



## 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, March 7, 2017.**

### **Present**

L. Smart  
K. LeFort  
V. Adamo  
K. Burke  
L. Cook  
M. LePage  
L. McInnes  
C. Nosseir  
A. Shiels  
E. Van de Klippe

### **Staff**

J. Bowyer  
C. Baetz  
D. Mullane  
S. Phoenix  
C. Plommer

### **With Regrets**

J. McCafferty  
T. McGarry  
J. Oldman

### **Absent**

B. Cummins  
M. Feeheley  
C. Pegler

### **S.E.A.C. Representatives**

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

### **Item a.1 Memorials and Prayer**

Superintendent Bowyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 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**

Superintendent Bowyer requested the addition of item o.2 – Correspondence from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board.

**Item b.2      Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-01      Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Smart

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, March 7, 2017 meeting as printed.”

Carried

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Item c.1      Trustee Membership**

Following the inaugural Board meeting on December 5, 2016, Trustee Committees were confirmed. Superintendent Bowyer announced that Trustees Kathy LeFort and Janice Oldman will serve on SEAC for the 2017 year.

**CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS**

**ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Superintendent Bowyer opened the floor for nominations for the position of chair of S.E.A.C. for the period March 7, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

<b><u>Nominee</u></b>	<b><u>Moved by</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded by</u></b>	<b><u>Willing to Stand?</u></b>
Lynne Smart	Lynn McInnes	Emily van de Klippe	Yes

Superintendent Bowyer called three times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed.

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-02      Close Nominations

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Chair of S.E.A.C for the period from March 7, 2017 to December 31, 2017.”

Carried

Superintendent Bowyer announced that Lynne Smart, representative for the Learning Disabilities Association – Durham was acclaimed to the position of Chair of S.E.A.C. Lynne Smart assumed the position of Chair and expressed her thanks.

**ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chair Smart opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C. for the period of March 7, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

<b><u>Nominee</u></b>	<b><u>Moved by</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded by</u></b>	<b><u>Willing to Stand?</u></b>
Valerie Adamo	Mitch LePage	Linda Cook	Yes

Chair Smart then called three times for further nominations. Nominations were then closed.

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-03                      Close Nominations

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C for the period from March 7, 2017 to December 31, 2017.”

Carried

Chair Smart announced that Valerie Adamo, representative for VOICE for the Hearing Impaired, was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C. Valerie Adamo accepted the position of Vice Chair.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Item g.1**              **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

**Item h.1**      **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education  
Advisory Committee Meeting of December 6, 2016**

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-04                      Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the  
Minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

**Item h.2**      **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education  
Advisory Committee December 6, 2016**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Item i.1**      **Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team**                      **H. Killoran/K. Kenney**

Helen Killoran and Kara Kenney, members of our Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team (DCART), presented on courses we offer to our educators on the principles of ABA. Training is offered to Educational Assistants, Teachers and Early Childhood Educators. This supports the implementation of PPM 140 which indicates that strategies based on Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) are used with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as needed. Four major components of PPM 140 include: Reinforcement, Data Collection, Generalization and Individualized Programming. Four courses were developed based on the components of PPM 140

This year, an additional course on Functional Assessment and Intervention was added. This course is open to educators involved with either the DCART and BRT. This 4-week course was developed to build capacity within the school teams to apply the knowledge to other future students.

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Item m.1      Coordinator's Report – C. Plommer**

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Assistive Technology team hosted their final 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip' at Monsignor John Pereyma CSS. The students who use Assistive Technology from the local elementary schools experienced what Grade 7 would be like. They participated in Mr. Stokes' Science class with their technology and received extensive training on One Note. The student experienced what it is like to eat in the school cafeteria and they learned how A.T. is supported with Mr. Porco, the Program Support Teacher for the Grade 7 and 8s. After surveying the students about their experience, feedback included "I now know how to use my computer in my new school."

As part of the DCDSB Renewed Math Strategy, our Student Services Department continues to build capacity with our program support teachers at the elementary and secondary levels. At our most recent capacity session held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, both the student services coordinators and staff from our psychology department helped teachers to understand the strengths and needs that make up learning profiles of students with learning disabilities and what are the best strategies to put in place to help them to achieve and reach their full potential in mathematics.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be inviting interested teachers to come to our "So You Want to be a PST" presentation. This presentation is given with the hope to encourage qualified teachers to apply to this most rewarding role as the Special Education expert in their school.

In April, Student Services Coordinators will be embarking on our review of the needs across our system to prepare for the upcoming 2017-18 school year.

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

On January 19 & 27, we offered a **Mental Health First Aid** session and opened it up to all staff. In addition to teachers and EAs, several school secretaries also participated. Our next MHFA session will take place on March 31 and April 6.

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

Two **safeTALK** sessions were provided for EAs on January 20 (Elementary) and January 31 (Secondary).

The TAMI Intermediate Summit took place on January 24 at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Four student delegates and one teacher attended from eight DCDSB schools. A second date has been added in April, due to high demand.

January 25 was Bell Let's Talk Day. Administrators were provided with lapel pins, and schools were encouraged to print off Bell Let's Talk stickers and promote the event.

A Sharing of Excellence workshop on Building Personal Resiliency was also offered on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

A quick update on the Mindfulness Fundamentals course that was mentioned at the December meeting. In total 59 staff (from 11 schools) took part in the course. A follow-up event took place this afternoon. We're excited to see the trickle-down effect in schools as educators begin to incorporate these skills for themselves and with their students.

We've been collaborating for several months with the Durham Region Health Department on a document for parents to support their teens as they transition to high school. This resource, Teens Can Be Resilient...in High School, a Parent's Guide, is now available in print and online to view and order at [durham.ca/mentalhealth](http://durham.ca/mentalhealth). Topics covered in this resource include: understanding mental health and resiliency; fostering everyday skills for living in teens; peer relationships; bullying; dating; risk-taking and substance use; and supporting teens that are having difficulty coping. (SEAC members were provided with a copy of this guide).

Finally, our parent conference was a huge success. Thanks to all community partners who provided workshops and set-up displays.

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

Congratulations to Diane Mullane and SEAC on their "Parents as Partners" evening last week. They had approximately 100 people in attendance and significant positive feedback about the keynote and various speakers. Their keynote speaker was so well received that we have booked her for our Board wide PA day in April.

**Item m.3**     **Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer** (Cont'd)

We applied for After School Program to Support Students with Autism – specialized funding provided by the Ministry of Education. Beginning after the March Break, we will be offering after school programs in five sites, serving approximately 45 students and their parents. We will be using a research based program called The Friendship Lab.

Nominations for the DCDSB Board Award of Merit – Liz Beckstead will email the form. If you know someone, or a group, who meets the criteria, please consider nominating them, or we could nominate someone as SEAC. Nominations close on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Updates from the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Durham Catholic Children's Foundation Dinner – Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Jubilee Pavilion. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased on-line at <http://www.durhamcatholicfoundation.ca/en/4th-annual-foundation-dinner.aspx>
- Community Run for Hope – April 23, 2017 – at Msgr. Paul Dwyer CHS. This is a charity event organized by DCDSB staff to support the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation. Register at <http://www.durhamcatholicfoundation.ca/>

Catholic School Board Budget Consultation Process – as part of our budget process, our Finance Committee annually seeks input from members of the Durham Catholic community. The committee will be inviting feedback in the following areas:

- Essential supports and services to be sustained;
- Areas in need of additional supports;
- Areas to consider for budget savings; and
- Other comments or suggestions

Please go to <http://www.dcdsb.ca/en/our-board/Budget-Consultation.aspx> to find out how you can provide input (either in-person, on-line or in writing). We will discuss the special education budget at the April meeting after the budget gets announced at the end of March.

The Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant is available again this year. Michelle Meraw will apply for the grant on behalf of SEAC so we can offer two parent evenings next year.

World Down Syndrome Day is March 21, 2017 and will be supported at the school level.

**Item m.3 Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer** (Cont'd)

World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2017. Packages will be sent to schools to run events to support Autism.

Dress Loud Day in support of the Hearing Impaired is May 5, 2017.

Motion SS-2017-03-07-05                      Approval of the March 7, 2017 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the March 7, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham – L. Smart

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region chapter presentations are (usually) held the last **Thursday** of each month. All are welcome. No registration or fee required.

Please save these dates for our upcoming presentations:

No March meeting date

**Two April dates:**

**Thursday, April 6th 2017** LDADR will be joined by Carrie Clayton from the Child Development Institute's Integra Program

**Thursday, April 27th 2017** LDADR will discuss technology and the Individual Education Plan

**Thursday, May 25th 2017** LDADR welcomes a second presentation by Sherry Raffalovitch

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

The voice board of directors has completed its restructuring, resulting in the creation of a volunteer board. They have created a new mandate which focuses more on education, advocacy and family supports. In conjunction with this a new Logo has been unveiled (see attached).



VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo (Cont'd)

**MAY UPDATE**

The month of May is Hearing Awareness month and in support of this Voice runs two programs; The first is DRESS LOUD DAY schools and businesses can participate in this awareness and fundraising event. Official Dress ILoud day is Friday May 5, however many organizations choose to celebrate this on another day in the month of May. Last year several school in our board participated in this event. For information on participation please contact Email: [admin@voicefordeafkids.com](mailto:admin@voicefordeafkids.com)

The annual VOICE conference has returned to its usual schedule and is being held at the University of Guelph on Saturday May 6. Information follows in attached flyer.

The Annual VOICE CAMP is being offered again this year and will be held at Bark Lake Leadership Centre, Bark Lake in Irondale on August 11,12 & 13 the theme this year is DRESS LOUD to register Email: [admin@voicefordeafkids.com](mailto:admin@voicefordeafkids.com)

Voice is also supporting a petition to amend the income tax act in support of updating the test for qualification for those with hearing loss for the disability tax credit. See attached flyer.

Durham Down Syndrome Association – A. Shiels

March 21<sup>st</sup> – World Down Syndrome Day

Come celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with the DDSA and Blue Nail Crew on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Abilities Centre from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Paint your nails blue and post to social media with #bluenailcrew

AGM DDSA – March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Looking to fill several positions on the Board.

[www.bluenailcrew.ca](http://www.bluenailcrew.ca)  
[president@ddsa.ca](mailto:president@ddsa.ca)

Community – L. Cook

Lakeridge Community Services event – “The Generic Power of Behaviour Analysis: Concepts and Applications – Dr. Patrick Friman, Ph.D., ABPP, Vice President of Behavioural Health, Boys Town Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, UNMC. October 19<sup>th</sup> at Deer Creek Golf Club. Registration opens June 2017. For details visit: [www.lrcss.com](http://www.lrcss.com)

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

In honour of Autism Awareness Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Autism Ontario will be honouring student leaders in the area of autism with a \$100 reward.

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

**Spring into Literacy** 6th Annual Conference for Professionals and Parents supporting Early Literacy Development of Children from Birth to Six Years – **Saturday, April 8, 2017**. Registration deadline -- **March 16, 2017**  
Please register online at [www.grandviewkids.ca](http://www.grandviewkids.ca)

Grandview is an ASD Hub in partnership with the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario as the lead. We will be providing 140 additional Autism Diagnostic assessments until

March 31, 2018 as part of the new Ontario Autism Program. Parents have expressed to the government that they were having trouble accessing diagnosis early and as result Government has committed to funding 2,000 additional assessments across the province. Referrals are sent through the regular referral mechanism to Grandview which can be found on the Centre webpage at [www.grandviewkids.ca](http://www.grandviewkids.ca)

On March 5, 2017, hundreds of Grandview parents rallied and signed a petition in Oshawa to raise awareness for the 2700 + kids currently on the waitlist. Grandview was originally built in 1983 to serve only 400/year, we now serve over 8000 /yr. The hope is the provincial government will come through with \$40 million in infrastructure funding for a new Grandview. The rally was a great success as their voices were heard at Queens Park as Ontario PC Leader **Patrick Brown**, Oshawa NDP MPP **Jennifer French**, Whitby/Oshawa MPP **Lorne Coe** called on the Premier on behalf of Grandview. This has also been featured on Global Durham News and CTV.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

Annual Regional Volunteer Leadership Conference – March 31, April 1, 2 in Toronto.

Outrun Cystic Fibrosis 5K Walk/Run – Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Carruthers Marsh Pavilion, Ajax – 12:00 p.m.

Strokes for Life – Golf Tournament – Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. at the Oshawa Golf and Curling Club

Website: [cysticfibrosis.ca](http://cysticfibrosis.ca)

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **o.1 Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board**

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-06    Receive and File Correspondence

Moved by V. Adamo seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence at the March 7, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

### **o.2 Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board**

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-07    Receive and File Correspondence

Moved by V. Adamo seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence at the March 7, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

## **INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

### **PENDING ITEMS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2017-03-07-08    Adjournment

Moved by E. van de Klippe seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of March 7, 2017 adjourn.”

Carried

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo.

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Lynne Smart  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

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Janine Bowyer  
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Liz Beckstead