



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, November 8, 2016.**

**Present**

L. Smart  
K. LeFort  
P. Pulla  
V. Adamo  
L. Cook  
M. Feeheley  
M. LePage  
J. McCafferty (via teleconference)  
T. McGarry  
C. Nosseir  
A. Shiels  
E. Van de Klippe (via teleconference)

**Staff**

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

**With Regrets**

L. McInnes  
B. Larson

**Absent**

B. Cummins  
J. Vermulst

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

D. Wilson, OECTA Secondary  
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 7:30 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

**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-2016-11-08-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, November 8, 2016 meeting as printed.”

Carried

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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 October 4, 2016**

Motion No. SS-2016-11-08-02      Approval of Minutes

Moved by M. Feeheley seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

#### **Item f.2      Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee October 4, 2016**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Item g.1      Board Improvement Plan**

**J. Bowyer**

Superintendent Janine Bowyer distributed “The Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan” and discussed the Ministry’s expectations and three pillars - Catholic Community Culture and Caring, Teaching and Learning and Pathways Thinking and Integration. This plan aligns with key principles identified in our Strategic Plan. Each of the 10 themes discovered through the strategic planning process have been established to promote: Excellence, Equity, New Evangelization. She reviewed our strategic goals and three priorities: Universal Design for Learning, Differentiated Practice and Precise and Personalized Intervention.

**Item g.2      EQAO Results**

**J. Bowyer**

Superintendent Janine Bowyer presented the 2015-2016 Math EQAO results discussing the attitudinal and achievement results for Grade 3, 6 and 9 students with special education needs. She compared these results to students without special education needs. Superintendent Bowyer also reviewed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results for the 2015-2016 school year for students with special education needs.

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Item k.1      Coordinator's Report – C. Plommer**

On October 17th, the Assistive Technology Team presented a Sharing of Excellence workshop on supporting students with Mac technologies. Participants learned troubleshooting tips to support the technology, as well as received training on the built-in accessibility features of Macs. November's Sharing of Excellence will focus around the use of OneNote for our students with Assistive Technology.

October 21st was a system-wide PA Day. Many Student Services staff presented workshops to Educational Assistants. Workshops topics included back safety, personal wellness, Assistive Technology – Mac Support, Exploring the assistive features of the iPad, self-regulation, and Mindfulness-Based interventions for individuals with ASD.

October 25th was our Elementary Program Support Meeting. Program Support Teachers, Psych Services, and Teaching and Learning came together for a morning of learning around supporting our students in numeracy who have learning disabilities. Educators explored learning profiles, collaborated on learning strategies, and worked together support their students in their building.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Item k.1**      **Coordinator's Report – C. Plommer** (Cont'd)

On October 29, our Life Skills teachers were in-serviced on a specialized numeracy program, Equals Math, that was launched in seven priority elementary schools and Life Skills classes last year. This program supports students with an Intellectual Disability by teaching concepts in incremental steps. This program supports students in K-12 and, while it is essential for our students with Intellectual Disabilities, it is good for all students who require additional supports.

Our 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trips' were in full swing during the month of October. Secondary Schools across the system opened their doors to welcome our students that will be transitioning from elementary school to secondary school. Students experience Grade 9 classes, tour the schools, eat lunch in the cafeteria, and participate in training sessions around Office 365. Initial feedback on the trip indicates that students are enjoying the experience and feel more comfortable about making the transition with their Assistive Technology. The transition trips will continue during the month of November.

Special Incidence Portion application meetings with PST's are well underway to process these health or health and safety claims on behalf of a student who (as defined by the Ministry of Education) "as a consequence of their diagnosed medical condition, is dependent on more than two full-time board paid staff to provide intensive support for activities of daily living including health and/or safety at an age when they would not otherwise be so dependent." Coordinators will be submitting all claims to the Ministry of Education on December 15th.

PST Mentoring continues this year and participants will meet monthly to engage in professional dialogue and professional development. There are five mentees and five mentors as part of this year's program. Topics for learning include- Assistive Technology, Speech and Language Referrals and Interpreting Reports, Psych Referrals and Interpreting Reports, Resiliency, Transition Plans, Supporting Challenging Behaviours, etc. This year, Teresa Ezquerra, SS Coordinator, is facilitating a book study with the mentors, entitled- 'When Mentoring Meets Coaching' by Kate Share & Jeanie Nishimura. The learning will provide mentors with a balance between the principles and attitudes and behaviours and skills they will need to support capacity building.

The Pathways to the Future event this afternoon and tonight at the Pope Francis Centre was another success. This year 19 community agencies and community supports attended the event. The Program Support teachers and other educators attended the event during the afternoon session. At the next SEAC meeting, we will summarize the feedback forms from this event.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

On October 12 and 13, we offered two TAMI training sessions. The first one was for Intermediate teachers to learn about how to run the TAMI program in their grade 7 and 8 classrooms. Teachers from 10 Elementary schools attended and scheduled their TAMI week. The second training session was to train staff from community agencies to be able to deliver TAMI introductions in classrooms, to support the delivery of the program.

The second annual DYDAC (Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee) conference was held on October 14. Students learned about various substances, and the connection between substance use and mental health. The keynote was delivered jointly by Diane Mullane and Allison Potts, (DDSB Mental Health Leader) and the workshops were led by presenters from Durham Region Public Health, Carea Community Health Centre, and Pinewood Centre. The event was attended by students from several schools from both DCDSB and DDSB. At the end of the day, the schools met with their Public Health Nurse to begin planning for a follow-up campaign back at their schools.

On October 19, Diane Mullane and Allison Potts (DDSB Mental Health Leader) shared a presentation with Parents for Mental Health addressing the question of what school boards are doing in the area of mental health.

A Mental Health First Aid session was held on Oct 20 and 21, primarily for Educational Assistants.

Today (November 8th), the TAMI Secondary Summit was held at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. One teacher and four student reps attended for all 8 DCDSB Secondary schools. As always, this was an educational and inspirational day and students left the event with an Action Plan for a follow-up initiative.

Diane handed out an infograph highlighting some of the mental health events and training in 2015-2016

The Durham Counseling Walk-in Clinic is asking for help promoting the clinic, as they're not being used to capacity. They run with a single-session model and are staffed by clinical support staff from partner agencies. The clinic is located at Carea Community Health Center (formerly Ajax Youth Centre). Business cards were distributed.

We have a new anxiety group (Star Power) being piloted by our Social Work team at one elementary school this year. This is a targeted intervention for a small group of students in grades 2-4. Shelley and her team developed the program, utilizing evidence-based strategies and visually-appealing graphics based on a space theme. There is also a parent and teacher component to the program.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

We're hosting our second annual parent Mental Health conference on March 2, 2017, made possible by the PRO Grant that SEAC received. We're inviting a SEAC rep to sit on the planning committee. Please email Diane Mullane if you're interested in participating on this committee.

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

Congratulations to Lisa Coghlan, and all of the coordinators for organizing a fantastic Pathways to the Future event today. We had a wonderful turn out from parents and program support teachers. We had over 150 people attend.

For the next two days, I am going to be at the Ministry of Education for a Partners in Dialogue event – Engagement on Well-Being in our Schools. Then later this month, I will join a number of members from our Mental Health Steering Committee and members of our community at an input session on the same topic for all of the Barrie Region Boards. In addition to these regional engagement sessions hosted by the Ministry of Education, we will be hosting our own discussions on the topic, both at SEAC and at DCPIC. We will do this at the next SEAC meeting.

Next week is Bullying Prevention and Intervention week – schools will be hosting a number of activities that week. As well, there is a multi-media contest on the theme of Kindness is my Superpower. All entries will be reviewed and the winners will be announced in February as part of the Stand Up to Bullying Week activities.

Every two years, the Ministry of Education requires all school boards to implement a School Climate Survey for students in grade 4 to 12, parents and staff members. Our surveys will be taking place this month. If any parent is interested in doing the survey, the link is available on the Board's website on one of the banners. The survey addresses issues of school safety, bullying and discrimination. School teams and the board uses the data from the School Climate survey to help set their goals for the Catholic Community Culture and Caring Pillar, as part of the school and Board improvement plans.

SWATT – Congratulations to our Assistive Technology team and continued success as it moves across our secondary schools. Deanna Wilson, Curriculum Chair at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, also gave feedback on the success of the initiative at her school.

Durham Children and Youth Planning Network – November 30<sup>th</sup> at DCAS.

Motion SS-2016-11-08-03

Approval of the November 8, 2016 Verbal  
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and  
Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal  
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the  
November 8, 2016 Meeting.”

Carried

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

Movie Morning Moana 2D - **Nov 27th 9am-12:30pm**. Bring out the whole family for a fun movie morning to Moana in 2D! We will have exclusive use of the theatre and will have lights and sound adjusted for sensory differences. This event is open to children with ASD, their siblings and caregivers only. Spaces are limited. Registration Opens November 1st.

**Saturday, December 3rd from 11am-2pm** - We invite families of children with autism to join us for our annual holiday event! Enjoy a pizza lunch, activities, crafts and a visit with Santa! Due to space limitations immediate family only please. Registration opens November 5th at 8am. Deadline to register is November 25th.

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2nd annual Silent Santa event! Families with a child with autism will have the opportunity to visit with Santa before mall hours without the distractions of large crowds, mall music, holiday lights and movable characters on the set. We have added more time slots this year to accommodate more families. One free print per family.

Registration is mandatory. \$10 per family to be refunded at the door.

Sunday, November 13th from 8am – 10:30am Friday, November 18th from 8am – 9:30am Sunday, November 27th from 8am – 9:30am Sunday, December 4th from 8am – 9:30am, Sunday, November 27th from 8:30am – 10:30am Sunday, December 4th from 8:30am – 9:45am

## ASSOCIATION REPORTS

### Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe (Cont'd)

Our Autism Ontario Chapters hear all kinds of school-related questions from parents including how to support transitioning a student on the spectrum into their very first classroom setting, or into the secondary school's rotation schedule. Parents wonder if they should identify their child through the Individual Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process, or if writing effective Individual Educational Plans (IEP) is the way to go. Families are often left on their own to navigate issues like soft suspensions and school exclusions. It can leave parents feeling like there is a struggle, barrier and fight at every corner. One parent shared that it wasn't the chronicity of her children's disabilities that was taxing but the chronicity of the fight.

Autism Ontario believes parents and students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (where possible) must be actively engaged throughout the education process as full partners in their education to promote optimal learning across home and school.

This means that parents and students (where possible) play an active role, together with educators in all educational decisions.

[http://www.autismontario.com/Client/ASO/AO.nsf/object/Ed's+Maze/\\$file/Ed's+Booklet+final+Web.pdf](http://www.autismontario.com/Client/ASO/AO.nsf/object/Ed's+Maze/$file/Ed's+Booklet+final+Web.pdf)

Website: [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

### Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

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

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/DurhamCFPrincessBall/>

### Durham Down Syndrome Association – April Shiels

First Special Needs Fair. 90 visitors and over 30 vendors/support services. Hoping for a SEAC contact available for next year.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual DDSA Walk this past weekend. Marking the end of National Down Syndrome Awareness Week (first week of November).



Learning Disabilities Association – Durham – Lynne Smart

On **Thursday, November 24th**, facilitators from the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region will present **The Individual Education Plan (IEP)**. We will break down the IEP process, from gathering relevant information to planning, development, implementation and reviewing. You will learn about the important role of parent and child as members of the IEP team, about preparing for your child's IEP meeting and about what all those acronyms and terms mean. There will also be an opportunity for one-on-one question and answer and support. Feel free to bring your child's IEP and/or psychological assessment recommendations.

This event will be held at **Trent University Durham**, 55 Thornton Road South, Oshawa (next to the Civic Recreation Complex). **7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Room 106**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2016-11-08-04     Adjournment

Moved by J. McCafferty seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of November 8, 2016 adjourn.”

Carried

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by Trustee Paul Pulla.

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Lynne Smart  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

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Janine Bowyer  
Superintendent of Education