



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, December 6, 2016.**

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
L. Smart	J. Bowyer	A. Shiels	
K. LeFort	D. Mullane	T. McGarry	
P. Pulla (via teleconference)	S. Phoenix	M. Feeheley	
V. Adamo	C. Baetz	B. Cummins	
L. Cook	L. Coghlan		
M. LePage			
J. McCafferty			
L. McInnes			
C. Nosseir			
E. Van de Klippe (via teleconference)			

S.E.A.C. Representatives

K. McCarthy, APSSP
D. Wilson, OECTA Secondary
M.A. Thomas/L. Neubauer, OECTA Elementary
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

None

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. McCafferty seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, December 6, 2016 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-02 Change in Alternate Representative - Resignation

Moved by L. McInnes seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the resignation of Joseph Vermulst, alternate representative of Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region.”

Carried

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-03 Change in Alternate Representative - Nomination

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the nomination of Kari Burke, alternate representative of Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region.”

Carried

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-04 Alternate Representative - Nomination

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the nomination of Christine Pegler, alternate representative of Autism Ontario – Durham Region.”

Carried

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 November 8, 2016**

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-05 Approval of Minutes

Moved by L. Cook seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee November 8, 2016**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 **Provincial Engagement on Well-Being** **J. Bowyer**

Superintendent Janine Bowyer, Tish Sheppard and James MacKinnon, Teaching & Learning Consultants, did a presentation on Well-Being in our Schools – Strength in Our Society. Well-being is a positive sense of self, spirit and belonging that we feel when our cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. The ministry is focusing on four domains of well-being, which include: Cognitive, Emotional, Social and Physical. A short video about Ontario’s well-being strategy was shown.

The Ministry of Education invited senior representatives from all 72 school boards in Ontario to attend a two-day event in November for a collaborative learning opportunity that included panel discussions and breakout sessions. A regional session for Board teams was also held and further feedback was provided.

The Ministry is looking for feedback from stakeholder groups (e.g., SEAC members, parents, students, teachers, administrators, counsellors, social workers, community partners, etc.), to determine what well-being looks like, what is needed to support it and how best to measure it. Small group discussions were held to discuss the three related themes: Understanding Well-Being, Promoting and Supporting Student Well-Being, Knowing our Impact. The members present, as well as all guests were invited to participate in a feedback session, based on the Ministry of Education’s survey. Feedback will be collated and submitted to the Ministry on behalf of SEAC.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 **Coordinator's Report – L. Coghlan**

The 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trips' continued during the month of November. Feedback from the students continue to be very positive. Students enjoy experiencing high school life and learning how their learning profiles will be supported in schools. The Grade 8 students continue to make connections with the high school students, and make connections with Program Support to learn how they will be supported with their Assistive Technology once they arrive in grade nine.

Our Pathways to the Future....Looking Beyond Secondary School held on November 8 was another great success. Over 50 families and 60 PSTs attended the afternoon and evening. This year our Assistive Technology Team from Student Services attended and they were a hit. New this year were Daysplus Centre for Adults with Special Needs and DREN (Durham Region Employment Network). The agencies, families and PSTs liked the casual personalized carousel style presentation. Many families found the first visit overwhelming but were better prepared and focused the second time around. Things are constantly changing so it is good to offer this event every year. ODSP, DSO, and LDAO continue to be popular agencies to visit. Many asked about recreational opportunities for those between the ages of 14 and 18.

Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claims will be submitted to the Ministry by December 15th.

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.2 **Mental Health Leader's Report – D. Mullane**

This month we had our kick-off event for our "System Approach to Mindfulness." Eleven schools (plus some members of Student Services) will be participating in this pilot, which includes teams of at least three individuals per school (one must be an

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.2 **Mental Health Leader's Report – D. Mullane** (Cont'd)

Administrator) taking an online course, and finding ways to bring mindfulness practices or strategies into their school. The course teaches individuals how to develop their own personal mindfulness practice, as we know that this is a very important step before teaching mindfulness to children. Participants will have the fundamental tools to continue a mindfulness practice once the course completes.

On December 1st, 26 staff members took part in our first Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) “**TUNE-UP**” session. This was well-received and something that we will continue to offer as a refresher for individuals who have previously been ASIST trained.

On the topic of suicide, the Youth Suicide Prevention Action Group (a sub-group of DCYPN) has just released a Community Report, based on input from 154 Durham residents who participated in either a community forum, or an on-line questionnaire. The purpose of this report was to include the community voice to contribute to an evidence-informed approach to youth suicide prevention. The report provides an overview of respondent knowledge of community services offered; insight into emerging strategies to promote positive mental health; an assessment of the gap between strengths and needs, and; recommendations for future pathways for Durham Region to consider. The report will be available on the DCYPN website. This Action Group (YSP) is currently working on various community initiatives, including prevention initiatives (e.g., community training, BeSafe app) youth engagement, media reporting guidelines, and so on.

Plans are well underway for the March 2nd parent conference. Similar to last year, we will be having a keynote speaker, followed by a choice of 8 break-out sessions, including some repeats from last year and some new workshops. We would still welcome a SEAC rep to join the planning committee, if anyone is interested.

Diane Mullane and members of the Behaviour Resource Team will be attending a two-day intensive workshop later this week with Dr. Ross Greene on the topic Collaborative and Proactive Solutions: Understanding and Helping Students with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Challenges. This model is one which the DCDSB has endorsed for several years, as it focuses on solving problems, it emphasizes collaborative rather than unilateral solutions, and it encourages proactive rather than reactive intervention.

Item k.3 **Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer**

At the Inaugural Board meeting last night, John Rinella, Trustee for the Town of Whitby, was acclaimed for position of Chair of the Board; Kathy LeFort, Trustee for the townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock was acclaimed for position of Vice Chair

Thank you to our trustee representatives Kathy LeFort and Paul Pulla. Committees will be assigned at the next Board meeting. We may or may not have the same trustees back next year.

Thank you to Chair Lynne Smart – for her leadership this year. Elections will be held at the next SEAC meeting which is in the first week of school.

We continue to do excellent work in supporting students with Learning Disabilities in Mathematics. We are focusing on junior level students and students in grade 9 applied mathematics. We are making significant progress, and will bring a mid-year report to SEAC on our progress in the new year.

Very appreciative of the work that our ABA Facilitator – Kara Kenney is doing as part of our Autism Resource Team and our Behaviour Resource Team. With the inclusion of this role, we have changed our model of support to include professional learning opportunities for school teams that are involved – including release time – so they can firmly understand the importance of ABA theories and practices and the ability to generalize them with students beyond the student for whom the school made the referral. We will have a presentation on this new model in the new year as well.

Durham Children and Youth Planning Network had its official launch as a self-sustaining organization on November 30. As part of this celebration, they unveiled the Child and Youth Well-Being Report – which gives Durham specific data on 31 indicators. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Durham Children and Youth website to review the purpose of this network and to have a look at our Well-Being report at dcpyn.ca

Welcome to our new members. These motions will be brought to the Board in December and in January you will be official members.

Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trips (SWATTT) – consistent but also unique flavour for each high school. Thank you to our curriculum chairs and Kate Remiz, Co-ordinator for Assistive Technology.

Merry Christmas and wishing everyone a very peaceful holiday.

Motion SS-2016-12-06-06

Approval of the December 6, 2016 Verbal
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and
Superintendent Reports

Moved by J. McCafferty seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the
December 6, 2016 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

Webinar: Successful Parents, Happy Families: 12 Strategies for Stressful Times!

Date: **Friday, December 16, 2016 12:00 PM EST**

Being a parent(s)/family member of a child, teen or adult with ASD can be highly stressful. "Perfect" parents and families do not exist, but some cope better than others. In his counselling practice, "successful parents" have taught Dale twelve strategies (secrets) for a happier and more fulfilling family life. With ideas from stress management and family therapy research, this session will reveal and discuss these strategy 'secrets'.

Did you know that with your Autism Ontario membership you can get discounts for Ontario attractions, chapter events, Abilities Centre memberships and free Kids Up Front tickets? What a great deal! (\$70/mth for family membership at abilities centre with an Autism Ontario membership (\$50/yr).

World Autism Awareness Day - April 2, 2017

World Autism Awareness Day is fast approaching! Because April 2nd falls on a Sunday this year, Autism Ontario will be officially celebrating on Monday, April 3rd. Are you a parent or educator interested in building stronger, more inclusive school communities for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Would you like your city or town council to raise the flag in support of people on the autism spectrum? Click here to learn how you can get your local school, municipality or businesses involved.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

Princess Ball Fundraising Event – **Sunday, February 5, 2017** – Oshawa Golf and Curling Club.

Community – L. Cook

Special Olympics – Winter session skating programs begin January 8, 2017. Contact Bonnie Morris pbmorris@sympatico.ca

Scout trees – Annual Christmas tree sale – all communities across Durham through Dec. 24/16.

Scouts – Pickering and Ajax – eWaste recycling program – January 7, 2017 at Father Fenelon Catholic School, Pickering

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

In the past year Grandview has expanded in the following ways:

- Expanded Medical Developmental Paediatrician compliment to 3 Full time MDs
- Expanded capacity in the ABA program for children and youth with Autism
- Advanced the research program and study offerings to families
- Adapted the sensory integration program to a workshop for parent's format
- Worked collaboratively with school boards and other community agencies to advance the special needs strategy launch across Durham Region, specifically working to ensure a single plan of care and seamless service delivery for rehab services
- Saw 5,600 clients offering 61,000 appointment

Grandview is currently in discussions to increase access to diagnosis services, specifically Autism diagnosis.

Website: www.grandviewkids.ca

CORRESPONDENCE

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2016-12-06-07 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
December 6, 2016 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by Trustee LeFort.

Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Liz Beckstead