESSION will commence at 6 P.M., followed immediately by the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE in CLOSED SESSION (ROY EDWARDS ROOM). PUBLIC SESSION will resume at 7 P.M.**

**THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED. A RECORDING OF THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC WEBSITE.**

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- A.**
- (1) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
  - (2) O Canada
  - (3) Statement of Respect
  - (4) Roll Call
  - (5) Approval of Agenda
  - (6) Approval of Minutes - see Consent Agenda (D-2)
  - (7) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

**CLOSED SESSION**

- B.** Committee of the Whole
- (1) Personnel Matters

**PUBLIC SESSION**

- C.**
- (1) Report from Student Trustees
  - (2) Trustee Tribute - Nil
  - (3) Delegations - Nil

**D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- (1) Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole
- (2) Consent Agenda
  - (a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Nov. 22, 2023
  - (b) Report of the Program Standing Committee meeting held Dec. 13, 2023
  - (c) Report of the Human Resources Standing Committee meeting held Dec. 13, 2023
- (3) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:  
Motion(s) for which notice was given at previous Board Meeting - Nil
- (4) Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees - Nil

- (5) Committee Minutes/Reports - Items for Decision – See Consent Agenda (D-2)
- (6) Staff Reports - Items for Decision
  - (a) Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment
  - (b) Trustee Committee Assignments 2024
- (7) Committee Minutes/Reports - Items for Information
  - (a) Report of the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting held Nov. 21, 2023
  - (b) Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held Nov. 13, 2023
  - (c) Report of the Equity Advisory Committee Meeting held Nov. 6, 2023
  - (d) Report of the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting held Sept. 26, 2023
  - (e) Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held Sept. 25, 2023
- (8) Staff Reports - Items for Information
  - (a) Violent Incidents: 2022-23
  - (b) Report of Trustee Attendance January 2023 – December 2023

**E. OTHER MATTERS**

- (1) Reports from Liaison Members
- (2) Questions and Comments from Trustees
- (3) Notices of Motion for Next Meeting
- (4) Professional Development Seminars Attendance
- (5) Reports/Update from Staff
- (6) Correspondence
  - (a) Letter from Thames Valley District School Board

**F. FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Special Education Advisory Committee – Jan. 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – Jan. 10, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 11, 2024 at 10 a.m.  
First Nations Education Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 11, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Program Standing Committee Meeting – Jan. 17, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – Jan. 17, 2024 following Program Meeting  
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – Jan. 23, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.  
Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 29, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.  
Regular Meeting of the Board – Jan. 31, 2024 at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the Committee of the Whole in Closed Session, Public Session will resume at 7 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

**SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
PUBLIC SESSION  
RECOMMENDED ACTION – WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2023**

REPORT	FYI	Decision Req.	MOTION
A-1			Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
A-2			O Canada
A-3			Statement of Respect
A-4			Call meeting to order. Roll call
A-5		√	That the agenda be approved as printed.
A-6 Approval of Minutes		√	See Consent Agenda (D-2)
A-7			Declaration of conflicts of interest.
<b>MOTION</b>		√	That we go into Closed Session of the Committee of the Whole.
<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>			
C-1 Report from Student Trustees	√		
C-2 Trustee Tribute			Nil
C-3 Delegations			Nil
D-1			Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole.
D-2 Consent Agenda  (a) Regular Board Minutes Nov. 22, 2023  (b) Program Dec. 13, 2023  (c) Human Resources Dec. 13, 2023		√  √  √	That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023 be approved as printed.  That the Board approve revisions to Policy 4106 - Homework, as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. PRO-D-1, Revisions to Policy 4106 - Homework, dated Dec. 13, 2023.  That the Board approve revisions to Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. HR-D-1, revisions to Policy 2155, Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave, dated Dec. 13, 2023.
D-3-a Matters Arising from Previous Meeting			Nil

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
 RECOMMENDED ACTION - 2  
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D-4 Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees			Nil
D-5 Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Decision			See Consent Agenda (D-2)
D-6-a Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment		√	That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Jan. 1, 2024, Annette Cole as the SEAC member representing Mackenzie Health, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment, dated Dec. 20, 2023.
D-6-b Trustee Committee Assignments 2024		√	That the Board ratify the recommendations of the Selection Committee, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. D-6-b, Trustee Committee Assignments for 2024, dated Dec. 20, 2023.
D-7-a Parent Involvement Committee Nov. 21, 2023	√		
D-7-b Special Education Advisory Committee Nov. 13, 2023	√		
D-7-c Equity Advisory Committee Nov. 6, 2023	√		
D-7-d Parent Involvement Committee Sept. 26, 2023	√		
D-7-e Accessibility Advisory Committee Sept. 25, 2023	√		
D-8-a Violent Incidents: 2022-23	√		
D-8-b Report of Trustee Attendance January 2023 – December 2023	√		
E-1 Reports from Liaison Members			
E-2 Questions and Comments from Trustees			

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
RECOMMENDED ACTION - 3  
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E-3 Notices of Motion for Next Meeting			
E-4 Professional Development Seminars Attendance			
E-5 Reports/Update from Staff	√		
E-6 Correspondence	√		
Future Business			
Adjournment		√	Motion to Adjourn

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: The Secretary

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD HELD NOV. 22, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) was held on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023 at the Education Centre.

The Board meeting was live-streamed. The meeting was also recorded and is available for the public.

A.

- (1) **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
- (2) **O Canada**
- (3) **Statement of Respect**
- (4) **Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz, Debbie Connors, Mike Foley,  
**Trustees** Liz Grummett, Anne Harrigan, Jodi Lloyd (Chairperson),  
Lynn Strachan, Dana Powell, Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson),  
Robin Talbot.

**Electronic Participation** Lisa-Marie Wilson.

**Student Trustees** Lucy Duncan, Aalia Majid, Ayesha Maryam.

**Administration** John Dance, Lisa Coffey, Kristen Fennell,  
Greg Jacobs, Sarah Kekewich, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin,  
Chris Samis, Lisa Sander, Susan Sidlofsky, Dawn Stephens,  
Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

**Electronic Participation Administration** Tahmena Bokhari.

**Recording Secretary** Jennifer Henry.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

- (5) **Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION**

Moved by Robin Talbot  
Seconded by Donna Armstrong

That the Agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(6) **Approval of Minutes** - See D-2-a.

(7) **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

**B. Committee of the Whole**

Moved by Brandy Rafeek  
Seconded by Robin Talbot

That the Board move into Committee of the Whole in Closed Session at this time.

CARRIED

*Trustee Beitz entered the meeting at this time.*

*Student Trustees Duncan, Majid and Maryam left the meeting at this time.*

The Public Session of the Board re-convened at 7:04 p.m.

*Trustee Foley entered the meeting at this time.*

*Student Trustees Duncan, Majid and Maryam re-entered the meeting at this time.*

**C. (1) Report from Student Trustees**

Student Trustee Maryam provided an update on behalf of the student trustees. Student Trustee Maryam shared that the third Student Senate meeting took place virtually. Student Trustee Maryam noted that the focus of the meeting was on environmentally friendly and sustainable practices that schools could adopt and the existing school practices currently in place.

Student trustee Maryam and Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Student Achievement 7-12, responded to questions from trustees at this time regarding the green initiatives and composting.

Chair Lloyd noted that there were positive strides being made pre-pandemic and inquired if there is a way for the Student Senate to assist in re-engaging with and prioritizing the environmentally friendly and sustainable practices that were occurring. Student Trustee Duncan spoke to next steps for the Student Senate. She noted that one recommendation put forth was to create an alliance between school eco teams for information sharing.

(2) **Trustee Tribute** - Nil

(3) **Delegations**

Parents Against Racism Simcoe County - Natasha Shakespeare and Natalie McNabb  
Re: Culturally Affirming Supports and Policy Additions

Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Chair Lloyd accepted the delegation as information.

**D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

(1) **Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole**

Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole from Nov. 22, 2023.

(1)  
Moved by Donna Armstrong  
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

**#BF-2023-11-22-86**

That the Board approve the renewal of the lease agreements as set out in Report No. CL-BF-D-1, Lease Renewals – Barrie Adult and Continuing Education, Simcoe Shores Secondary School, dated Nov. 1, 2023.

CARRIED

(2)  
Moved by Debbie Connors  
Seconded by Anne Harrigan

**#HR-2023-11-22-87**

That the Board approve the School/System Administrator Eligibility List as set out in Report No. CL-HR-D-1, School/System Administrator Eligibility List – November 2023, dated Nov. 8, 2023.

CARRIED

(3)  
Moved by Liz Grummett  
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

**#HR-2023-11-22-88**

That the Board approve the School Administrator Appointments as set out in Report No. CL-HR-D-2 School Administrator Appointments, dated Nov. 8, 2023.

CARRIED

(4)  
Moved by Mike Foley  
Seconded by Debbie Connors

**#BP-2023-11-22-89**

That the Board approve the authorization of staff to enter into a purchase and sale agreement for the Orillia elementary school site, as set out in Report No. CL-B-2-a, Orillia Elementary School Site Acquisition Update, dated Nov. 22, 2023.

CARRIED

**(2) Consent Agenda**

Moved by Lynn Strachan  
Seconded by Robin Talbot

That the following items included on the Consent Agenda be approved:

(a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Oct. 25, 2023 (D-2-a)

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 be approved as printed.



(b) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Nov. 8, 2023 (D-2-b)

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 be approved as printed.

(c) Minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held Nov. 20, 2023 (D-2-c)

That the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board held Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 be approved as printed.

CARRIED

**(3) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:**

**Motion(s) for which Notice was Given at Previous Board Meeting** - Nil

**(4) Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees** - Nil

**(5) Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Decision** - Nil

**(6) Staff Reports – Items for Decision**

Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment (D-6-a)

Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, spoke to the report. He reported that Mark Bryan, a long-term member representing the Down Syndrome Association of Simcoe County (DSASC), is moving on from the committee. Superintendent Samis recognized the support that Mark has provided to the committee, as well as students and families across Simcoe County.

Vice-chair Rafeek echoed the sentiments shared by Superintendent Samis regarding the support that Mark Bryan has provided to SEAC, students and families.

(1)

Moved by Sarah Beitz

Seconded by Donna Armstrong

**#BP-2023-11-22-90**

That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Dec. 1, 2023, Amanda Burton as the SEAC member representing DSASC, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment, dated Nov. 22, 2023.

CARRIED

**(7) Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Information**

Report of the Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting held Nov. 8, 2023 (D-7-a)

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Program Standing Committee Meeting held Nov. 8, 2023 (D-7-b)

Trustee Beitz inquired if staff would be providing year-over-year data for the Grade 8 Exit Survey and the Grade 12 Pathways Survey. Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, responded that staff would bring a report forward.

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting held  
Nov. 1, 2023 (D-7-c)

Trustee Beitz inquired when the report regarding school vandalism would be coming forward. Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, responded that the data is currently being compiled and that the report would be coming forward in the upcoming months.

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting held Oct. 24, 2023 (D-7-d)

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
held Oct. 2, 2023 (D-7-e)

Vice-chair Rafeek reported that the Oct. 2 SEAC Meeting was held in person. She noted that the committee agreed to hold the first meeting of the year and the last meeting of the year in person. Vice-chair Rafeek noted that it was nice to see members in person and spoke to the presentation provided by the Sweet Charity Medical Assistance Dogs that evening.

**(8) Staff Reports – Items for Information**

2023-24 Operational Plan (D-8-a)

Associate Director Stephens spoke to the report. She reported that the board continues to move forward with the Strategic Priorities 2022-27 which guide the SCDSB's work over a five-year period. The Operational Plan for the 2023-24 school year outlines the actions the board will take in order to achieve the goals of the SCDSB Strategic Priorities. These actions within the operational plan provide an overview and offer accountability as to how the board's priorities are being addressed by staff. Associate Director Stephens reported that the Operational Plan allows the public the opportunity to see the wide scope of activities that are being undertaken throughout the school year in support of student achievement, and well-being, as well as overall board operations. She noted the Operational Plan is not intended to include every aspect of staff work, rather it serves as a tool to report on the key goals that have been established. Associate Director Stephens shared an Operational Plan video and noted that the Operational Plan will be posted on the SCDSB website.

Associate Director Stephens and John Dance, Director of Education, responded to questions from trustees at this time regarding superintendent portfolios and when the next Operational Plan update will be provided. It was noted that reports are brought forward regularly throughout the year to Board and Standing Committee meetings and that a year-end summation report can be provided to the Board of Trustees. Chair Lloyd suggested that when reports are brought forward it would be beneficial to explain how the information connects to the Operational Plan.

**E. OTHER MATTERS**

**(1) Reports from Liaison Members**

Chair Lloyd shared that registration for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Public Education Symposium is open. Communication will be sent to trustees regarding the registration process.

Chair Lloyd noted that she sent an update to trustees regarding when the OPSBA Labour Relations Symposium will be held and noted some of the changes made to the conference format.

Chair Lloyd also reported that the OPSBA Annual General Meeting will be held in Toronto in July and will be tied to the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Congress at the same time.

## **(2) Questions and Comments from Trustees**

Trustee Foley reported that he attended an event at Collingwood Collegiate Institute on Nov. 21 with regards to Human Trafficking. He noted that the school resource officer was also in attendance and that it was a very insightful event attended by over 250 community members.

Trustee Foley reported on the Collingwood Police Services Board meeting that he and Chair Lloyd attended a few weeks ago. He noted that they spoke to the report that will be coming forward in December regarding violence in schools. Trustee Foley shared that the Collingwood Police Services Board will be releasing a report in December as well, on OPP and schools. Trustee Foley has extended an invitation to the Collingwood Police Services Board to delegate the board regarding the body of that report.

Trustee Foley also commented on the letter received from the Town of Wasaga Beach supporting our proposed secondary school. He thanked Mayor Smith for the letter and commented that he is looking forward to working together.

Trustee Foley thanked Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, for the opportunity to visit Collingwood and Wasaga Beach schools last month.

Trustee Talbot thanked Susan Sidlofsky, Superintendent of Education, and the school administrators at Georgian Bay District Secondary School, Huron Park Public School and Tay Shores Public School for the opportunity to visit the schools .

Trustee Grummett thanked Doug Downey, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), who joined her, Scott Young, Superintendent of Education, and Mark Ruzyllo, Principal at Elmvale District High School, for a tour of the school. She noted that MPP Downey stayed for the Remembrance Day Ceremony and was able to see some of the wonderful things being accomplished at the school. Trustee Grummett also reported that they talked about some of the needs of a smaller high school.

Trustee Grummett thanked the Elmvale Tim Hortons for providing cookies for the Smile Cookie Campaign. She noted that 50 per cent of the profits are going back to Elmvale District High School to help support their food program.

Vice-chair Rafeek thanked Superintendent Jacobs and the administrators at the schools in her area that she had the opportunity to visit. She noted that she was happy to hear about the new reading screening tools that are being implemented in the schools and the support being received from the board literacy team.

Trustee Wilson spoke to the Maple Ridge Secondary School Grand Opening that she and some of her fellow trustee colleagues attended on Nov. 21. She noted that she was honoured to be a part of the event and spoke to the student driven performances and presentations that she had the opportunity to see, as well as the support of the community. Chair Lloyd noted that the school will have its first graduating class this June.

Trustee Beitz reported that this past weekend she had the opportunity to help with the Shop with a Cop event that was hosted by the Nottawasaga OPP detachment. She noted that students from schools in her area and Vice-chair Rafeek's area participated in the event.

**(3) Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil**

**(4) Professional Development Seminars Attendance**

Trustees Armstrong, Grummett, Harrigan, Lloyd, Rafeek, and Wilson declared their intent to attend the OPSBA Public Education Symposium being held January 24-26, 2024.

Trustee Wilson also declared that she will be attending the Educators Anti-racism Conference in February.

**(5) Reports/Updates from Staff**

Director Dance highlighted the Grand Opening of Maple Ridge Secondary School that occurred on Nov. 21, 2023, and thanked all those involved in planning the event. Director Dance recognized the Board of Trustees, Ministry of Education, and staff for the hard work and advocacy that was required to successfully open the SCDSB's newest secondary school.

*Trustee Strachan left the meeting at this time.*

Director Dance shared this month's video feature, which highlights initiatives that are taking place in our schools that link directly to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.

**(6) Correspondence**

Chair Lloyd drew attention to letters that were sent by the Board in response to correspondence received with respect to the police officer program and police officers in schools. She noted the correspondence received from the Thames Valley District School Board. She also drew attention to copies of letters that she sent to Mayors at the City of Barrie, Clearview Township, Township of Essa, Town of Innisfil, Town of New Tecumseth and Town of Wasaga Beach regarding the Capital Priorities submissions, and the two letters of support that were received back in response from the Town of Wasaga Beach and Township of Essa. She noted that the letters of support are appreciated.

Chair Lloyd reported that there has been no funding announced yet for any schools and no timelines provided as to when the funding may be announced.

Vice-chair Rafeek extended a thank-you to the Township of Essa for their letter of support for an Angus elementary school.

**F. FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEES  
AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Special Education Advisory Committee – Jan. 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – Jan.10, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 11, 2024 at 10 a.m.  
First Nations Education Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 11, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Program Standing Committee Meeting – Jan. 17, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – Jan. 17, 2024  
following Program Meeting  
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – Jan. 23, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.  
Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting – Jan. 29, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.  
Regular Meeting of the Board – Jan. 31, 2024 at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the  
Committee of the Whole in Closed Session, Public Session will resume at 7 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved by Sarah Beitz  
Seconded by Anne Harrigan

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

CARRIED

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Program Standing Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE PROGRAM STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD DEC. 13, 2023**

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The Program Standing Committee met in Public Session on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at the Education Centre.

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members**

Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz (Chairperson), Debbie Connors,  
Liz Grummett (Vice-chairperson), Anne Harrigan, Jodi Lloyd,  
Dana Powell, Brandy Rafeek, Lynn Strachan.

**Student Trustees**

Lucy Duncan, Ayesha Maryam.

**Electronic Participation:**

**Committee members**

Mike Foley, Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

**Administration**

Lisa Coffey, John Dance, Dean Maltby, Kristen Fennell, Greg Jacobs,  
John Playford, Chris Samis, Dawn Stephens, Corry Van Nispen,  
Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

**Electronic Participation:**

**Administration**

Susan Sidlofsky.

**Staff**

Bonnie Black, Kadri Jessop, Dave Knox, Dan Macdonald,  
Carolin Van Voorst.

**Recording Secretary**

Tina Bazuk.

**REGRETS:**

**Student Trustees**

Aalia Majid.

Sarah Beitz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
2. **O Canada**
3. **Statement of Respect**
4. **Roll Call**
5. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION**

Moved by Jodi Lloyd  
Seconded by Dana Powell

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

6. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

7. **Presentations/Delegations** - Nil

**Closed Session** - Nil

**Items for Decision**

1. **Revisions to Policy 4106 – Homework (PRO-D-1)**

Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Student Achievement 7-12, and Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, indicated that Policy 4106 – Homework, has been revised as part of the regular review cycle. Changes reflect an increased emphasis on student achievement, well-being, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

*Debbie Connors entered the meeting at this time.*

Superintendents Maltby and Samis responded to questions from trustees at this time.

Moved by Brandy Rafeek  
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

**#PRO-2023-12-13-02**

That the Program Standing Committee recommend that the Board approve revisions to Policy 4106 – Homework, as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. PRO-D-1, Revisions to 4106 – Homework, dated Dec.13, 2023.

CARRIED

**Items for Information**

1. **Elementary Music Program (PRO-I-1)**

Superintendent Samis invited Kadri Jessop, Principal of Student Achievement K-6, Bonnie Black, District Arts Facilitator, and Carolin Van Voorst, Music Teacher at Johnson Street Public School, to the table to provide an update on the elementary music program.

The SCDSB is undertaking a system-wide environmental scan throughout the 2023-24 school year, in order to provide insight and guidance for future decisions to maximize the program's continued success.

*Mike Foley entered the meeting at this time.*

In October 2023, the board completed a pre-survey with students and music teachers at 24 schools to determine their experience with music in schools. The same students and teachers will be surveyed again in May 2024 to measure the impact of the program over the year. The October pre-survey results were incredibly positive.

Trustees were provided the opportunity to participate in an interactive music instruction activity that demonstrated what students are learning in elementary schools.

The environmental scan will help determine the needs for the program moving forward. Professional development and a funding commitment from the board will be important to maintain a sustainable program.

Superintendent Samis, Bonnie Black, and Carolin Van Voorst responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

## **2. Outdoor Education and Learning (PRO-I-2)**

Superintendent Maltby invited Dan Macdonald, Principal of Well-being and Outdoor Education, and Dave Knox, Outdoor Education Itinerant Resource Teacher, to the table to provide an update on outdoor education and learning.

Superintendent Maltby thanked the Indigenous Education team for their contributions and continued partnership to ensure students are prepared to honour the land, for preparing the land, and deepening the learning of Indigenous ways.

This year, the SCDSB has established a Low Ropes Elements Challenge course at the Education Centre, with a primary focus on Grade 7 leadership development, Indigenous learnings, and student well-being. Pre and post learning activities are facilitated by classroom teachers.

Based on the positive feedback received from staff and students who have participated in the Outdoor Education Program thus far, the Outdoor Education Centre facility will expand for the 2024-25 school year.

Board Chairperson Lloyd shared with trustees that on April 6, 2024, the SCDSB will be hosting the Regional Meeting for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and will be able to showcase the work completed to establish a successful Outdoor Education program.

Superintendent Maltby, Principal Macdonald, and Dave Knox responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

## **3. Character Education: Roll Out (PRO-I-3)**

Greg Jacobs, Superintendents of Education, provided an update on the Character Education roll out.

This year, the SCDSB rolled out the revised character education attributes, which represent the original character traits, the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe, and additional attributes as determined through stakeholder consultation.

To support the implementation of the 23 character education attributes, the SCDSB Literacy team has embedded them into The First 20 Days of Literacy. Additionally, new primary, junior, and intermediate vocabulary lessons related to each of the character education attributes have been developed to support both literacy and the implementation.

The SCDSB is in the process of creating a character education video and handbook outlining consistent messaging of character education in schools.

Superintendent Jacobs responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

**Correspondence** - Nil



**Other Matters** - Nil

**Notices of Motion for Next Meeting** - Nil

**MOTION**

Moved by Anne Harrigan  
Seconded by Mike Foley

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CARRIED

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Board approve revisions to Policy 4106 – Homework, as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. PRO-D-1, Revisions to 4106 – Homework, dated Dec.13, 2023.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Chris Samis  
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Human Resources Standing Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD DEC. 13, 2023**

The Human Resources Standing Committee met in public session on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at the Education Centre.

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members**

Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz, Debbie Connors, Liz Grummett (Chairperson), Anne Harrigan, Jodi Lloyd, Dana Powell, Brandy Rafeek, Lynn Strachan (fulfilling the role of Vice-chairperson).

**Electronic Participation**

Mike Foley, Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

**Administration**

Lisa Coffey, John Dance, Kristen Fennell, Dean Maltby, John Playford, Chris Samis, Dawn Stephens, Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

**Electronic Participation**

Susan Sidlofsky.

**Recording Secretary**

Debbie Deeth.

**REGRETS:**

**Student Trustees**

Lucy Duncan, Aalia Majid, Ayesha Maryam.

Chairperson Grummett called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
2. **Statement of Respect**
3. **Election of Vice-chairperson**

With the electronic participation of Vice-chairperson Wilson, Chairperson Grummett called for nominations for the office of Vice-chairperson of the Human Resources Standing Committee meeting for the evening.

Moved by Jodi Lloyd  
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

That Trustee Strachan be nominated as Vice-chairperson of the Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting for the evening.

Trustee Strachan indicated that she would stand.

Trustee Strachan assumed the Vice-chair at this time.

4. **Roll Call**

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION**

Moved by Jodi Lloyd  
Seconded by Debbie Connors

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

6. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

**MOTION**

Moved by Anne Harrigan  
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

That the Human Resources Standing Committee move into closed session.

CARRIED

The Human Resources Standing Committee reconvened in public session at 8:58 p.m.

**Items for Decision**

1. **Review of Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parent Leave (HR-D-1)**

Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, indicated that Policy 2185 has been reviewed and the revisions to the policy are minimal language and format changes.

Associate Director Stephens responded to questions from trustees at this time.

(1)

Moved by Jodi Lloyd  
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

**#HR-2023-12-13-06**

That the Human Resources Standing Committee recommend that the Board approve the review of Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave, as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. HR-D-1, Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave, dated Dec. 13, 2023.

**Items for Information** - Nil

**Correspondence** - Nil

**Other Matters** - Nil

**Notices of Motion for Next Meeting** - Nil

**MOTION**

Moved by Sarah Beitz  
Seconded by Jodi Lloyd

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

CARRIED

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Board approve the review of Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave, as set out in APPENDIX C of Report No. HR-D-1, Review of Policy 2155 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave, dated Dec. 13, 2023.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Dawn Stephens  
Associate Director

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

**1. Background**

O. Reg. [464/97: Special Education Advisory Committees](#) sets out the requirement that school boards establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). SEAC is a committee of a school board that provides a consultative role on special education to further the interests and well-being of groups of exceptional students. SEAC may make recommendations to the Board on any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students.

**2. Current status**

The Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) SEAC currently has 12 members representing 'local associations' as defined in O. Reg. 464/97, section 1. The regulation permits school boards to approve a maximum of 12 'local associations' to further the interests and well-being of one or more groups of exceptional children or adults.

As per O. Reg. 464/97, section 8, "*If a seat or position on a special education advisory committee becomes vacant, the board that appointed the person whose seat or position has become vacant shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the person whose seat or position has become vacant*".

Mackenzie Health Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences provides care for individuals who have a developmental disability with significant cognitive delay, autism, or are living with effects of an acquired brain injury. Services are offered in York Region and Simcoe County.

Through the SEAC nomination process for the January 2023 – December 2026 term, Mackenzie Health nominated Stephanie Vocino as their agency member representative, who has now taken on a different role in the agency. Mackenzie Health has now provided the following nomination to carry out the remainder of the term effective Jan. 1, 2024:

- i. Annette Cole as the SEAC member.

The nomination meets the criteria for selection as the member for Mackenzie Health.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Jan. 1, 2024, Annette Cole as the SEAC member representing Mackenzie Health, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment, dated Dec. 20, 2023.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Chris Samis  
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

REPORT NO. D-6-a  
DEC. 20, 2023 - 2

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

Dec. 20, 2023

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Director of Education

SUBJECT: **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2024**

At the organizational Meeting of the Board held Nov. 20, 2023, Trustee Wilson was elected to act as the third member of the Selection Committee, joining Chairperson Lloyd and Vice-chairperson Rafeek to recommend members to board committees as required in Article II, Item 5 of the Board By-laws.

Chairperson Lloyd met with Vice-chairperson Rafeek and Trustee Wilson on Nov. 23, 2023 to consider the Survey of Trustee Preferences for Committee Membership for 2024.

Attached as APPENDIX A is the recommended trustee membership to the various Board committees.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board ratify the recommendations of the Selection Committee, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. D-6-b, Trustee Committee Assignments for 2024, dated Dec. 20, 2023.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

Dec. 20, 2023

### A. STANDING COMMITTEES

<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> All Trustees	<b>PROGRAM COMMITTEE</b> All Trustees	<b>BUSINESS AND FACILITIES</b> All Trustees
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### B. MANDATORY COMMITTEES

<b>AUDIT</b>  (3 Trustees)  Donna Armstrong Robin Talbot Lisa-Marie Wilson	<b>FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>  (2 Trustees plus First Nations Trustee)  Anne Harrigan Jodi Lloyd Brandy Rafeek	<b>PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE</b>  (2 Trustees)  Debbie Connors Liz Grummett	<b>S.E.A.C</b>  (3 Trustees)  Liz Grummett Dana Powell Brandy Rafeek	<b>S.A.L</b>  All Trustees	<b>SUSPENSION/EXPULSION APPEALS &amp; HEARINGS</b>  All Trustees
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### C. COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

<b>ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>  (1 Trustee)  Robin Talbot	<b>BY-LAW COMMITTEE</b>  (5 Trustees - including Vice- chair of the Board)  Donna Armstrong Debbie Connors Brandy Rafeek Lynn Strachan Lisa-Marie Wilson	<b>CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE</b>  (3 Trustees - including Chair/Vice- chair of the Board plus 1 Alternate)  Jodi Lloyd Dana Powell Brandy Rafeek  <b>Alternate</b> Donna Armstrong	<b>EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>  (1 Trustee)  Lisa-Marie Wilson
<b>INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>  (1 Trustee plus First Nations Trustee)  Anne Harrigan Brandy Rafeek	<b>STUDENT TRUSTEES</b>  (3 Student Trustees)  <b>Student Trustee Mentor</b> Liz Grummett	<b>SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>  (1 Trustee)  Sarah Beitz	<b>TEACHER/TRUSTEE RELATIONS ELEMENTARY &amp; SECONDARY</b>  (4 Trustees - 2 on each committee)  <b>Elementary</b> Sarah Beitz Mike Foley  <b>Secondary</b> Mike Foley Lisa-Marie Wilson

### D. EXTERNAL/JOINT COMMITTEES

<b>JOINT COMMITTEE SCDSB/SMCDSB</b>  (2 Trustees plus Chair) Debbie Connors Lisa-Marie Wilson	<b>OPSBA DIRECTOR</b> Jodi Lloyd  <b>Alternate</b> Lisa Marie-Wilson	<b>TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM</b>  (1 Trustee) Lynn Strachan
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TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Parent Involvement Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, NOV. 21, 2023**

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023.

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members**

**Electronic Participation**

(Voting)

Maria Aguirre, Mike Baxter, Kayla Beaudry, Saleha Khan,  
Natrisha La Rocca, Shannon Murray, Kunal Patel,  
Mehrdad Safizadeh (Vice-chairperson), Sarah Scott,  
Lisa Suelzle (Chairperson), Melissa Wilson.

**Trustee(s)**

(Non-voting)

Debbie Connors, Liz Grummett.

**Administration**

**Staff Representatives**

**Electronic Participation**

(Non-voting)

Jamie Campbell, Brae Montgomery, Susan Sidlofsky.

**Recording Secretary**

Kimberly Sauvé.

**REGRETS**

Jody Jowett, Kunal Patel, Colin Tucker.

**ABSENT:**

Kayla Beaudry, Rachel Grinman, Shannon Murray,  
Natasha Shakespeare.

Lisa Suelzle, Chairperson of the PIC called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**A) Welcome and Introductions**

1) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Mehrdad Safizadeh, Vice-chairperson of the PIC, read the Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

2) PIC Mandate

Chairperson Suelzle reviewed the PIC mandate.

3) Approval of Agenda

Moved by Sarah Scott  
Seconded by Maria Aguirre

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

**B. Presentations**

1) Guest Speakers

(a) Social Studies Curriculum – Barry Bedford and Kadri Jessop

Chairperson Suelzle introduced Barry Bedford, Principal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Multilingual Language Learners and Kadri Jessop, Principal, Student Achievement (K-6).

Principal Bedford shared statistics regarding racial, bias and hate incidents in Ontario schools. Principal Bedford informed the committee that Holocaust education is now mandatory for all Grade 6 students. He provided details regarding the revised curriculum and the Ministry of Education overview.

Principals Bedford and Jessop received feedback and questions from the committee at this time.

Kim Sauvé, Executive Assistant to Susan Sidlofsky, Superintendent of Education, will email the presentation slide deck to the committee members following the meeting.

**C. Items for Information**

1) PIC Members

(a) PIC Member Introductions

Chairperson Suelzle asked each committee member to introduce themselves and share a fact about themselves.

(b) Connections Event

Chairperson Suelzle provided a brief overview of the Connections event.

(c) PIC Member Updates

Vice-chairperson Safizadeh shared that school council members are requesting the amount of money that is provided for Parent's Reaching Out (PRO) grants. Superintendent Sidlofsky shared that additional money through the parent engagement funding has been provided to all schools. These funds can be collaborated with the PRO Grant, which can equal up to a maximum of \$1,500. Schools can also collaborate and combine their funds with other schools.

2) Trustees

(a) Board Updates

Trustee Grummett shared that the SCDSB Outdoor Education team invited trustees to tour the new Outdoor Education Centre located at the Education Centre in Midhurst. Trustee Grummett noted that the activities are led by trained and certified SCDSB educators, and that the tour was a very positive experience for the trustees who participated.

Trustee Connors shared that Maple Ridge Secondary School and Harvest Hills Public School recently held their grand openings. She noted that the 2023-24 school year is the first year that Maple Ridge S.S. has a full complement of Grade 9 to 12 students.

3) Staff

(a) Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Sidlofsky shared the SCDSB Celebrates video that has been posted on the SCDSB public website and the SCDSB YouTube page highlighting the Connections event. Superintendent Sidlofsky also provided the responses from the Connections feedback survey that were shared.

Superintendent Sidlofsky informed the committee that bullying prevention week is acknowledged in Ontario from Nov. 19-25, 2023. Schools have been encouraged to share, teach, and empower staff and students to build their understanding and knowledge of strategies and resources to address bullying in schools. Superintendent Sidlofsky also shared upcoming days of significance and recognition with the committee.

(b) Administrator Updates

Brae Montgomery, Principal of Orillia Secondary School, informed the committee that literacy tests for Grade 10 students have started in most secondary schools and that course calendars are being created for the 2024-25 school year. Secondary schools are preparing to welcome Grade 8 students for orientation and information sessions. The students will soon have to choose their courses for next year.

Principal Montgomery brought elementary updates on behalf of Jody Jowett, Principal of West Bayfield Public School. Principal Montgomery shared the efforts of elementary school staff to support Grade 8 students in their transition to secondary schools. Principal Montgomery spoke to the reading skills of students in Grades K-2 being evaluated using the Acadience tool, which is a research-based assessment that measures reading skills. The assessment is administered by elementary reading facilitators who are trained and certified in the use of the tool. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the strengths and needs of each student and to provide data for instructional decision making.

(c) Social Media Highlights

Jamie Campbell, Assistant Manager of Communications, provided a summary of topics that will be shared through the board's social media platforms. These highlights, along with other updates from the SCDSB will be shared with school council chairs.

D. Correspondence - Nil

E. Other Matters - Nil

F. Notices of Motions for Next Meeting - Nil

**G. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by Mehrdad Safizadeh  
Seconded by Saleha Khan

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at 6 p.m., virtually.

**Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Susan Sidlofsky  
Superintendent of Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

**Part A – Committee Overview**
**1. Parent Involvement Committee Members**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Brandy Rafeek	Chairperson (September – November)
Lisa Suelzle	Chairperson (November – Present)
Lisa Suelzle	Vice-chairperson (September – November)
Richard Chycki	Vice-chairperson (November – June)
Maria Aguirre	Parent Representative
Mike Baxter	Parent Representative
Tony Comella	Parent Representative
Andrea Dragicevic	Parent Representative
Natrisha La Rocca	Parent Representative
Shannon Murray	Parent Representative
Sarah Scott	Parent Representative
Natasha Shakespeare	Parent Representative
Melissa Wilson	Parent Representative
Michelle Woodward	Parent Representative
Nadia Fitzgerald	Community Representative
Tanya Snell	Trustee Representative (September – November)
Lisa-Marie Wilson	Trustee Representative (September – November)
Debbie Connors	Trustee Representative (November – Present)
Liz Grummett	Trustee Representative (November – Present)
Susan Sidlofsky	Superintendent of Education
Jody Jowett	Elementary Representation
Brae Montgomery	Secondary Representation
Jamie Campbell	Assistant Manager of Communications
Kim Sauv�	Recording Secretary

**2. List of Meetings Dates:**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022	Tuesday, January 17, 2023	Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Thursday, October 27, 2022	Tuesday, February 28, 2023	Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Tuesday, November 22, 2022	Tuesday, April 25, 2023	

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**Part B – Activities Overview**

**1. Achievements and Activities of the Parent Involvement Committee included:**

- Holding meetings throughout the year involving guest speakers discussing topics connected to the Simcoe County District School Board’s Strategic Priorities; Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Well-being, and Community;
- hosting the annual school council orientation Connections event on October 27 at the Education Centre. The night included vendor display booths, roundtable discussions and a presentation from SCDSB staff. The successful event was attended by approximately 75 school council members and Connections 2.0, virtually on April 25;
- supporting parent/guardian engagement through the PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant process;
- PIC members attending the People for Education conference in Toronto in November as well as the Healthy Eating Conference held in Huntsville in May. Those attending provided information and resources back to the committee, and;
- providing highlights from each meeting, and promoting school parent matters through social media.

**2. Summary of the Parent Involvement Committee expenditures:**

- Funding for advertising events and workshops.
- Funding for guest speakers for the Connections 2.0 event
- Funding for mileage to in-person meetings and attending the community event: Senator Dr. Bernard on Canadian Black History and How to Create Change.
- Purchasing of PIC attire for committee members and staff.
- End of year barbeque for PIC members.

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Special Education Advisory Committee

FROM: Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Committee  
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD NOV. 13, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

**PRESENT:**

**SEAC Members**

Kristen Baumann, Sarah Beitz (Trustee), Kevin Berry (Vice-chairperson), Eran Devine, Tamara Hannon, Rose-Ann Marchitto, Elizabeth Noble, Brandy Rafeek (Chairperson), Robin Talbot (Trustee), Stephanie Vocino, Brianne Whiteside.

**SEAC Alternate**

Megan Suggitt.

**Staff**

Linda Blom, Peter McLean, Hailey Mills Knapp, Chris Samis.

**Guests**

Michael and Marcel Jacques.

**Recording Secretary**

Tina Bazuk.

**REGRETS:**

**SEAC Members**

Mark Bryan, Pamela Libralesso, Lindsay Massicotte.

**SEAC Alternate**

Tamara Lavender (Acting member).

Brandy Rafeek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

**(1) Welcome**

(a) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

(b) Introductions

Chairperson Rafeek welcomed committee members, staff, and guests and shared regrets for the evening.

*Kevin Berry entered the meeting at this time.*

(c) SEAC Statement of Beliefs (A-1-c)

Linda Blom, Principal of Special Education, read the SEAC Statement of Beliefs.

*Robin Talbot entered the meeting at this time.*

**(2) Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Kevin Berry

Seconded by Rose-Ann Marchitto

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

**(3) Approval of Minutes**

(a) Minutes of the regular SEAC Meeting held Oct. 2, 2023 (A-3-a)

Moved by Kevin Berry  
Seconded by Rose-Ann Marchitto

That the minutes be approved as written.

CARRIED

*Stephanie Vocino entered the meeting at this time.*

**(4) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil**

**B. Presentations**

**(1) (a) Here's My Book (B-1-a)**

*Elizabeth Noble entered the meeting at this time.*

Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, invited Michael Jacques, and his father Marcel, to the table to share Michael's experience as an individual with special education needs.

Michael is an inspirational young adult with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and an intellectual disability, who can't read or write. With the support of great staff and hard work, Michael was able to find strategies to help him overcome challenges (e.g., visual cues, technology, voice, etc.) and was able to graduate from secondary school.

During Michael's time in secondary, he attended the Community Living Ontario's ReAction4Inclusion conferences, which is where he found his voice and desire to advocate for students with special education needs, and to educate others on how to embrace differences, the importance of inclusion, independence, and the power of perseverance.

In his quest, Michael has written two books titled 'Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's my Book' and 'I Belong, Can I Play' using an iPad's speech-to-text function, and has shared his story across Canada by presenting to various groups. Michael has also been featured in several newspaper, magazine, and TV interviews.

To continue his advocacy and education, Michael was appointed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE), a provincial council that advises on matters related to special education.

Michael and Marcel will be invited to the Special Education department meeting to continue sharing his inspirational story.

Michael and Marcel Jacques responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

**C. Items for Decision – Nil**



## **D. Items for Information**

### **(1) Follow-up from Previous Meeting - Nil**

### **(2) Staff Reports**

#### **(a) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education: October 2023 (D-2-a)**

Linda Blom, Principal of Special Education, provided an overview of the SCDSB's October 2023 Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) submission, which included feedback received from SEAC members.

In anticipation of future submissions, MACSE will be added to future SEAC agenda's ahead of submission deadlines.

Superintendent Samis responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

This report was provided for information.

#### **(b) Engaging Parents/Guardians of Students with Special Education Needs – Virtual Sessions (2023-24) (D-2-b)**

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Principal Blom provided an overview of the topics and dates for the upcoming virtual parent/guardian engagement sessions.

During the 2023-24 school year, the SCDSB will be hosting virtual special education information sessions to assist parents/guardians in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that the board and families work together to support students with special education needs.

Session information can be found on the board's [public website](#) under Special Education Info Sessions.

Principal Blom responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

This report is provided as information.

#### **(c) Professional Learning Update – Educational Assistants (2023) (D-2-c)**

Peter McLean, Principal of Special Education, provided an overview of the various professional learning opportunities offered to educational assistants (EAs) on designated professional activity days. Sessions are directly tied to positive student outcomes that are essential for success.

Principal McLean responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

This report is provided as information.

### **(3) Committee Reports - Nil**

### **(4) SEAC Member Updates**

#### **(a) Association/Agency Updates – All (D-4-a)**

The following updates were provided by SEAC members:

- i. Eran Devine, Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC):

- a) offers an Executive Functioning program, group coaching programs, resource navigator program, educational events, awareness initiatives, and advocacy initiatives for those affected by ADHD;
  - b) presentations are recorded and can be accessed following the event, if missed;
  - c) Jan. 12 to March 22, 2024, the REFOCUS: Reinforcing Executive Functioning with Optimism, Compassion, Understanding, and Support course will be offered. In this course, parents/guardians will learn tools and strategies to help their children increase executive functioning skills; and,
  - d) Jan. 17 to March 6, 2024, the Youth ADHD Group Coaching Program will be offered. In this program youth aged 16-24 will develop a toolkit of skills and behaviours to grow from past experiences and achieve future goals.
- ii. Brianne Whiteside, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, noted that the Ontario Education Champion Team, Simcoe County, is a group of community members from a variety of sectors, including school boards, that was created to work together to increase awareness, participation, and the success of youth in care at all levels of education, while preparing them for employment. The team created a video to showcase how to help youth in care graduate from secondary school.
  - iii. Kristen Baumann, Children's Treatment Network:
    - a) hosted inclusive Halloween events across the county with success;
    - b) free inclusive holiday events in Simcoe and York will be commencing end of November; and,
    - c) referral form for those who submit referrals to School-Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) has been updated.
  - iv. Elizabeth Noble, Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe:
    - a) January 2024 is the next round of social skills and girls connect programs;
    - b) registration for Level Up and Specialized tutoring is now open; and,
    - c) Dec. 14, 2023, is the virtual Parent Support Group from 7:30 to 9 p.m.
  - v. Tamara Hannon, Empower Simcoe:
    - a) Inclusion Excellence Award nominations are open year round; and,
    - b) Jan. 26, 2024, is the next Sibshop event for children and youth aged 7-14 who have siblings with special education needs. Superintendent Samis noted that the SCDSB would be partnering with Catulpa to offer Sibshops during a professional activity day.

#### **(5) Board Member Updates**

##### **(a) Updates from Board meetings (D-5-a)**

Chairperson Rafeek advised SEAC members of the following update from Board:

- i. the Education Development Charge (EDC) bylaws were updated in October; and,
- ii. Trustees were provided the opportunity to participate in the Outdoor Education program set up at the Education Centre.

#### **(6) Golden Buzzer**

1. Principal McLean and Hailey Mills Knapp, Family of Schools' Consultant for Special Education, shared the Golden Buzzer moment for November 2023.

#### **E. Correspondence - Nil**

**F. Other Matters**

1. Chairperson Rafeek noted to SEAC members that she would be unable to attend the December meeting, due to a conflict, and thanked everyone for their continued support through out the year.

**G. Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil**

**H. Adjournment**

Moved by Rose-Ann Marchitto  
Seconded by Kristen Baumann

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting date is Dec. 11, 2023.

**Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Chris Samis  
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Equity Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOV. 6, 2023**

The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) met virtually via teams on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.

**Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members** Danielle Beauchamp (Chair), Dale Boyle, Dave Shron, Jodie Shron,  
Sangita Madan, Shelly Skinner, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

**Administration** Matthew Webbe.

**Staff** Barry Bedford, Tahmena Bokhari.

**Recording Secretary** Lori Hollard.

**Guests** Stacey Baldwin (PARSC), Sarah Peart (PARSC), Brandy Rafeek  
(Trustee).

**REGRETS:**

**Committee Members** Amy Rae Miller.

**ABSENT:**

**Committee Members** Sarah Kekewich, Abhishek Ratan.

Matthew Webbe, Superintendent of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

**(1) Welcome**

(a) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

(b) Welcome and Member Introductions

Chair Beauchamp welcomed committee members and guests.

**(2) Approval of Agenda**

It was requested that the agenda be amended to move item D-3-b, Human Rights and Equity  
Manager Update to item D-1.

**MOTION**

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson  
Seconded by Dale Boyle

That the agenda be amended.

CARRIED

**MOTION**

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson  
Seconded by Shelly Skinner

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

**(3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil**

**B. Presentations - Nil**

**C. Items for Decision - Nil**

**D. Items for Information**

**(1) Staff**

**(a) Human Rights and Equity Manager Update**

Tahmena Bokhari, Human Rights and Equity Manager, spoke to the Employment Equity Action Plan (EEAP). She outlined the five priority areas as identified by the consultant and the actions that will be taken to address the recommendations from the Employment Equity Audit. Manager Bokhari reported on some of the initiatives already underway, and informed EAC members that the EEAP will be a standing item on future EAC meeting agendas.

Manager Bokhari spoke to the increased concern about intolerance in our communities, including Islamophobia and antisemitism. She advised EAC members that the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Human Rights and Equity Office is hosting a Responsive Dialogue Session for parents/guardians, and adult family members of SCDSB students on Nov. 13, 2023. The session is intended to create a facilitated space to work together on the feelings and experiences surrounding this time in the spirit of mutual respect and care.

There was also discussion regarding recruitment strategies to attract more diverse applicants.

**(b) EAC Members  
EAC Member Updates**

Dale Boyle started a discussion regarding the multiple protests that have taken place against transgender students. There was discussion regarding the ways that the board and other advocacy groups could support students. Some suggestions were to have safe school stickers in every school and gender-neutral washrooms available on each floor of a school. There was also discussion regarding the curriculum and whether information will be shared by the board as to why the curriculum changed? Barry Bedford, Principal of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Multi-Language Learners, shared some board initiatives and ways that the board is supporting students, such as Trans Day of Recognition, All Genders and Sexualities Alliance (AGSA)

conference for students, book clubs, and tip sheets for proactive and reactive situations. He also spoke to equity focused/themed additional qualification courses that have been offered and are being offered.

EAC members were asked to reflect on what can be done moving forward to support the feeling of safety.

Jodie Shron, started a discussion regarding statements of support from a board level. She stated that they need to come out publicly, supporting all students, letting people know where they can receive supports. This is especially important for those who don't declare themselves and might not know who they can talk to. A suggestion was made to provide all students Grade 7 – 12 with crisis line information.

## **2. Trustees**

### (a) Board Updates

Trustee Wilson reported that a motion was passed to have information shared with trustees regarding violence in the schools. This information will be shared annually in September. Trustee Wilson also reported that the capital priority list was finalized and there are 13 priorities being put forward to the ministry.

## **3. Staff**

### (a) Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Webbe shared information regarding board initiatives pertaining to equity, diversity and inclusion. The initiatives include:

- Professional development for Vice-principals and central teachers on race, bias, and hate;
- learning packages that have been prepared with a racism, homophobic and anti-semitic focus that secondary principals can tailor to each students' required learning needs;
- Anti-Black Racism, Part 1 additional qualification courses being offered through Lakehead University that Designated Early Childhood Educator's (DECE) will be able to take and have honoured as professional development at the College of Designated Early Childhood Educators;
- Teaching English Language Learners, Part 1 and Equitable and Inclusive schools, Part 1 are being offered this year;
- several book clubs will be taking place throughout the year;
- anti-oppression work will be done with the Central Itinerant Resource Teachers (IRT's); and,
- evening sessions have been held to shed light on positive contributions to society by people of diverse backgrounds.

### (b) Human Rights and Equity Manager Update

Covered under item D-1-a.

**E. Correspondence** - Nil

**F. Other Matters** - Nil

**G. Notices of Motion for Next Meeting** - Nil

**H. Adjournment**

Moved by David Shron  
Seconded by Sangita Madan

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2024 at 6 p.m., virtually.

**Report status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Matthew Webbe  
Superintendent of Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Parent Involvement Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2023**

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023.

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members**

**Electronic Participation**

(Voting)

Maria Aguirre, Mike Baxter, Rachel Grinman, Saleha Khan,  
Natrisha La Rocca, Kunal Patel,  
Mehrdad Safizadeh (Vice-chairperson), Sarah Scott,  
Lisa Suelzle (Chairperson), Melissa Wilson.

**Trustee(s)**

(Non-voting)

Debbie Connors, Liz Grummett.

**Administration**

**Staff Representatives**

**Electronic Participation**

(Non-voting)

Jamie Campbell, Jody Jowett, Susan Sidlofsky.

**Recording Secretary**

Kimberly Sauvé.

**REGRETS**

Brae Montgomery, Colin Tucker.

**ABSENT:**

Kayla Beaudry, Shannon Murray, Natasha Shakespeare.

Chairperson Suelzle called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**A) Welcome and Introductions**

1) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Jody Jowett, Principal of West Bayfield Elementary School, read the Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

Chairperson Suelzle introduced new members to the committee.

2) PIC Mandate

Chairperson Suelzle reviewed the PIC mandate.



3) Election of Vice-chairperson

Due to the Vice-chairperson from the previous year withdrawing from the committee Chairperson Suelzle called for nominations for the office of the Vice-chairperson of the PIC.

Mehrdad Safizadeh nominated himself for Vice-chairperson of the PIC.

Melissa Wilson nominated herself for Vice-chairperson of the PIC.

Mehrdad and Melissa spoke to their nominations.

There being no further nominations, a vote by secret ballot was conducted. No nominee received a majority of the votes cast.

Susan Sidlofsky, Superintendent of Education, outlined the process to be followed in the event of a tied vote with two nominees remaining, and requested that the two nominees forward a number between 1 and 10 to Superintendent Sidlofsky. Mehrdad's number was the closest number to the number chosen by Superintendent Sidlofsky without going over, which resulted in Mehrdad being the successful nominee.

**MOTION**

Moved by Mike Baxter

Seconded by Rachel Grinman

That Mehrdad Safizadeh be elected as Vice-chairperson of the PIC.

CARRIED

Mehrdad assumed the position of Vice-chair at this time.

4) Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mehrdad Safizadeh

Seconded by Sarah Scott

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

**B. Presentations**

1) Guest Speakers

(a) Parents' Guide to Assessment – Dean Maltby and Jason Pino

Chairperson Suelzle introduced Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Student Achievement (7-12) and Jason Pino, Principal, Student Achievement (7-12).

Superintendent Maltby and Principal Pino provided an overview of the Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting for the SCDSB. They explained the role of staff, students and parents/guardians throughout the year and resources for parents/guardians to remain involved.

Superintendent Malby and Principal Pino received feedback and questions from the committee at this time.

**C. Items for Decision**

1) 2023-24 School Council Connections Event

Chairperson Suelzle provided an overview of the Connections event being held on Oct. 26, 2023, at Bear Creek Secondary School.

Moved by Sarah Scott  
Seconded by Maria Aguirre

That the Parent Involvement Committee approve up to \$2500 to spend on the event.

CARRIED

2) Student Achievement Sub-committee

Superintendent Sidlofsky provided information on the student achievement sub-committee which will meet twice during the 2023-24 school year.

A motion was not required for this item. Superintendent Sidlofsky requested that interested members email Kim Sauvé, Executive Assistant to Susan Sidlofsky, their intent to be a part of the sub-committee.

3) Future PIC Presentations

A discussion took place with regard to presentations throughout the year.

Moved by Melissa Wilson  
Seconded by Maria Aguirre

That the Parent Involvement Committee approve the below presentations for PIC meetings for the 2023-24 school year.

- Racism and antisemitism;
- Capital Priorities and facilities - play structures and outdoor play;
- Mental health services – elementary; and,
- Services for learning and physical disabilities in schools.

CARRIED

**D. Items for Information**

1) PIC Members

(a) PIC Annual Report

Chairperson Suelzle and Executive Assistant Sauvé provided an overview of the PIC annual report for 2022-23. Please see APPENDIX A attached for a copy of the annual report.

(b) Connections Event

Chairperson Suelzle provided a brief overview of the Connections event and asked for recommendations from members for presentations and a possible agenda for the evening. The committee agreed that break-out rooms would be preferred as well as vendors at the beginning of the evening. Chairperson Suelzle asked members who are interested in being a part of the sub-committee to email her or Executive Assistant Sauv .

(c) PIC Member Updates

PIC Member Grinman requested that schools be reminded when selecting dates for events, that the dates should not be on holy days or days of significance.

2) Trustees

(a) Board Updates

Trustee Grummett shared that the board was provided with a presentation on the social studies curriculum for Grades 1-6. Trustee Grummett reported that trustees and the board's senior administration had an opportunity to visit the Simon Wiesenthal Centre Tour for Humanity mobile classroom to learn about the Holocaust and the educator resources available to combat incidents of antisemitism, bias, and hate. Schools can arrange for the mobile classroom to come to their location for an in-school presentation and field trip focusing on educating students around the holocaust and antisemitism.

Trustee Grummett recommended conversations in schools regarding education on safety on the roads and helmet safety.

3) Staff

(a) Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Sidlofsky spoke to the new Character Education: New Beginnings Attributes. She shared that there are now 23 Character Attributes, which include the Seven Grandfather Teachings. She spoke to the days of significance and recognition in the month of September, noting Rowans Law, Orange Shirt Day, Terry Fox Run and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

(b) Administrator Updates

Principal Jowett brought secondary updates on behalf of Brae Montgomery, Principal of Orillia Secondary School. Principal Jowett shared the sports that have begun for the school year and informed the committee that the literacy tests will be given this year along with courses to get students ready to take the assessment.

Principal Jowett spoke to the sports and clubs that have begun in elementary schools this school year. She also shared that open houses will be taking place in many elementary schools in the coming weeks.

(c) Social Media Highlights

Jamie Campbell, Assistant Manager of Communications, provided a summary of topics that will be shared through the board's social media platforms.

These highlights, along with other updates from the SCDSB will be shared with school council chairs.

- E. **Correspondence** - Nil
- F. **Other Matters** - Nil
- G. **Notices of Motions for Next Meeting** - Nil
- H. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by Mehrdad Safizadeh  
Seconded by Rachel Grinman

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, at 6 p.m., virtually.

**Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Susan Sidlofsky  
Superintendent of Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Accessibility Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, SEPT. 25, 2023**

The Sept. 25, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

**AAC Members**

**Electronic Participation**

Linda Blom, Lidia Durando, Liz Grummett, Holly Landry,  
Doug Mein, Carrie Rumble, Megan Suggitt, Cindy Tonn  
Joshua Wong.

**Staff**

Alexis Farrell, Kevin LePage, Sean Levasseur, Zuzana Reed.

**Recording Secretary**

Kylee Zoller.

**Regrets**

Rosalia Leo, Corry Van Nispen, Chris Whelan.

Doug Mein, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chairperson Doug Mein welcomed new members Lidia Durando and Zuzana Reed, Simcoe County District School Board, Corporate Risk Officer. Chairperson Mein also welcomed visitor Ashlie Drake from New Tecumseth Accessibility Advisory Committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Alexis Farrell, Communications Officer, read the Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory for the committee.

**3. Review of Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee held May 29, 2023**

Chairperson Mein called for any requested revisions from the committee on the minutes.

**MOTION**

Moved by Doug Mein

Seconded by Cindy Tonn

That the Minutes of the AAC held May 29, 2023, be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

**4. Election for Vice-chairperson**

Chairperson Mein called for nominations for the position of Vice-chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Cindy Tonn

That Joshua Wong be nominated for election as Vice-chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Joshua Wong indicated that they would stand.

Chairperson Mein called for further nominations.

There being no further nominations, Joshua Wong was acclaimed as Vice-chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

**5. New Tecumseth AAC White Cane Awareness Campaign**

Ashlie Drake, Chairperson of the New Tecumseth Accessibility Advisory Committee presented information on the White Cane Campaign to spread awareness. The initiative was created due to residents using white canes having near-miss accidents at New Tecumseth crosswalks. The New Tecumseth Accessibility Advisory Committee is requesting permission to set up boards in entrances of schools within New Tecumseth.

**MOTION**

Moved by Joshua Wong  
Seconded by Lidia Durando

That Ashlie Drake submit the request to display the White Cane Awareness Campaign in New Tecumseth schools to the Superintendent or Superintendents responsible for the schools impacted, with the assistance of Zuzana Reed, Corporate Risk Officer. The presentation should also include an option to add an experiential component at a future date when details are available for approval.

CARRIED

**6. Accessible Documents, Treasury Board, Government of Ontario**

Lidia Durando, Community Member, presented an overview of accessible documents, and how to create accessible documents, with background information as trainer for the Ontario Treasury Board.

**MOTION**

Moved by Doug Mein  
Seconded by Cindy Tonn

That Lidia Durando present a demonstration of discussed software applications at the November AAC Meeting.

CARRIED

**7. Review of Audit Checklist for Fall Audits**

Deferred.

**8. Accessibility Concerns – Process for Review**

Holly Landry, Controller, addressed the AAC regarding recent limited access to accessible parking space issues. Controller Landry indicated that any concerns arising should be directed to the principal of the location in question. If principals require support, they should follow up with Holly Landry or Zuzana Reed. Any unresolved issues should be addressed by the area Superintendent.

Cindy Tonn, Community Member, requested that this item be revisited at the November meeting.

**9. Other Business/Member Updates**

The Accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Review is still pending and was supposed to have been posted by June 30, 2023. The deadline has been delayed to the end of December 2023.

Chairperson Mein indicated that there has been no feedback to this point on the K-12 Standards Committee recommendations.

Volunteers were requested to read the Land Acknowledgement at the top of each committee meeting for the balance of the school year. Volunteers were Chairperson Mein for November, Trustee Grummett for January, Lidia Durando for March, and Joshua Wong for May.

**MOTION**

Moved by Lidia Durando  
Seconded by Joshua Wong

That the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

CARRIED

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 27, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

**Future meeting dates:**

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024  
Monday, March 25, 2024  
Monday, May 27, 2024

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Corry Van Nispen  
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

Dec. 20, 2023

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **VIOLENT INCIDENTS: 2022-23**

## **1. Background**

This report links directly to the renewed [Simcoe County District School Board \(SCDSB\) Strategic Priorities \(2022-2027\)](#) in the areas of Well-being, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Community, and Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This report is part of the ongoing communication of our Operational Plan 2023-24.

The SCDSB is committed to an equitable education system that upholds and reflects the principles of fair and inclusive education which permeates policies, programs, practices, and operations. The SCDSB recognizes that equity of opportunity and equity of access to the full range of programs, and the delivery of services and resources are critical to the achievement of successful educational outcomes for those served by our school system, as well as for those who serve our system.

Inclusion criteria for this report adheres to the [Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum 120 \(PPM 120\)](#). In accordance with PPM 120 and to fulfill the Notice of Motion (Sept. 27, 2023) this report includes four incident types:

- possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
- physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention;
- sexual assault;
- robbery;
- using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person;
- extortion; and,
- hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences.

Although the fourth incident type was not requested in the Notice of Motion it has been included according to PPM 120.

As per PPM 120, boards are required to report the total number of violent incidents on an annual basis to the Ministry of Education through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). This report utilized data from the OnSIS reporting date of June 30, 2023.

## **2. Overall results**

There was a total of 159 violent incidents in the 2022-23 school year. Seventy-seven per cent occurred in the secondary panel and 23 per cent in the elementary panel. According to PPM 120, reportable counts are as follows: 151 violent incidents involved a single incident type (e.g., in this group all six incident types were recorded at least once), seven incidents included two incident types, and one incident involved three incident types.



### **3. Next steps**

#### ***Violence Threat Risk Assessment***

The SCDSB is developing an active partnership in a region-wide Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol along with many community partners. This protocol enables us to respond more effectively to those exceptional situations where students pose a threat to themselves or others. The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to possession of a weapon or replica weapon; bomb threat or plan; verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, and fire setting. The initial VTRA team includes the principal and/or vice-principal(s), and a social work staff member and potentially the police; other community partners and additional SCDSB staff may be included as necessary. There is a very high level of internal consultation before any VTRA proceeds. VTRA is not a disciplinary process, rather it focuses on information gathering, risk assessment, and safety recommendations. Its main purpose is to reduce the immediate risk of violence for all involved. VTRAs are very rare occurrences in our schools but do serve as an important safety measure in keeping our students and staff working and learning in safe environments. The SCDSB is proud to be able to provide this level of support to our students and is most fortunate to have our community partners working with us.

#### ***Code of Conduct/Bullying Prevention and Intervention***

To support the development of safe and accepting school environments, SCDSB has a board wide Code of Conduct. To help uphold these commitments, supportive measures in place include a range of system and school-based preventative strategies with a focus on progressive discipline practices. SCDSB promotes opportunities in our schools to share, teach, and empower staff and students to build their understanding and knowledge of strategies and resources to address bullying in our schools. TIME stands for the process of team building, integrate learning, skills for mediation and engaging parents/caregivers to address bullying. Using this framework, school teams create specific bullying plans for prevention and intervention. Each step is crucial to developing a comprehensive plan to support all students and staff. At the heart of this model is the understanding that all school community members are valued members and that everyone has a role in maintaining a safe and supportive school community.

### **4. Conclusion**

The SCDSB will continue to provide support to our students and staff related to violence in schools. The SCDSB offers a range of support through our departments to make a positive impact for SCDSB school communities, which will benefit students now and in their future. The SCDSB will continue to endeavor to communicate board data, successes, and next steps.

**5. Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Scott Young  
Superintendent of Education

**Approved for submission by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the  
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Director of Education

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023**

**1. Background**

The following motion was carried at the regular meeting of the Board held on January 18, 2023:

*That the Board approve that the motion that was carried at the regular meeting of the Board held on January 29, 2020 regarding report of trustee attendance be amended to include the following committees of the Board that have recently been formed: Equity Advisory Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, and Sustainability Advisory Committee and that the motion read:*

*That the Board receive annually in December, in public session, a summary report of trustee and student trustee attendance at regularly scheduled Board meetings, special meetings, standing committee meetings (Business and Facilities, Human Resources, and Program) and the following mandatory committees and committees of the board: Accessibility Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Equity Advisory Committee, First Nations Education Advisory Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, and Sustainability Advisory Committee, and that the summary report of trustee attendance, by trustee, be posted on the board's website.*

Attached as APPENDIX A, is the report of trustee attendance from January 2023 to December 2023.

**2. Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

John Dance  
Director of Education

December 20, 2023



**APPENDIX A – Pages 1 to 6**

**REPORT OF TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE  
JANUARY 2023 - DECEMBER 2023**

Simcoe County District School Board - Report of Trustee Attendance  
 January 2023 - December 2023  
 Board and Standing Committee Meetings

All members of the Board of Trustees are required to attend Board and Standing Committee (Business and Facilities, Program and Human Resources [HR]) meetings.

Trustee	Jan. 11 Business and Facilities	Jan. 11 Program and HR	Jan. 18 Board	Feb. 1 Business and Facilities	Feb. 1 Spec. Board	Feb. 8 Program and HR	Feb. 22 Board	Mar. 1 Business and Facilities	Mar. 8 Program and HR	Mar. 22 Board	Apr. 5 Business and Facilities	Apr. 12 Program and HR	Apr. 19 Business and Facilities and SEAC Budget Meeting	Apr. 26 Reg. and Spec. Board	May 3 Business and Facilities	May 3 Spec. Board # 1 & 2	May 10 Program and HR	May 24 Board and Spec. Board	June 7 Business and Facilities	June 14 Program and HR	June 21 Board	Aug. 30 Board	Sept. 6 Business and Facilities	Sept. 7 Spec. Board - EDCs	Sept. 13 Program and HR	Sept. 27 Board	Sept. 27 Spec. Business and Facilities	Oct. 4 Business and Facilities	Oct. 4 Spec. Board	Oct. 11 Program and HR	Oct. 16 Spec. Board - EDCs	Oct. 25 Board	Nov. 1 Business and Facilities	Nov. 8 Spec. Board-Audit	Nov. 8 Program and HR	Nov. 20 Organizational Board Meeting	Nov. 22 Board Meeting	Dec. 13 Program and HR	Dec. 20 Board Meeting			
Donna Armstrong	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	R	R	R	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Sarah Beitz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Debbie Connors	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P		
Mike Foley	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	R	E	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	P	P	R	R	R	R	R	P	P	R	R	E	P	P	E	R	R	E	P	E				
Liz Grummett	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Anne Harrigan	P	P	R	P	P	P	E	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	R	R	R	E	E	A	P	P				
Jodi Lloyd (Chairperson)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Dana Powell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	P				
Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson)	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Lynn Strachan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	R	P	P	E	P	P				
Robin Talbot	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	E	P	R	E	R	P	P	P	E	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E			
Lisa-Marie Wilson	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	E/R	R	P	P	P	E	R	E	E/R	R	P	R	P	P	P	P	E	E	E	E	P	P	R	P	P	P	E	E			

Student Trustees (elected for a one-year term from August 1 to July 31)

	Jan. 11 Business and Facilities Jan. 11 Program and HR	Jan. 18 Board	Feb. 1 Business and Facilities Feb. 1 Spec. Board	Feb. 8 Program and HR	Feb. 22 Board	Mar. 1 Business and Facilities Mar. 8 Program and HR	Mar. 22 Board	Apr. 5 Business and Facilities Apr. 12 Program	Apr. 19 Business and Facilities and SEAC Budget Meeting	Apr. 26 Reg. and Spec. Board	May 3 Business and Facilities	May 3 Spec. Board # 1	May 10 Program and HR	May 24 Board	June 7 Business and Facilities June 14 Program and HR	June 21 Board	Aug. 30 Board	Sept. 6 Business and Facilities	Sept. 7 Spec. Board - EDCs	Sept. 13 Program and HR	Sept. 27 Board	Sept. 27 Spec. Business and Facilities	Oct. 4 Business and Facilities	Oct. 4 Spec. Board	Oct. 11 Program and HR	Oct. 16 Spec. Board - EDCs	Oct. 25 Board	Nov. 1 Business and Facilities	Nov. 8 Spec. Board-Audit	Nov. 8 Program and HR	Nov.20 Organizational Board Meeting	Nov. 22 Board Meeting	Dec. 13 Program and HR	Dec. 20 Board Meeting		
Lucy Duncan																	P	P	P	P/R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P/R	
Angelina Ith	P	P	P	P	E/R	P	E	R	P	E	P	E	P	E	R	P																				
Aalia Majid																	R	P	P	P/R	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	E	R	R	P	P	R			
Ayesha Maryam																	P	P	P	P/R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P/R		
Wei qi Xu	P	P	P	P	E/R	P	E	E	P	R	P	E	P	E	R	P	R	R	R	P																
Rosa Yu	P	P	P	P	E/R	P	E	P	P	E	E/R	R	P	E	E	P	R	E	P																	

**Legend**

P = Present R=Regrets A=Absent E=Electronic Participation

Yellow Shading=was not in the role of trustee at the time or was not required to attend the meeting

Simcoe County District School Board - Report of Trustee Attendance  
January 2023 - December 2023  
Board and Standing Committee Meetings

**Notes:**

1. The Dec. 6 Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting was cancelled, as there were only of couple of agenda items which were not time sensitive.
2. Trustee attendance for the Dec. 20 Board Meeting will be reflected in the final report that is posted on the board website.
3. A member of a Board who participates in a meeting through electronic means in accordance with the regulations shall be deemed to be present at the meeting.

**Simcoe County District School Board - Report of Trustee Attendance  
January 2023 - December 2023  
Mandatory and Continuing Meetings**

*Not all members of the Board of Trustees are required to attend mandatory and continuing committee meetings. Trustee membership to the mandatory and continuing meetings is ratified annually at the December Board meeting.*

**Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Meetings**

Trustee	Jan. 30	March 27	May 29	Sept. 25	Nov. 27
Liz Grummett	E	E	R	E	E

**Notes:**

1. All of the AAC meetings were held electronically.

**Audit Committee Meetings**

Trustees	Feb. 6	June 5	Oct. 30
Donna Armstrong	A	E	E
Lynn Strachan	E	A	E
Robin Talbot	R	E	R

**Notes:**

1. All of the Audit Committee meetings were held electronically.

**Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) Meetings**

Trustee	Jan. 16	March 27	May 15	Sept. 18	Nov. 6
Lisa-Marie Wilson	E	E	E	P	E

**Notes:**

1. All of the EAC meetings were held electronically with the exception of the September meeting which was held in-person.



Simcoe County District School Board - Report of Trustee Attendance  
 January 2023 - December 2023  
 Mandatory and Continuing Meetings

**First Nations Education Advisory (FNEAC) Committee**

Trustees	Jan. 12	March 23	June 8	Oct. 18
Mike Foley	E	E	P	E
Anne Harrigan	E	E	R	R
Jodi Lloyd	E	E	R	P

**Notes:**

1. The January and March FNEAC meetings were held electronically. The June and October FNEAC meetings were held in-person.

**Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

Trustees	Jan. 12	March 23	June 8	Oct. 18
Anne Harrigan	E	E	R	R
Brandy Rafeek	E	E	P	P

**Notes:**

1. The January and March IEAC meetings were held electronically. The June and October IEAC meetings were held in-person.

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meetings**

Trustees	Jan. 17	Feb. 28	May 16	Sept. 26	Nov. 21
Debbie Connors	E	E	E	E	E
Liz Grummett	E	E	E	E	E

**Notes:**

1. All PIC meetings were held electronically.

Simcoe County District School Board - Report of Trustee Attendance  
 January 2023 - December 2023  
 Mandatory and Continuing Meetings

**Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meetings**

Trustees	Jan. 9	Feb. 13	Mar. 6	Apr. 3	May 8	June 5	Sept. 11	Oct. 2	Nov. 13	Dec. 11
Sarah Beitz	E	E	E	E	E	E	R	A	E	R
Brandy Rafeek	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	E
Robin Talbot	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	E

**Notes:**

1. All SEAC meetings were held electronically with the exception of the October meeting which was held in-person.

**Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) Meetings**

Trustee	Jan. 16	Apr. 24	June 19	Oct. 24
Mike Foley	E	E	E	E

**Notes:**

1. All of the SAC meetings were held electronically.

**Legend**

P = Present R=Regrets A=Absent E=Electronic Participation  
 Yellow Shading=was not in the role of trustee at the time or was not required to attend the meeting



**Chair of the Board:**  
Lori-Ann Pizzolato

**Trustees:**

Carol Antone  
Dave Cripps  
Leeanne Hopkins  
Marianne Larsen  
Beth Mai  
Sherri Moore  
Arlene Morell  
Leroy Osbourne  
Lori-Ann Pizzolato  
Sheri Polhill  
Meagan Ruddock  
Christian Sachs  
Bruce Smith

**Student Trustees:**

Jana Anan  
Frederick Nicholas  
Savrup Saran

**Director of  
Education:**

Mark Fisher

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November 22, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
5th Flr, 438 University Ave.  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8  
Via email: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Lecce,

I'm writing today on behalf of my fellow Trustees at Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB).

As representatives of the community, we wish to express our deep concern regarding the pressure on TVDSB to address student mental health challenges, while resources for community organizations have simultaneously decreased.

We appreciate that the Ministry of Education has identified mental health literacy as a key priority for students.

This priority aligns with what TVDSB heard from students as part of the district-wide School Climate Survey in 2022-23, which reflected over 28,000 student voices. Survey responses highlighted a need to strengthen healthy relationships between and among students, improve students' abilities to identify and manage emotions as well as cope with stress, and address the topics of vaping, alcohol, and drug-use.

Using the survey results, Ministry curriculum and more, TVDSB continues to commit significant resources to supporting mental health among students and families. Over and above implementing the mental health literacy curriculum, we continue to increase supports in elementary and secondary schools, provide learning opportunities for students, staff, and families in a variety of formats, and partner with community organizations such as Western University, local health units, co-terminus boards and numerous service providers to deliver innovative, topical programs.

A theme that continues to arise out of these initiatives and partnerships is the need for more resources spread out across the community.

The Board of Trustees has been informed that school staff are often first-responders or the first points of contact for child and youth mental health concerns. They care deeply about students and work hard to support them. Unfortunately, many students require ongoing support above and beyond what their school can provide. As community resource case loads rise and delays occur, students continue to struggle in school.

TVDSB's Board of Trustees hopes this letter will spark a greater conversation about how all levels of government can work together to better balance and fund community-based mental health support services, so that all the organizations, including school boards, can work together for the benefit of children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Pizzolato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori-Ann Pizzolato  
Chair of the Board  
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher  
Trustees  
Student Trustees