



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, April 2, 2019.**

Present

V. Adamo (Chair)
D. Lojet
K. Burke
J. McCafferty
M. Ste. Marie
H. Mendela
S. Casola

Staff

J. Bowyer
L. Coghlan
D. Lood
S. Phoenix
D. Mullane

With Regrets

L. McLellan
M. LePage
C. Pegler
C. Nossier

Absent

M. Feeheley

S.E.A.C. Representatives

T. Robertson, APSSP
K. Boyer-Miller, OECTA Elementary
P. Sorhaitz, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 Land Acknowledgment

Item a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item b.1 Changes to Printed Agenda

Add item c.1 Resignation of Community Living – Durham North from the Special Education Advisory Committee

Item b.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion No. SS-2019-04-02-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, April 2, 2019 meeting, as amended.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Item c.1 Resignation of Community Living – North Durham from the Special Education Advisory Committee**

On March 28, 2019 Superintendent Bowyer received correspondence from Tracy McGarry, SEAC Representative and Manager of Development for Community Living North Durham advising of their intention to step down from the Committee as their agencies mandate, assisting adults with disabilities, does not align with SEAC. The Committee accepted Community Living North Durham's resignation at the April 2, 2019 meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**Item g.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 March 5, 2019**

Motion No. SS-2019-04-02-02

Approval of Minutes

Moved by M. Ste. Marie, seconded by S. Casola

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 5, 2019

None

PRESENTATIONS**Item g.1 Review of Special Education Budget**

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the Ministry of Education would not be releasing the Board budgets until the provincial budget is released April 11, 2019. Therefore, the Board would not be in a position to announce the 2019-2020 Special Education until the May SEAC meeting. Superintendent Bowyer provided a detailed overview of how the special education department is funded and advised how potential funding changes may impact the special education budget going forward.

Item g.2 **Overview of Board Budget**

Superintendent Putnam provided an overview of the Multi-Year Budget Framework with an emphasis on system pressures with the potential changes to education funding. He advised that the Durham Catholic District School Board remains very supportive of special education.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item h.1 **Proposed Format Change for May SEAC Meeting**

Superintendent Bowyer proposed that the May SEAC meeting begin at 6:30 p.m. at Notre Dame CSS to enable the Committee to discuss business as well as attend a TAMI (Talking About Mental Illness) parent night presentation. The format change was approved by the Committee.

Motion No. SS-2019-04-02-03 Proposed Format Change for May SEAC Meeting

Moved by M. Ste. Marie, seconded by S. Casola

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the proposed format change for the May SEAC Meeting being a 6:30 p.m. start time at Notre Dame CSS.”

Carried

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Item I.1 **Coordinator’s Report – L. Coghlan**

Autism:

Today is World Autism Awareness Day! The Durham Chapter of Autism Ontario has provided DCDSB with a flag for the Raise the Flag ceremony. The flag was hung this morning at the CEC.

Schools celebrated by decorating their front foyer for Light It Up Blue. A package was sent to PSTs to promote awareness in the various grades, with videos and activities for each age group. A contest is happening for the most creative display.

RBT classes begin this week for the next 10 weeks. 14 new participants will be learning at OMAC each Thursday with supply coverage. In June, we will have 53 EAs with the certificate training. The pilot will continue in September. We await more details.

PEERS and Friendship Lab are in session at Sir Albert Love and Fr. Leo J. Austin each week.

All Elementary & Secondary PSTs attended a PST meeting on March 19. Some of the topics included eRaid feedback, Transition planning, Workplace Violence prevention, Effective School Team Meetings and Kindergarten and IEPs.

Item I.2 **Mental Health Report – D. Mullane**

This past month, 54 board staff participated in safeTALK training, the after-school “Supporting Minds Mental Health Literacy Series” was well-attended over three consecutive weeks, and a “Mind-Up Cafe” was offered for a small group of staff who live and work in the north.

We’re very busy in April with capacity-building. An ASIST Tune-Up is being offered on April 9, 2019. This is a refresher for staff who have been previously trained in the ASIST suicide intervention model. We are also hosting a two-day ASIST workshop on April 25 and 26, and a two-day Mental Health First Aid session on April 11 and 12.

The third and final TAMI Summit of the year is being held on April 10th. This event is for Intermediate students. Eight DCDSB schools have registered to attend. The TAMI Coalition is also hosting a parent event on May 7, 2019. All Durham Region parents are invited to attend.

Finally, Children’s Mental Health Week is being celebrated during the week of May 5-11. As always, schools will be receiving a package of resources to help raise awareness and promote positive mental health during this week.

Item I.3 **Superintendent’s Report - J. Bowyer**

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the Durham Catholic District School Board had participated in a Flag Raising ceremony at the Board office earlier that day for World Autism Day. On March 23, 2019, schools across the Board celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. On May 3, 2019 schools will be encouraged to support Dress Loud Day in honour of students with hearing loss.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the budget process is well under way as Superintendent Putnam had shared in his budget overview and that the Board awaits the release of the provincial budget later this month. As a result of the discussion about the impact of the proposed changes to the secondary staffing, the committee decided to write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the impact of potential funding implications for e-Learning and proposed class size changes. The Committee passed a motion to that end.

Superintendent Bowyer shared that later this month, Kevin Cameron from the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response will be at the Board to continue his training of administrators and system leaders in Traumatic Event Systems Training. She advised that the training will help schools understand the impact of traumatic events on systems (e.g., classes, schools, boards, communities, etc.).

Superintendent Bowyer also shared that earlier this year, the Board revised the Crisis Response Handbook to include the work of Kevin Cameron in terms of responding to traumatic events. The new handbook is called “Responding to Critical Incidents and Traumatic Events”. The revised handbook includes a new section called System Response to Critical Incidents or Traumatic Events. This section provides guidance to system level staff on the Board’s approach to handling traumatic events.

Motion SS-2019-04-02-04

Impact of Government Changes to Class Sizes and proposed e-Learning

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the writing of a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the proposed changes to class sizes and e-Learning.”

Carried

Item I.3 Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer (cont'd)

Motion SS-2019-04-02-05

Approval of the April 2, 2019 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by M. Ste. Marie, seconded by S. Casola

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the April 2, 2019 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

K. Burke – Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region

April 25 – 7 p.m. – Trent University Durham Campus
Sagonaska Provincial School LD's and Math

May 30 – 7 p.m. – Trent University Durham Campus
Integra presents strategies to strengthen executive functioning

V. Adamo – VOICE for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

May 3/4, 2019 – Scarborough, ON

**REGISTER NOW for the
27th Annual VOICE Conference!**

For more details and registration click the following link:

<https://event-wizard.com/voice2019/0/welcome/>

C. Nosseir – Grandview Children's Centre

The Grandview Kids Autism Program

At our core, the Grandview Team remains committed to supporting clients and families to make their dreams and the possibilities for their children come true. The recent changes to the Ontario Autism Program have challenged us to ensure that children, youth and their families can continue to access Autism Services with a trusted multi-professional team wrapped around them at Grandview Children's Centre.

The Journey to Potential Autism Services Program at Grandview will be built on that same foundation. We have imagined the program mapped across 4 life stages:

Setting the Course (early years)

Moving Forward (school readiness)

On My Way (school age)

Future Focused (adolescents and young adults)

ASSOCIATION REPORTS (cont'd)

C. Nosseir – Grandview Children’s Centre (cont'd)

Building our Future Together

While we have a tremendous number of exciting and innovative program and service ideas, we want to co-create the new Autism Program with you, the families who will be purchasing the programs and services. We do not presume to fully understand the services and all of the ways in which you will want to access them in this new Autism Fee-for-Service system. In everything we do at Grandview, we work hard to be thoughtful and purposeful in our planning. We cannot do that without you.

We will be hosting two (2) Open Houses and a number of Focus Groups over the coming weeks with a plan to begin to offer new programs and services for purchase in early May.

Open Houses

Please watch for more details about our upcoming two Open Houses. These events are intended to welcome families in to visit and explore two of our delivery locations (Oshawa and Ajax). These sessions also offer a closer look at the Grandview Kids Autism Programs and an opportunity to meet members of our team:

The evening of Monday, April 29th at our Oshawa location

The evening of Thursday, May 2nd at our Ajax

Parent Resources at the Ready

We will continue to keep you informed and connected to helpful information about the Government of Ontario Autism Central Intake and Registration Team that launches April 1, 2019, and to Autism Ontario and the role they can play to help families navigate services and the new program processes.

Our Service Navigation team is ready to help you to access information.

Call directly – Service Navigation at 905 728 1673 extension 2468

Email – service.navigation@grandviewkids.ca

S. Casola – Autism Ontario - Durham Region

Cooking class April 3 from 7-9 pm at the Real Canadian Superstore in Ajax

Still awaiting clarity from Autism Ontario Head Office regarding AO role in new OAP. Expect programs and services to likely shift to the announced “Service Navigation” focus, not sure how the Potential Programme events/workshops will be impacted by these changes. Will provide updates a future SEAC meetings as more information becomes available.

Today is World Autism Awareness Day – many “Raise the Flag” events at schools and municipal offices all over the region in celebration and recognition of this event.

For those of you not familiar with the RTF campaign, it started in 2013 at Autism Ontario in partnership with a group of parents, community members, advocates, and professionals.

Today, over 1000 flags were raised in recognition of Autism Awareness and acknowledgement that when we talk about autism, we help to further inform the greater community on how to build inclusive communities for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

More information can be found at www.raisetheflagforautism.com

CORRESPONDENCE

None

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

None

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2019-04-02-06 Adjournment

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
April 2, 2019 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by Trustee McCafferty.

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier