



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 3, 2017.**

Present

L. Smart
K. LeFort
J. Oldman (teleconference)
L. McInnes
A. Shields
L. Cook
Emily Van de Klippe
C. Nosseir
T. McGarry
M. LePage
J. McCafferty (teleconference)

Staff

J. Bowyer
C. Baetz
T. Esquerra
D. Mullane

With Regrets

V. Adamo

Absent

B. Cummins
M. Feeheley
C. Pegler

S.E.A.C. Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
M. Lacy, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Lynne 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-2017-10-03-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by L. Cook, seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, October 3, 2017 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

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 12, 2017**

Motion No. SS-2017-10-03-02 Approval of Minutes

Moved by L. Cook, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the
Minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee September 12, 2017**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 **LDAO Presentation, LD@School** **C. Perras**

October is LD awareness month. Cindy Perras presented SEAC with information on LD@School, a bilingual online no cost resource pertaining to learning disabilities. This online resource has been funded by the Ministry of Education for 5 years. Cindy also briefly presented on LD@home. LD@home is intended for families and individuals with learning disabilities. A trillium grant has been applied for. At this time, there has only been a soft launch of this resource. A pdf version of the presentation will be forwarded to the Committee.

**Item g.2 Special Education in Ontario; Kindergarten to Grade 12 T. Esquerra
Policy and Resource Guide**

Teresa Esquerra, Student Services Coordinator, presented the draft Special Education in Ontario; Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide which was released in September. The Guide can be found on the Ministry website. It is a combination of old materials as well as new information. There are hyperlinks within the document that make it very user-friendly. Materials that were once only available in hard copy are now available online. There are no significant changes to regulation. The Guide will be shared with PSTs at the next meeting. The Ministry is taking feedback from all stakeholders at this time.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Approval of Special Education Plan

Motion No. SS-2017-10-03-03 Approval of Special Education Plan

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Special Education Plan.”

Carried

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 Coordinator’s Report – T. Esquerra

Once again, the Durham Catholic DSB and SEAC present Pathways to the Future...Looking Beyond Secondary School. It will take place at the Pope Francis Centre on Tuesday November, 7. Parents, students and staff are invited to drop in between 2 and 6 pm to speak with representatives from various community agencies about post-secondary services. They will learn more about recreational, employment and educational opportunities available for students with exceptional needs. From 6:15 to 7:15 pm, a member from the Ontario Disability Employment Network will make a presentation and answer questions. Please contact Lisa Coghlan (x 22128) if you have any questions. We hope to see members from SEAC at the event which will take place just prior to the monthly SEAC meeting.

Two upcoming parent workshops will be offered by DCDSB in partnership with Lake Ridge Community Support Services:

October 26th – Get Angry: A how to lesson on coping strategies for children with ASD

Parents of children with ASD often struggle with how to teach their children positive ways to cope with stress. The focus of this workshop is to provide practical strategies in order to help children cope with anger and frustration. Topics that will be covered include; teaching children to identify anger cues, recognizing anger triggers, and appropriate replacement behaviours.

Parents will participate in interactive hands-on activities and will receive resources to help support your child at home.

November 23rd – Changing Bodies....Changing Lives

This sexual education workshop assists parents to increase their awareness of ages and stages of sexual development; issues of public and private behaviour; and social relationships and personal boundaries. A variety of teaching resources will be provided to parents that attend.

Friendship Lab – a social skills and theory of mind training program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder is beginning tonight at Sir Albert Love catholic school, and tomorrow night at St. Bernard catholic school and will run for 9 weeks. This program had great success last spring and the team is looking forward to another successful Friendship Lab!

Assistive Technology

We had a wonderful start up to the school year with students receiving their Assistive Technology equipment during the first few days of school. Program Support Teachers also received a September Start-Up Reference Package to support students with Assistive Technology. Another newsletter was sent out to PSTs in October to provide various pieces of information from supporting students with Assistive Technology with their electronic texts to sharing information from Learning Disabilities of Ontario about their upcoming workshop series.

At the September Program Support Meeting, all Program Support Departments across the system received a refurbished PC laptop to support students who are preparing to receive Assistive Technology. This was well received by Program Support Teachers and was reported that this was a good support for our students.

Secondary and Elementary Program Support Teachers are working with Kate Remiz to organize this year's 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip'. (S.W.A.T.T.T.) This transition trip supports students across the system who are transitioning from Elementary School to Secondary School with their Assistive Technology. Students experience what it is like to be a student in Secondary School by participating in two secondary school classes, including a Learning Strategies course. Students participate in a One Note presentation, as well as learn how Program Support runs at the Secondary level. S.W.A.T.T.T. trips will start at the end of October and carry through all of November.

Renewed Math Strategy

Student Services spent September releasing the report on their Research Study on “School-based Professional Development Numeracy Intervention for Students with Learning Disabilities.” Under the direction of Dr. Carla Baetz, Dr. Amanda Fuentes, Psychologist with DCDSB, and Kate Remiz, Student Services Coordinator, conducted a research study on supporting students in mathematics who have a Learning Disability. The results of the Research Study will be presented at the December SEAC meeting.

Secondary Program Support Teachers are working closely with the Ultimate Potential Math Teachers, Grade 9 Applied Math Teachers, and Psychological Services to ensure a common understanding on the students’ class profiles of the students enrolled in these two courses. Educators and the psychologists will delve into understanding those students whose profile includes a Learning Disability to better understand where the students’ strengths and weaknesses lie in their psychological processes.

Item k.1 Mental Health Leader’s Report – D. Mullane

I wanted to remind you about the parent evening this Thursday (October 5, 2017) at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences – "Growing Up in a Body Obsessed Culture." Flyers were provided at the last meeting with information and registration details. There's still time to register.

This year, our Staff Wellness Committee is focusing on the mental and physical well-being of our staff, and trying to do it in a more intentional way. One of the things we're doing is running a workshop series, which will be widely advertised to all staff. We're also looking at a board-wide campaign, which, if everything goes as planned, will be shared in the coming months.

October is a big month for mental health inservices, workshops and student events:

- Four new DECES (from St. Luke, Monsignor Philip Coffey, St. Hedwig and St. Joseph Uxbridge) will participate in training on Oct 10, 11 and 12 to deliver the Roots of Empathy program in their kindergarten classrooms.
- A new series: Supporting Minds @ School – Mental Health Literacy series will be offered as part of the Sharing of Excellence series on Oct 10, 19 and 26.
- We're also offering a 3-part Infant/Early Year webinar series, as part of Sharing of Excellence on Oct 5, with follow up sessions in November and December
- There is a MHFA session being offered on our PA days in October and November targeting EAs, occasional EAs and occasional teachers
- We're doing safeTALK training for all school secretaries on the October 20 PD Day
- Grade 7 and 8 teachers from the 9 elementary schools who are running the TAMI classroom program this year will receive training on October 24

- ASIST training is being offered in the beginning of November
- The Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee (DYDAC) is hosting their annual student conference on October 18

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

Superintendent Bowyer presented Special Education EQAO data for 2016-2017. She promised to share the Board's Numeracy Action Plan at our next SEAC.

Last month Superintendent Bowyer announced that we will be participating in an ABA pilot program that will provide significant capacity building opportunities to up to 30 of our educational assistants. Targeted 40-hour online training module for Educational Assistants designed by Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA) and based on the Behaviour Analyst Certification Board (BACB) Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) task list.

The Ministry of Education has partnered with the Geneva Centre for Autism to design and deliver the program. Set to begin in the new year. Last week the Ministry of Education informed us that we will be able to hire a Board Certified Applied Behaviour Analyst as part of this pilot to help support the work that these Educational Assistants will be doing.

We were just informed that we received \$8000 in our Pro Grant Application. The money will be used to support the Pathways to the Future even and other parent presentations.

Yesterday was World Teacher's Day. We celebrated our system wide mass last night at Holy Family Parish. It began our celebration of the year of Service and we also had a commissioning ceremony for all of our new staff. It was also Custodian Appreciation Day. Celebrated for their special role in supporting and building community.

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We will be turning the Durham Catholic District School Board into a wave of purple on October 24, 2017 which is Child Abuse Prevention Day. Child Abuse Prevention Month is an event sponsored by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

1. Policy Input – One of the roles of SEAC is to provide input on the policies affecting special education programs. At last night’s Policy Board meeting, the Policy on Inclusion was brought forward with some minor changes and clarifications. I would encourage everyone to follow the steps below to view the current policies and administrative procedures and use the email address or board mailing address noted on the site, if you would like to submit your input:
 1. Go to: www.dcdsb.ca
 2. Click on: Our Board
 3. Click on: Board Policies
 4. Click on: View our draft policies and procedures for input here
 5. Click on: policyinput@dcdsb.ca if you would like to submit input

Motion SS-2017-10-03-04

Approval of the Oct. 3, 2017 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 October 3, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Grandview Kids – C. Nosseir

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences: Grandview will be presenting our Family Engagement strategy at the upcoming Ontario Association for Children’s Rehabilitation Services Conference November 26-28.

Grandview’s 3rd annual accessible Halloween event is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 30 at Clarington Central Secondary School in Bowmanville. Stay tuned to Grandview’s social media channels for more info coming soon.

New Programs or Services: Paperwork Party and Binder Bootcamp Workshops: An opportunity for parents to schedule time into their evening to complete the paperwork tasks that often come with raising a child with special needs. Come together with other parents, eat snacks and network while filling out your SSAH, ACSD, Disability Tax credit

forms etc. We will help you start and/or tidy up your medical binder. Keeping the mountain of reports and paperwork organized can reduce stress, ease information sharing and keep things manageable.

Autism Ontario – C. Pegler

Autism Ontario in partnership with Kerry's Place is offering a Girl's Group for girls aged 11-15 years old. The sessions take place Mondays from 4:15pm - 6:15 pm September 25-November 6th with a \$40 cost.

Please note: An intake meeting with a Kerry's Place staff is required to determine eligibility for the program

Register using the link below.

<https://secure.kerrysplace.org/community/Programs.aspx...>

Just a reminder that all previously recorded webinars are available for viewing on our website. Some recently recorded include a 3 part series with Ed Mahony on getting the best out of the IPRC process, How to build social skills with children with ASD and Self regulation and well being. These webinars and more can be found at;

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/Autism+Ontario+Webinars>

Help Autism Ontario raise \$25,000 by walking or running at this year's Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon on October 22nd.

Be sure to use our discount codes when you register - 17AUTISMON42k for a discounted rate on the marathon or half-marathon and discount code 17AUTISMON5k for the 5k run or walk. Here's a helpful hint – you enter this code AFTER you've provided most personal information and selected the Charity Challenge!

Questions? Contact Monica Richardson by email at monicarichardson@rogers.com or by phone 416-903-6942.

DDSA – A. Shiels

2017 Special Needs Fair

October 22. 12-3 @ Heydenshore Pavilion in Whitby. Includes therapeutic, Recreational, informational and supportive services in Durham for those with Special Needs. Free event. Please forward attached poster to SEAC secretaries.

Saturday, November 4 in Brooklin. Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Walk to recognize Canadian Down Syndrome Week November 1-7. Poster will be sent out soon

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – M. LePage

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – Volunteer and Information Event
Sunday, November 12, Oshawa Golf & Curling Club @ 2:00 p.m. (?)

Sick Kids CF Family Teaching Day – Saturday, November 18 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Double Tree Hotel – 108 Chestnut Street, Toronto. Louise.taylor@sickkids.ca for more Info.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2017-10-03-05 Adjournment

Moved by E. Van de Klippe, seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
October 3, 2017 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by L. Smart

Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier