



AODA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 26, 30, 2020
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Google Meet

In Attendance (24 members)

Abeywardane, Hirosh	Hastings, Sue	Masciello, Ralph	Viney, Carolyn
Beetlestone, Pam	Kaderdina, Rizwana	McRoberts, Bob	Woods, Paul
Brusselers, Dale	Khushal, Shelly	Petri, Derek	Wu, Brandon
Estriga, Teresa	Lee, Paul	Rutledge, Steve	Zamzul, Nadia
Forsyth, Dawn	Leesti, Laura	Sellers, John	
Harrison, Gerry	Long, Gail	Snowball, Andrew	
	Luk, Gilbert	Taylor, Shane	

Regrets

Anirud, Anthony; Kostic, John; Laliberte, Dawn; Luong, Stephanie; Malcolm, John; Nunes, Susie; Smith, Patrick; Vellathottam, George; Wieringa, Tina

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Welcome address and agenda overview by Brandon Wu. Formal welcome to new committee member and HRCO team member, Nadia Zamzul.

2. Starting in a Good Way

Action Item

Committee members were encouraged to find time prior to the meeting to listen to [Tune In YRDSB Podcast](#) series entitled “As Long As The River Flows – Treaty Talk – Part 1”.

Andrew Snowball provided a summary of the podcast and facilitated a engagement and discussion around various treaty lands on which we all reside. Committee members prompted to use [Ontario treaties and reserves](#) and [Native-Land.ca](#) websites to explore and learn about treaties and/or reserves.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes reviewed and motion passed to approve September 25, 2020 minutes.

4. Professional Learning Part I - Virtual meeting platforms (revisited)

Follow-up poll (from May 7, 2020 meeting) conducted asking committee “what is your preferred virtual meeting platform?”

Google Meet (69%) remains the most user friendly and easy to access platform for YRDSB staff with GAPPS login. Automatic live captions that can be turned on/off by individual users, which no other platform offers. (47% preferred Google Meet in the May 7, 2020 poll)

Zoom (31%) now formally endorsed by the Board whereby all staff have Zoom Pro accounts. Preferred by some based on user-friendly interface and ability to minimize Zoom window into picture-in-picture mode so you can still see speaker with other windows open (Google Meet requires side-by-side windows). Auto-captions and transcriptions are newly added features for Zoom Pro.

GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams, Other (all 0%).

5. Professional Learning Part 2 - Accessibility Resource Hub Collaborative Learning

Committee split into breakout rooms to review 1 of 7 accessible content core skills:

1. Headings - [Accessible Content Core Skill 1](#) (PDF version)
2. Layout - [Accessible Content Core Skill 2](#) (PDF version)
3. Contrast - [Accessible Content Core Skill 3](#) (PDF version)
4. Alternative Text - [Accessible Content Core Skill 4](#) (PDF version)
5. Links - [Accessible Content Core Skill 5](#) (PDF version)
6. Tables - [Accessible Content Core Skill 6](#) (PDF version)
7. Audio and Video - [Accessible Content Core Skill 7](#) (PDF version)

Committee reconvened to present and discuss new learnings, best practices and/or questions around each core skill.

6. Endorsement of Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2020 to 2025

Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) 2020 to 2025 shared with committee prior to meeting for final review. Revisions and feedback were incorporated based on September 25, 2020 working session. Final opportunity provided to communicate any revision requests. No

final feedback and MYAP formally endorsed by AODA Advisory Committee.

7. Subcommittee Status Updates + Annual Accessibility Report 2019-2020

Representative(s) from each subcommittee or working group presented updates from relevant sections of the [Annual Accessibility Report 2019-2020](#) and accessibility look-aheads

Barrier Buster and Built Environment

- **Accessibility projects** - approximately \$1.59 million was spent on accessibility-related projects and work on YRDSB buildings and facilities; complete list of projects started and/or completed on YRDSB facilities during the 2019-2020 school year are available on [pages 15-19 of the Annual Accessibility Report](#).
- **Barrier Buster** - very few Barrier Buster submission form received since pandemic; most project requests are made locally at the school level (and not made formally through Barrier Buster).
- **All Access Washroom Project** - full-scale implementation of All Access Washrooms Project continued throughout previous school year, although implementation has been delayed by Board closures.

Curriculum Working Group

- [Considerations for Developing Online Content](#) - resource created by LD&D in consultation with ISCS and HRCO to support EVS and SVS educators when creating online content.

Digital Media, Website Management & Learning Working Group

- **Technology support** - ITS continues to support students and staff, as needed, who are learning/working remotely.
- **New YRDSB website update** - Corporate Communications continues to work with vendor for new Drupal platform in preparation for new website launch.

Student Services Subcommittee

- **Special Equipment Amount (SEA) claims** - Ministry approved a total of 1,259 SEA claims during the 2019-2020 school year, which was unusually lower than the 2018-2019 school year (1,738); this was largely due to the school closures and expectation is more claims to increase throughout this school year.
- [Service Animal Procedure #662.14](#) - Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Procedure was developed in following ministerial direction based on PPM 163.

- **After-School Social Skill Development Programming (ASSDP)** - Fall session provided for students with ASD at 17 school sites and serviced over 100 students with ASD; spring session paused due to school closures.
- **Play. Talk. Think. Feel** - Consultants developed this online resource for adults and caregivers who support children in schools, at home and in the community; guide includes strategies, activities and a variety of resources for building and supporting social skills in children.
- **Robotics** - 30 robot kits were purchased through Autism Services in September 2019 to help develop students develop skills in math, literacy, social skills and communication. Robotics kits were made available for SERTs to sign out and receive training in using the robots and their associated iPad apps.

Human Resources Subcommittee

- **Disability Management (DM)** - The DM team serviced a total of 2,372 employees during the 2019-2020 school year, which was a 3% decrease from the previous school year; 1,172 new DM files were opened while 1,159 files were closed.
- **Workplace Accommodations** - During the summer of 2020, DM approved 1,132 employees with virtual workplace (or work from home) accommodations beginning this 2020-2021 school year. A list of assistive devices provided by HRS is available on [page 20 of the Annual Accessibility Report](#).

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Adjournment

- Next meeting scheduled for February 2021 (date to be determined).

Meeting adjourned.