



SEAC SOUNDBYTES

Raising awareness of the Special Education process at HCDSB

May 2017

Who is at the SEAC table?

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is a Ministry mandated committee of the Board. Sounds very official, doesn't it? Well it is, but you might be surprised to learn that most SEAC members are parents just like you!

As a Board committee, SEAC has two Trustee members as well as two members at large. However, SEAC membership is primarily made up of parents, just like you, with children in schools throughout Halton, just like you, some with special education needs, just like many parents throughout the system – maybe even you! Being everyday parents enrolled in our Board gives members direct knowledge of special education programs and services in our Board, which allows for very meaningful contributions.

Parents are nominated by associations to represent the student population of those associations, however, all SEAC members are there to serve the needs of ALL special education students throughout the system. If you have any questions or concerns about special education at HCDSB, please feel free to contact any one of our members directly.

Your current SEAC members are:

| Association | Representatives |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Association for Bright Children | Maria Lourenco (lourencoowen@hotmail.com) Karen Bivand (karenbivand@gmail.com) (alternate) |
| Autism Ontario | Lisa Stephenson (halton.catholicseac@autismontario.com) Laura Currie (same e-mail) (alternate) |
| Easter Seals | Brenda Agnew (brenda@threetobe.org) Cris Parreira (cris.parreira@gmail.com) (alternate) |
| Halton Down Syndrome Association | Dan Hotopeleanu (dan@hotopeleanu.com) |
| VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children | Rhonda Quesnel (rhondaq@wearcheck.ca) Rick Barreiro (rickbarreiro@gmail.com) (alternate) |
| Members at Large | Lorraine Cipparrone (lorraine.seac@gmail.com) Joanne Parisi (joannepa@cogeco.ca) |
| Trustees | Arlene Iantomasi (iantomasia@hcdsb.org) Diane Rabenda (rabendad@hcdsb.org) Helena Karabela (karabelah@hcdsb.org) (alternate) Susan Trites (tritess@hcdsb.org) (alternate) |

For more information on associations currently represented, please visit the SEAC section of the Board website: www.hcdsb.org/Community/SEAC/Pages/Associations.aspx.

Legislation allows for up to 12 associations, so HCDSB SEAC has space for 7 more, including the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton.

If you are a member of an eligible association, as described on the Board website, <http://www.hcdsb.org/Community/SEAC/Pages/Board-Invites-Applications-for-SEAC.aspx> and would like to consider serving on SEAC, please contact your association to discuss a nomination.

We would love to have you join our team!