

Special Education Annual Committee Report

Members: Robin Joseph (Chair, Francis Libermann)
Maria Andriano (Executive Liaison, St. Patrick)
Carmela Cianfarani (Michael Power/St. Joseph)
Filomena Silva (CEC)

Structure: The committee is composed of the TSU members listed above.

Terms of Reference:

- a) To gather classroom and Special Education teacher input on trends and concerns in Special Education;
- b) To outline developing trends, patterns and issues/concerns from TSU members in the field
- c) To determine implications for classroom and special education teachers of Ministry direction and policy in Special Education
- d) To determine implications for classroom and Special Education teachers of TCDSB direction and policy in Special Education.

Activities:

The committee met on three occasions during the 2019/2020 school year and focused on two projects:

- 1) "Frequently Asked Questions" Document
This document outlines concerns brought up by members and suggested best practices which would provide a sense of alignment across the board. Once finalized, the document will be available to members to clarify any common questions about programs and procedures as well as a quick reference when addressing common questions that parents may have.
- 2) Myth Busters
This project was to complement the work started by the Joint Committee. This document is composed of many misconceptions surrounding Special Education and the services provided. We look forward to engaging with our members to advocate and cultivate a supportive working environment.

Recommendations/Goals

The committee discussed the possibility of creating a Special Education Survey and distributing it to all Special Education Teachers (information to come from the Form 107). The purpose of the survey would be to get a pulse of what the current concerns, needs; situations are for Special Education teachers.

Prepared by: Robin Joseph