



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 4, 2016.**

Present

L. Smart
K. LeFort
P. Pulla (via teleconference)
V. Adamo
M. Feeheley
L. McInnes
C. Nossier
A. Shiels
E. Van de Klippe

Staff

J. Bowyer
M. Meraw
D. Mullane

With Regrets

L. Cook
M. LePage
J. McCafferty
T. McGarry
B. Cummings
J. Vermulst
C. Baetz
S. Phoenix

S.E.A.C. Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
D. Wilson, OECTA Secondary
M. Thomas, OECTA Elementary
M. Lacy, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 7:32 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-2016-10-04-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, October 4, 2016 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

Motion No. SS-2016-10-04-02 Change in Representation - Resignation

Moved by L. McInnes seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the resignation of Victoria Derby, representative of Grandview Children’s Centre.”

Carried

Motion No. SS-2016-10-04-03 Change in Representation - Nomination

Moved by E. Van de Klippe seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the nomination of Claudia Nossier, representative of Grandview Children’s Centre.”

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 September 13, 2016**

Motion No. SS-2016-10-04-04 Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the September 13, 2016 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee September 13, 2016**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 Fostering Student Independence

M. Meraw

Michelle Meraw, Consultant for Special Education, presented “Fostering Student Independence: An Educator’s Guide.” This guide was developed by the 11 Boards in the Barrie Region to assist educators and families as they support the pathway to student independence. Program Support Teachers will receive in service on this resource guide on October 26th. Copies of this resource guide will be provided to all schools.

Item g.2 Accessibility Plan

M. Meraw

Michelle Meraw reviewed the Accessibility page on the Board’s website. She presented an overview of the Board’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. This plan provides an overall direction that governs the Durham Catholic District School Board’s compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Parents, students, staff and visitors are encouraged to communicate their accessibility concerns using our on-line form. All concerns are reviewed by the committee.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 Coordinator’s Report – M. Meraw

On September 20-22nd, the Assistive Technology Team offered successful system-wide training sessions for Program Support Teachers on the use of eBooks. A new eBooks manual was created last year and Program Support Teachers found it easy-to-follow to support loading texts onto computers for students with Learning Disabilities and Disorders in Reading.

On September 28th, the Assistive Technology Team offered a Sharing of Excellence on PC assistive software. Educators had an opportunity to brush up on their skills around the use of Word Q and Kurzweil in this one-hour session.

Item k.1 **Coordinator's Report – M. Meraw** (Cont'd)

The Assistive Technology Team has been hard at work planning with Secondary schools for the 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trips'. These trips will welcome Grade 8 students (and Grade 6 students from the Pereyma Family of Schools) to spend a day experiencing what Secondary school will be like with their Assistive Technology.

Pathways to the Future

Sponsored by DCDSB and SEAC, the *Pathways to the Future...Looking Beyond Secondary School* event is being hosted on Tuesday, November 8 from 1-3 and 6-8 at the Pope Francis Centre. Please join us before the November SEAC meeting to learn more about post-secondary services and programs available for students with exceptional needs. We expect about 22 community agencies to be present at this event. The Program Support teachers and educators from across the Board will attend one of these sessions.

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

September was a busy month for planning and coordinating various upcoming mental health initiatives.

Five ECEs (one from each area of Durham region, including the north) have been selected to participate in the Roots of Empathy Instructor training at the end of October. This will allow them to facilitate the Roots of Empathy in their own classroom. We've been actively recruiting moms and babies to participate in this. If you know of a baby born between mid-July and mid-Sept, whose mom might be open to participating in a classroom initiative every third week starting in mid-November, please contact me for more information.

On October 13, 2016, Intermediate teachers from ten elementary schools will be participating in a Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) Teacher Training session to allow them to run the TAMI program in their classrooms this year.

Staff and students from six DCDSB high schools have been invited to attend the 2nd annual Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee (DYDAC) "The Leader in Me: Awareness to Action" student conference. At this conference, students will participate in interactive workshops on topics including: alcohol, marijuana and tobacco, as well as prescription and over-the-counter drugs. They'll also learn about creative ways to advocate and set up health promotion campaigns, and then they'll work with their public health nurse to begin drafting a health promotion campaign to bring back to their schools. This is a joint event between the school boards, Durham Regional Police Services, Durham Region Health Department, Carea Community Health Centre, Pinewood, and CMHA Durham.

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

Upcoming staff capacity-building sessions include sessions on self-regulation and Mental Health First Aid, being offered to Educational Assistants on the October 21, 2016 PA day. We're also offering Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) on November 2 and 3, 2016.

Lastly, our Mental Health and Addictions Steering Committee meeting is on October 19, 2016. We're pleased to have Kathy LeFort joining our committee as a Trustee representative, as well as a new student representative from our Student Senate (name TBD) and potentially a new parent representative from "Parents for Mental Health." On the same evening, myself and Allison Potts (Mental Health Leader from DDSB) have been asked to do a presentation to the Parents for Mental Health group about what school boards are doing in the area of mental health.

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

We just received word about a grant application process to provide more supports for students with Autism primarily for students who will be affected by the gap in IBI therapy. Our Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team will be determining how we can provide this unique type of support within the context of our schools and will be submitting a grant application. The support is for after-school support.

The Board's Numeracy Action Plan will be shared at our next SEAC meeting as part of our report on EQAO special education data. We are excited about the role that Student Services will have within our Numeracy Action Plan – including the implementation of learning profiles and class profiles, and a greater focus on supporting students with Learning Disabilities and students with intellectual disabilities. We will also be doing some research in these areas so that we can say with certainty whether our interventions had an impact on student achievement and well-being. Dr. Amanda Fuentes, our newest Psychologist and Dr. Carla Baetz will be assisting us with the research.

Tomorrow – October 5 is World Teacher's Day. We celebrated our system wide mass for World Teacher's Day last night at Holy Family Parish. It began our celebration of the year of Community and we also had a commissioning ceremony for all of our new staff.

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We will be turning the Durham Catholic District School Board into a wave of purple on October 19, 2016 which is Child Abuse Prevention Day. Child Abuse Prevention Month is sponsored by Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

Jennifer Kilari has been booked for the March 2, 2017 Parent evening, as sponsored by our PRO Grant.

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

Motion SS-2016-10-04-05 Approval of the October 4, 2016 Verbal
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and
Superintendent Reports

Moved by V. Adamo seconded by P. Pulla

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the
October 4, 2016 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

- Peers Program extension of deadline.
- The Chapter President thanks the SEAC for its support in offering to advocate for increased Autism services, however, the entire impact is not known at this time.
- October is Autism Awareness month in Canada.
- Posting for SEAC rep in the latest newsletter. We have a suitable candidate and the Chapter will discuss at its October meeting.

Durham Down Syndrome Association – April Shiels

- Special Needs Information Fair – October 22, 2016 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Heydenshore Pavilion, 589 Water Street, Whitby. Cost is free.

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham – Lynne Smart

- October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!
- On Thursday, October 20th, Elaine Keenan, President of the International Dyslexia Association - Ontario Branch (ONBIDA) will present at our Learning Disabilities Awareness Evening. 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 125

CORRESPONDENCE

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2016-10-04-06 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by E. Van de Klippe

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
October 4, 2016 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by Trustee Kathy LeFort.

Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Liz Beckstead