



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, October 6, 2015.**

Present

L. Smart
V. Adamo
K. LeFort
J. McCafferty
T. McGarry
P. Pulla (Conf Call)
E. Van de Klippe

Staff

G. O'Reilly for J. Bowyer
T. Ezquerra
D. Mullane
S. Phoenix

With Regrets

L. Cook
B. Cummins
V. Derby
M. Feeheley
M. LePage
L. McInnes
J. Vermulst
T. Vetere

S.E.A.C. Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
M. Lacy, Principal/Vice Principal Association
C. Colligan, OECTA

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair L. Smart called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and offered the opening prayer

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

Superintendent Bowyer sent her regrets for this meeting – Superintendent G. O'Reilly attended in her place.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

none

Item b.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion No. SS-2015-10-06-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by J. McCaffery

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, October 6, 2015 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smart welcomed April Shiels – who would like to join SEAC as representative for the Durham Down Syndrome Association. Nomination letter from DDSA will be provided at the November meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item e.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

**Item f.1 Approval of minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee Meeting of September 15, 2015**

Motion No. SS-2015-10-06-02 Approval of September 15, 2015 Minutes

Moved by J. McCaffery, seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

**Item f.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee September 15, 2015**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 DCDSB Website Redesign

A. Roffey

Amanda Roffey and Jennifer Bastarache, Communications Officers for Durham Catholic District School Board, gave a presentation and overview of the new design plan for the Board website.

SEAC members were invited to submit their suggestions and ideas to contribute to the process of the website design.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

none.

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 Coordinator's Report – Teresa Ezquerra

- Sharing of Excellence Series - The month of September featured two Celebrating Inclusion topics from Student Services: How to Write an Effective IEP and Assistive Technology Refresher. Teresa Ezquerra, Coordinator, supported staff on how to create IEPs that meet the individual programming needs of our students. Kate Remiz, AT Coordinator, and the Assistive Technology Team provided a refresher session on the use of Assistive software, including Word Q, Smart Ideas, and Kurzweil.
- Secondary teachers of Alternative Curriculum courses attended an "Equals Math" session on Monday, October 5th. The purpose of this training opportunity was to support teachers in the delivery of curriculum for students with a variety of learning needs and abilities. These teachers will also attend "Structured Teaching" training on November 16th and 30th. Structured Teaching will assist teachers in preparing students with ASD and/or other related disorders for the workplace by maximizing task independence.

Item k.1 **Coordinator's Report – continued**

- DCDSB and SEAC are hosting our third annual "Pathways to the Future....Looking Beyond Secondary School" event on Tuesday November 3. Students, parents, educators and administrators are welcome to attend the session from 1-3 or 6-8 at the Catholic Education Centre Conference Centre. Program Support teachers will be attending one of the sessions. SEAC members are welcome to join us to share information at our SEAC booth. The various agencies will cover topics such as community services, employment opportunities, recreational opportunities, community resources and college/university preparation.
- **Mental Health Update:** Our safeTALK training on September 23 was well-attended by a diverse group including teachers, EAs, schools secretaries and central board staff.

Upcoming events in October will include:

Mental Health Steering Committee meeting on Oct 7;
TAMI teacher training for Intermediate teachers from 10 DCDSB schools on Oct 21;
Mental Health First Aid for EAs on Oct 22-23;
Training Mental Health and Addictions Nurses on our Board Suicide Protocol on October 29.

Item k.2 **Superintendent's Report- G. O'Reilly for J. Bowyer**

Superintendent Bowyer sent her regrets for this evening. She is a member of a provincial Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association committee and is attending a meeting.

SEAC was successful in securing a \$10 000 Pro Grant. The grant will be used to organize three conferences for parents – the Pathways to the Future event in November, a Mental Health focused parent session in February and a parent event in April- similar to last year's Autism Awareness Conference.

The first Program Support Teacher meeting of the year took place in September and principals attended. It was a productive meeting and the principals and program support teachers appreciated the opportunity to come together to learn about Student Services' strategic priorities for the coming year.

Item k.2 **Superintendent's Report - continued**

Next week, Superintendent Bowyer and our Mental Health lead Diane Mullane will accompany Principal Mike O'Neill to the Ontario Institute for Educational Leadership's Safe and Healthy Schools Conference in Ottawa. Principal O'Neill will be doing a workshop for educators from across Canada on our Board's approach to and success with Restorative Practice over the last 7 years.

Motion SS-2015-10-06-03

Approval of the October 6, 2015 Verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Reports

Moved by J. McCafferty seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Report at the October 6, 2015
Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

Link to the Fall 2015 issue of Sound Blast:

[http://us2.campaign-
archive1.com/?u=6c3a7160ecc4f11e302f61510&id=59bf47d09f&e=573fe65c3a](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=6c3a7160ecc4f11e302f61510&id=59bf47d09f&e=573fe65c3a)

There is a particularly valuable section in the newsletter for teachers working with children with hearing impairment.

Family Camp in August was well attended and included three families from Durham Catholic District School Board.

“Hear Hear” event in September was a great success and fundraiser.

VOICE currently has a temporary Chair with the hope of a permanent Chair soon.

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

Link to the October 2015 Newsletter:

http://www.icontact-archive.com/OKL6XAZDiBA1H4Zj0_YXki0pvXDiuEHO?w=3

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Region – L. Smart

Learning Disabilities Awareness Evening – Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Trent University Durham – 55 Thornton Rd. S., Oshawa

Session A – The ADHD Brain: Executive Functioning Deficits

Session B - At Last We Have the Computer....Now How Do We Use It?

Association Reports - Continued

Integra / LDAO Partnership Online Workshop – beginning October 19, 2015

Contact: Diane Wagner: dianew@LDAO.ca or 416-929-4311-Ex. 22

To register: www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/workshops-courses/partnering-with-schools-for-student-success-effective-parent-advocacy/

CORRESPONDENCE

m.1 Upper Canada District School Board

Due to a missing page in the agenda copy of the letter, the Upper Canada DSB letter will be received and filed at the November 3 meeting.

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

none

PENDING ITEMS

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2015-10-06-04 Adjournment

Moved by P. Pulla seconded by E. Van de Clippe

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of October 6 2015 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by Vice Chair Pulla.



Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory
Committee



Gerry O'Reilly
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Cynthia Mackey