



**ACCESSIBILITY STEERING COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 - 2:00 p.m. - Boardroom**

**Present:** Michelle Shypula (Chair), Lindsay Blasdell (Secretary), Dave Buist, Lou Citino, Lindsay Duwyn, Anah Figueiredo, Caroline Freibauer, Debbie King-Bonifacio, Philip Kuckyt, Carmen McDermid, John McDermid, Rachel Moreau-Zelem, Terre Slaght, Dianne Wdowczyk, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

**Absent:** Bill Chopp (Trustee), Tracey Austin, Leslie Brown, Fatima DeJesus, Christine Dragojlovich, Carlo Fortino, Tom Grice (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), Tom Laracy, Don Maunder, Colleen Oldman, Guo Wu

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**1. Opening Business**

**1.1 Opening Prayer**

Chair Shypula led the meeting with the opening prayer and a round of introductions were made for the benefit of all members.

**1.2 Attendance** – As noted above.

**1.3 Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved, as distributed.

**1.4 Approval of the Minutes – Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

The minutes of the Tuesday, February 6, 2018 Accessibility Steering Committee meeting were approved by consensus.

**2. Committee and Staff Reports**

**2.1 Review of the Service Animals in School Facilities Policy 200.40**

Chair Shypula reviewed the drafted Service Animals in School Facilities Policy, Administrative Procedures (AP) and Appendices. A summary was provided detailing changes that supported revisions within the policy. There are currently three service dogs accommodating students within the Board and Chair Shypula detailed how the process is a case by case procedure. Further, Chair Shypula updated that there is currently no legislation or regulation that is in place to drive the decision to have service animals in school facilities. The draft policy now states a certified service dog must be from an accredited service dog agency in Canada.

Group members were then divided and asked to review and highlight sections of the policy and accompanying appendices. The policy was reviewed by the committee in its entirety where questions ensued and feedback was provided. Members were able to highlight areas in the drafted policy and Chair Shypula responded to group inquiries.

**2.2 Review of Barriers to be addressed under the Multi-Year 2018-2023 Integrated Accessibility Plan**

Chair Shypula updated members on the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Regulation (see Appendix A). Chair Shypula reviewed barriers that were addressed in 2018 such as, the installation of accessible elevators, washrooms, AODA ramps and accessible doors at various schools. The Board will be installation accessible service counters and additional accessible doors at a few of our high schools while continuing to



evaluate accessibility at schools. The Board will continue to incorporate recommendations into the capital plan and work toward full compliance with AODA standards at all sites by 2025.

### **2.3 OHRC: Improving Education Outcomes for Students with Disabilities**

Chair Shypula updated on the Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities Policy. To best meet legal obligations under Ontario's Human Rights Code, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its new Policy and recommendations on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities (see Appendix B). In August, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its new Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities along with recommendations on how to best comply to the legal obligations under Ontario's Human Rights Code. This policy:

- Recognizes that education is vitally important to a person's social, academic and economic development;
- Reflects a broad definition of disability;
- Provides students and families with up-to-date information about their human rights and responsibilities;
- Offers practical guidance to education providers to meet their legal obligation to accommodate; and
- Reminds schools of their obligation to maintain accessible and inclusive spaces that are discrimination and harassment- free.

The recommendations have set out actions that the government, schools and post-secondary institutions should take to ensure effective education system functions and that allows students with disabilities to thrive. The policy and its recommendations call on key players in the sector to take proactive steps to remove barriers so that all students can gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. The Board is taking proactive steps in responding to those recommendations ensuring that the items are being covered and welcomed feedback from members.

### **3. Future Meetings**

The committee secretary will communicate future meeting dates to the group.

### **4. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Chair Shypula thanked members for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.