



Durham Catholic District School Board

MINUTES of the **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** meeting of the Durham Catholic District School Board which was held in the North Board Room of the Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, in Oshawa on **Tuesday, April 5, 2016.**

Present

L. Smart
V. Adamo
M. LePage
J. McCafferty
L. McInnes

Staff

J. Bowyer
L. Coghlan
D. Mullane

With Regrets

L. Cook
V. Derby
M. Feeheley
K. LeFort
T. McGarry
P. Pulla
A. Shiels
E. Van de Klippe
J. Vermulst

S.E.A.C. Representatives

K. Plaunt, APSSP
M. Lacy, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

Item a.2 **Roll Call and Apologies**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item b.1 **Changes to Printed Agenda**

Inquiries and Miscellaneous -

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item g.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 Special Education Budget – Ryan Putnam

Superintendent Bowyer introduced Ryan Putnam, Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent of Business. Superintendent Putnam provided an overview of this year's Ministry Grants, the Board perspective on budget decisions, and specifically, the funds allocated for Special Education. After the presentation, Superintendent Putnam answered questions from members and invited stakeholder input on the DCDSB website: www.dcdsb.ca and select the "Budget Consultation" button. Superintendent Bowyer then outlined the priorities for this year's Special Education Budget.

DELEGATIONS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item k.1 SEAC Handbook

Superintendent Bowyer has been collaborating with legal counsel for the purpose of reviewing the "handbook" and aligning the language with Board by-laws. Changes are still being finalized and the final version will be shared with members at the May meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Item I.1 Coordinator's Report – L. Coghlan

March 22, 2016 – Program Support Teacher Meeting

Staff of Community Advantage Rehabilitation provided a presentation on Fine Motor Skills and how to identify, remediate and prevent fine motor difficulties in the primary classroom. Teachers were provided with valuable pre-printing activities and practical

Item I.1 Coordinator's Report – continued

ways to include helpful visual and fine motor strategies in the classroom. Program Support Teachers then participated in an IEP audit, using the IEP checklist. In small groups, Program Support teachers reviewed IEPs focusing on specific areas such as Student profile, Assessment Data, Student Strengths/Needs, Accommodations, Equipment, Provincial Assessments, Human Resources and IEP Team. We will provide the opportunity for IEP audits at future PST meetings in an effort to continually improve Individual Education Plans.

April 22, 2016 – A Robotics event will take place at CEC Conference Centre. Each Family of Schools will send an elementary team to participate in this event. This is a great opportunity for students to have fun and learn more about coding and robotics.

During the month of April, elementary schools part of the Dwyer Family of Schools will participate in the "Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip". Beginning this Wednesday, students with Assistive Technology will participate in Secondary classes, receive an introduction to One Note from A.T. Specialist Kristi Norris, and meet with Program Support Teacher, Gianna Tessarolo, to learn about what Assistive Technology looks like in secondary school.

DCDSB and Parents as Partners is proud to present our 'Learning with a Difference Conference' May 25th. We are looking forward to our Keynote presentation from Lesley Andrew, as well as participating in break-out sessions that explore different topics such as Assistive Technology, Resiliency, Pathways (both from Elementary to Secondary, and Secondary to Post-Secondary), and Organizational Skills.

Mental Health Update:

April is a busy month for mental health training. A Mental Health First Aid session for Secondary staff will take place on April 7 & 8. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training session for Elementary staff will take place on April 20 & 21. Two safeTALK sessions for staff will be offered on the April 15 PD day. Several other sessions being offered on the April 15 PD day will focus on mental health and well-being.

The parent safeTALK session unfortunately did not take place in March, as there was not enough interest to fill a session. We've invited those parents who indicated interest to join with staff for an evening session on May 26, 2016.

Item I.2 Superintendent's Report- J. Bowyer

Congratulations to Max Travis who was our Curriculum Chair of Program Support at Msgr. Paul Dwyer C.H.S. He was recently promoted to the position of Vice Principal at All Saints C.S.S. We have posted for a new Curriculum Chair.

Item I.2 Superintendent's Report- continued

April 15 PA Day – In collaboration with its affiliates, the Durham Catholic District School Board is planning a system-wide Professional Activity Day for elementary and secondary staff, including Educational Assistants, Designated Early Childhood Educators, Teachers, Secretaries, Student Services, Principals and Vice Principals. The intent of this day will be to provide participants with an opportunity to participate in professional learning through a series of workshops (either 2 half day or 1 full day) provided by Board staff and partner agencies on topics related to Ministry and Board priorities. Many of the approximately 150 workshops being offered will be facilitated by Student Services staff members.

The UP Math program - Ultimate Potential Math has had significant success at Monsignor John Pereyema C.S.S. The Pereyema teachers work with their feeder schools to determine which students would benefit the most from a learning strategies class in Math in first semester of grade 9. Students meet with tremendous success when they take Grade 9 applied math in second semester. Next year, all schools are expected to run an UP Math program and will be supported in this regard. Professional learning and sharing has already begun.

Superintendent Bowyer asked Diane Mullane, Mental Health Leader, to provide information about a collaborative project with DDSB and Durham Region Health Department to create a resource for parents to support the well-being of young people transitioning from Elementary to Secondary. . A "final draft" of the parent resource has been created, and there is a request for feedback from stakeholder groups, including parents and staff members. Once the draft is finalized, a polished resource will be created for distribution to parents. We are hoping that, through your channels, you may be able to help us get some of this feedback. The document and a short feedback questionnaire was shared with SEAC by email on April 6. with the request to share with parent groups. The final date for feedback is May 6, 2016 and all feedback can be sent to Diane Mullane at the CEC (hard copies) or electronically by emailing Diane or Cynthia: cynthia.mackey@dcdsb.ca

ASSOCIATION REPORTS**Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth - L. McInnes**

- 3 RFECY staff will be presenting 2 FASD workshops at the DCDSB – Staff Professional Development Day on Friday, April 15th at All Saints C.S.
- Lake Ridge Community Support Services and Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth – Durham Region are presenting a workshop on sexual education for parents of adolescents from 8 – 12 years old with Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Date if the workshop is Tuesday, May 10th. Flyer was provided to SEAC Members.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS- continuedAutism Ontario – Durham Region – T. Vetere

- **Raise the Flag Campaign** – school registration is open. Last year over 400 Ontario schools and 340 municipalities raised the flag. School registration closes on March 11. World Autism Awareness day is on Saturday, April 2, but celebrations in schools and flag raising ceremonies will take place on April 4. A list of ceremonies is posted on the website:
<http://www.raisetheflagforautism.com/>
- **Kerry's Place Autism Services:**
Girls Group: This group is for girls ages 10- 15 years.
Social Club for Kids: Back by popular demand - 2 times slots are available for kids who want to get together to play games, do LEGO, learn new skills and make friends.
Sibling Support Group: This is a monthly support group for siblings of children with ASD. The group is for siblings ages 10 years and up.
Sib Shop: This is a full day program for siblings of children with ASD to meet each other, share experience, learn more about ASD and have fun. Register at <https://secure.kerrysplace.org/community>.
- **Employment Works Canada** is one of three new Worktopia programs that have been designed to improve the employment futures of young adults with ASD. **It is a 12-week employment preparedness training program for individuals ages 15 to 29** who are no longer attending school and are seeking opportunities to develop the skills necessary to obtain meaningful and sustainable paid employment. The program incorporates peer and co-worker support, and uses adult learning principles to develop and practice social, communication and employment skills in a variety of workplace settings and teams. It occurs two times per week for 2.5 hours each session. There is currently no charge to participate in the program, and if you are interested in learning more, please call or e-mail Jennifer Leo at jleo@abilitiescentre.org or (905) 665-8500 ext 105 or visit the Worktopia website at www.worktopia.ca. There will be a new session on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at Abilities Centre beginning **April 12th**.
- **Integrate Health Services Spring Groups** (in partnership with Kids Clinic):
Little Leapers- Gross Motor Skill Development (Ages 3-5)
Boost- School Preparation (Grades 6-8)
Hands On- Printing Skill Development (Ages 3-8)
Managing Me- Managing Emotions (Ages 3-8)
Think- Managing Emotions (Ages 3-8)
Triple P- Positive Parenting Program (Parent Support)
C.A.L.M- CBT, Anxiety, Load Management (Ages 14-18)
Able- Social Skill Development (Ages 6-12)
Pals-Social Skill Development (Ages 6-12)
Tools for Success- Strategies for School Achievement (Grades 9-12)
Behaviour Management Workshop- Parent/Guardian support for severe behaviour
Please visit their website for program details, dates and intake form.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS- continued

- **Special Needs Roadmap**
Also included in the Autism Ontario Newsletter was a link to this webpage which contains a document called the Special Needs Roadmap. It has been appended for ease of access. [Ontario Special Needs Roadmap](#).
- **Girls Nite for Autism** – Fri Apr 22 – 7:30 p.m. Ajax Convention Centre
www.girlsniteforautism.ca
- **3rd Annual Autism Awareness 5K Run** – Sunday May 1 – Heydenshore Park Whitby – www.autismsangels.com to register, join or donate.
- **Caregiver Support Groups:**
Family/Caregiver Support Group – April Meeting Friday, April 29 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Young Adult Family/Caregiver Support Group – April meeting Friday, April 15th from 7 – 9 p.m.
- Abilities Centre has offered special rates to members of Autism Ontario Durham Region. details in flyer attached to minutes.
- Free Community Parenting Workshop Series – hosted by Oshawa Psychological & Counselling Services – details in flyer for topics and workshop dates.
- ASD & Mental Health Conference – Thursday April 28, 2016 – hosted by Autism Ontario and Community Living Kawartha Lakes – info and registration online:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/asd-and-mental-health-conference-thursday-april-28-2016-830am-430pm-registration-21081951685>

Website: www.autismontario.com/durham

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – Mitch LePage

- May is National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month – the national office is preparing a series of media releases, videos and promotional messages to raise awareness
- **Outrun Cystic Fibrosis** – April 10 – Ajax Waterfront www.outruncf.ca
- National Walk Day – **Walk to Make Cystic Fibrosis History** – May 29 – Metro Toronto Zoo
- Durham Chapter **Strokes for Life Golf Tournament** – June 9 – Oshawa Golf Club

Learning Disabilities Association-Durham- L. Smart

- **Integra Workshop Series - Spring 2016** – workshops for parents/caregivers of children with learning disabilities. Family and community members, educators, counsellors and any other interested adults are welcome. Cost is \$15.00 per person payable by cash or cheque at the door. A list of dates and workshops:
Thurs April 14 – Walk a Mile in my Shoes: Language-Based LDs
Thurs April 28 – Walk a Mile in my Shoes: Visual-Bsed/Non-Verbal LDs
Thurs May 5 – Navigating Social Media and Technology for Youth with LDs
Thurs May 26 – Understanding Anxiety and Learning Disabilities

ASSOCIATION REPORTS- continued

Thurs June 3 – Managing Change and Times of Transition with Children/Youth with LDs

register at <http://www.childdevelop.ca/programs/integra-program/workshops-and-training/workshop-registration-form>

- Upcoming Workshops:
- **21st Century Classrooms** – Collaboration, Technology and Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities – Thursday March 31, 2016 – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Trent University Durham – 55 Thornton Road S., Oshawa.
- **When the Brain Can't Hear** – this talk will highlight Auditory Processing Disorder Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Trent University Durham Room 105 – 55 Thornton Road S., Oshawa.

CORRESPONDENCE

none

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by J. McCafferty



Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory
Committee



Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary – Cynthia Mackey