

## **Annual General Meeting of Inclusion Action in Ontario Education & Community**

**Jun 22, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**By Zoom**

**(Quorum is 10)**

**10:05 Calling meeting to order**

### **Members:**

Paula Boutis, President/Chair

Gabriela Ortega, Vice Chair

Hirat Brar, Secretary

Angie Bridekirk, Director

Lisa Flannagan, Director

Cristina Lamonica, Director

Donna Vanderkloet, Director

Erin Ladouceur

Diane Montgomery

Traci Clarke

Amandipp Singh

Lavaneyaa Sri

Jessica Kitchen (Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports)

Amy Sweet (Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports)

Melanie Dekorte

Guest: Shawn Pegg

**Call to Order - quorum confirmed**

**10:09 AM**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Confirmation notice of meeting with supporting documents delivered by email in accordance with the by-laws
- b. Current board members present / others present
- c. Using Zoom - turn on captioning, raising hand for questions, you can indicate your preferred pronouns
- d. Use chat if you have a question or comment - note the chat is saved automatically

### **2. Land Acknowledgement (Paula/Toronto)**

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

**3. Hirat Brar acting as secretary for the meeting.**

**4. Motion to approve the agenda**

Mover: Tracey Clarke  
Secunder: Amy Sweet  
Motion: Carries

**5. Receive Message from the Board and Report of Activities**

- Activities and News in the past year
  - Fourth year we've received a grant from the Timothy D. Mayer Charitable Foundation!
  - Update on Research project with Western Ontario University
    - <https://rise.articulate.com/share/brC6DRdkkEZQi9osVo8I-xci6jSR5CJ3#/>
    - Webinar on most recent review of Inclusive Education Research, April 8, 2025
    - Speakers from York University's Faculty of Education Dr. Aaron Richmond, Dr. Nancy Marshall, PhD candidate, Ryan Collis, and PhD candidate, Katherine Barron will be presenting a Systematic Literature Review titled "Examining the Impact of Self-Contained Special Education Classes on Students' Academic Achievement, Social Belonging, and Engagement in School."
  - Fielding regular inquiries from families - connecting with representatives and online meetings
  - Regular blogging to share news and updates in between, including the research projects and activities of our partners
    - Always looking for others who have stories to contribute
  - Had two or three meetings with our SEAC representatives from across the boards
    - Some successes, some set backs
    - New rep for SEAC at Dufferin Peel CDSB!
    - New volunteer for Niagara Region!
    - Have lost our volunteers for Simcoe, Windsor, York Region areas - need to recruit!

**6. Guest Speaker: Shawn Pegg - Community Living Ontario -Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives**

- a. Presentation - Crisis in the Classroom
  - i. Research done in 2023 which turned into a report (with Jess Whitley from University of Ottawa)
    - 1. Research was a survey about children's experiences during the school year (findings are from ALL over Ontario).
    - 2. Positive findings - most of students are in regular classroom full time, 48% felt rarely/never excluded from activities, 41% feel often/always valued by school
      - a. These figures aren't far off from the general figures from stats canada
    - 3. Negative findings
      - a. 1/3 of students had experienced involuntary seclusion/isolation
      - b. 31% had been sent home or told to stay home
      - c. 14% had experienced restraint (physically stopped)
      - d. Time spent in seclusion rooms varied, but the majority spent 5-30 minutes.
      - e. Under/around 20% of students were restrained almost 10+ times
      - f. Restraint happens across classroom placement
    - 4. Recommendations
      - a. Increased supporting in classroom
      - b. Trauma based training for staff
      - c. Provincial direction on "restraint" and "seclusion" (tracking/reporting) + on exclusions
        - i. Eliminate or drastically reduce
- b. Q&A
  - i. Paula wanted to mention subtle forms of restraint - i.e. strapping students down to wheelchair, strapping students down to toilet (to "help" them not fall over), more EA support + retention needed
  - ii. Donna mentioned that EA to parent communication has decreased in the last year and feels like she can't even get inside the school (suggests it might be in response to Landon's death).
  - iii. <https://educationactiontoronto.com/articles/what-is-happening-to-our-most-vulnerable-students/>
  - iv. <https://endseclusion.org/>
  - v. Diane mentioned that it seems we are shifting away from inclusion to segregation in terms of classrooms.
  - vi. <https://individualizedfunding.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ppt-now-is-the-time-mar-23-2023-event.pdf>

## 7. 2024 Member Meeting minutes

Motion to Approve

Mover: Lisa Flannagan

Seconder: Tracey Clarke

Motion: Carries

## 8. 2024 Financial Statements (Hirat, Treasurer)

Motion to Approve 2024 Financial Statement - Balance Sheet and Statement of Operations (Profit and Loss)

Mover: Angie Bridekirk

Seconder: Tracey Clarke  
Motion: Carries

9. Whereas IAO had revenue of less than \$100,000 in the 2024 fiscal year and anticipates a similar revenue in 2025, be it resolved that the corporation is authorized to dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the 2025 fiscal year and need not conduct an audit or engagement review for the 2024 fiscal year (extraordinary resolution, at least 80%)

Mover: Amy Sweet  
Seconder: Donna Vanderkloet  
Motion: Carries

10. Election of the Board of Directors (ordinary resolution, majority vote)

Quick comments by prospective new and returning board members.

- a. Motion to elect slate
- i. Hirat Brar
  - ii. Paula Boutis
  - iii. Cristina Lamonica
  - iv. Angie Bridekirk
  - v. Lisa Flannagan
  - vi. Donna Vanderkloet
  - vii. Amandipp Singh
  - viii. Lavaneya Sri
  - ix. Vacancy

Mover: Lisa Flannagan  
Seconder: Angie Bridekirk  
Motion: Carries

Thank our outgoing director Gabriela Ortega and acknowledgement of the incoming board.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Mover: Lisa Flannagan  
Seconder: Tracey Clarke  
Motion: Carries