



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, December 4, 2018.**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>With Regrets</b>	<b>Absent</b>
V. Adamo (Vice-Chair)	J. Bowyer	C. Nossier	
T. McGarry	C. Plommer	D. Mullane	
L. McLellan (tele)	D. Lood	K. Boyer-Miller	
J. McCafferty	S. Phoenix		
K. LeFort			
K. Burke			
E. van de Klippe (tele)			
M. LePage			

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

T. Robertson, APSSP  
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association  
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. Superintendent Bowyer introduced Paula Sorhaitz as the new Principal/Vice-Principal rep and Theresa Robertson as the new APSSP rep and welcomed them to the Committee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Item b.1**      **Changes to Printed Agenda**

None

**Item b.2**      **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-01      Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, December 4, 2018 meeting.”

Carried

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**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 September 11, 2018**

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-02                      Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the  
Minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

**Item f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee  
Meeting of September 11, 2018**

None

**Item f.3 Approval of Minutes of the Special Education  
Advisory Committee Meeting of October 2, 2018**

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-03                      Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the  
Minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

**Item f.4**      **Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 2, 2018**

None

**Item f.5**      **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 6, 2018**

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-04

Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2018 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

**Item f.6**      **Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 6, 2018**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Item g.1**      **Learning Profiles**

**C. Plommer**

Corrie Plommer, Student Services Coordinator, provided detailed information with respect to development of Learning Profiles for those students with special needs. The group meetings have been held over the past 7 months for collaboration purposes. She advised that the goal was to benefit the student as a learner with system wide learning profiles that are shared with teachers throughout the student's school career. The Student Services Coordinators have been working alongside Program Support Teachers to develop the profiles and the hope is that they will be ready for use with our grade eight students transitioning to Secondary minimally. Corrie Plommer responded to questions as they arose.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Item h.1**      **Review of Special Education Data including IEPs**

Superintendent Bowyer reviewed the number of students with IEPs and IPRCs. She also shared the percentages of students who receive the support of an Educational Assistant. Percentages of the number of students diagnosed with on the autism spectrum disorder, Down Syndrome, or a Learning Disability were also shared. She also shared information about the number of Assistive Technology devices in the system.

**Item h.2 Ministry of Education Consultation and Input**

Superintendent Bowyer requested SEAC's input on questions provided by the Ministry of Education. The Committee responded to these questions and their responses were then submitted to the Ministry of Education electronically.

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-05

Ministry of Education Consultation and Input

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee reviewed and submitted the Ministry of Education request for Consultation and Input.”

Carried

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS****Item I.1 Coordinator's Report – C. Plommer**

On November 20, the Student Services department hosted a successful Post-Secondary Transition Night. *The Carving Your Own Path* event welcomed keynote speakers from the Access Centre at Durham College and from the Credit Counselling Society. After the presentations, representatives from Durham College, UOIT, Trent University, Fleming College, the LDA-Durham, the Credit Counselling Society, and the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre offered information to attendees in a carousel format. Parents and students in attendance were grateful for the opportunity to learn details about how to access learning supports and to speak directly with representatives from local institutions. Student Services extended their thanks to the Learning Disability Association of Durham for their partnership on this project.

**Robotics Social Club**

DCDSB is excited to be offering *The Robotics Social Club* for former participants of the Friendship Lab. It is a four week project and is being held on Tuesday evenings at St. Patrick's school.

**SIP**

Throughout the month of November, Student Services Coordinators supported PSTs with completing SIP claims for the Ministry. SIP claims are submitted for those students that require significant levels of support to ensure safety. Coordinators are in the process of reviewing the claims that will be submitted to the Ministry later this month for approval.

**Item I.2      Mental Health Report – read by C. Plommer on behalf of D. Mullane**

In November, the following capacity-building sessions were offered:

- Two MindUP Cafés on Nov 6 and 13. (Following the workshops, approximately 25 educators applied to receive a free copy of the MindUP resource, and committed to running the program in their classroom).
- The Supporting Minds Mental Health Literacy Series (Nov 15, 22 & 29) - a three-part series focused on recognizing when a student might be struggling with anxiety, mood or attention problems, and how to provide support in the classroom
- One safeTALK session for school board staff (Nov 20) and one for community members (Nov 13)

On November 8 & 9, Diane Mullane, Pamela Garant (All Saints teacher), a student from All Saints, and Director O'Brien all presented at the Canadian Educators Conference on Mental Health (CECMH). This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the board's initiatives in the areas of both staff and student well-being.

On November 21, all Managers and school Administrators participated in a training through the Human Resources department on supporting employees with mental health challenges in the workplace.

On November 27, delegates (including one staff member and four grade 7-8 students) from eight of our Elementary schools participated in the TAMI Summit. Paul Ranger, former NHL defenceman and graduate of Fr. Leo J. Austin Secondary School was the keynote speaker. He shared a video of his journey with depression and a powerful message with the students about hope, resiliency, seeking help and never giving up. Overall, the day was a tremendous success.

In December, Student Services will be working with principals and sharing some new resources to support their work in Leading Mentally Healthy Schools.

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

Superintendent Bowyer announced that there a new chair of the Board was elected at last night's inaugural Board meeting: Trustee John Rinella from Whitby; and Vice Chair – Trustee Tricia Chapman.

Superintendent Bowyer thanked trustee representatives Jim McCafferty and Kathy Lefort and advised that the committees would be assigned at the next Board meeting. SEAC may or may not have the same people back.

Superintendent Bowyer also thanked Valerie Adamo for her leadership this year and for stepping into the chair position this fall. Elections will be held at the next SEAC meeting which is in the first week of school.

Superintendent Bowyer extended her thanks to Linda Cook whose role as Community Rep came to an end at tonight's meeting. Superintendent Bowyer advised that she and Valerie Adamo will be interviewing for the position next week, so that SEAC would have a new Community Rep in place for January.

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

Superintendent Bowyer also extended her thanks to Colleen Plouffe and PST Denise Ste. Marie for initiating the Carve Your Own Path evening in support of transitions to College or University for students needing accommodations. It was very informative.

Superintendent Bowyer drew the Committee's attention to the Policy Input button on the main page of the Board Website. There are a number of Policies and Procedures that are being reviewed.

Changes as the result of Cannabis Legislation:

- PO611 – Student Discipline
- AP611-1 – Student Discipline
- PO 610 – Code of Conduct
- AP610-1 – Code of Conduct
- PO407 – Smoke and Tobacco Free Environments
- AP407-1 – Smoke and Tobacco Free Environments

Changes to Administrative Procedures as the results of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act

- AP324-2 - Workplace Violence Prevention – Students
- AP804-3 - Safe Physical Interventions for Student Behaviours Causing a Risk of Injury

Motion SS-2018-12-04-06

Approval of the December 4, 2018 Verbal  
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and  
Superintendent Reports

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the December 4, 2018 Meeting.”

Carried

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

M. LePage – Durham Chapter – Cystic Fibrosis Canada

Princess Ball – Sunday, February 3, 2019 Ajax Convention Centre

11 am – 2 pm

Tickets available online at. <https://ajax.snapd.com/events/view/1176423>

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS (cont'd)****E. Van de Klippe – Autism Ontario**

Website sponsored by Autism Ontario and a number of community partner organizations - <http://www.planningnetwork.ca/en-ca>

With webinars, tips sheets and information for families on issues such as estate planning, Disability Tax Credits, building resiliency, etc.

The Big White Wall – commissioned by the Central East LHIN and the Ontario Telemedicine Network - Online mental health and wellbeing service \* safe and anonymous \* includes online peer community support \* a place for creative and artistic expression of emotions \* guided support courses and tools to help with self-management \* mental health self-assessments.

In 2018, [Ontario Telemedicine Network \(OTN\)](#) and [Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care](#) commissioned Big White Wall to provide digital mental health support, in line with the recommendations made in 'Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada'. The partnership represents one of the biggest single deployments of mental health services online in the world.

<https://www.bigwhitewall.ca>

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2018-12-04-07     Adjournment

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of December 4, 2018 adjourn.”

Carried

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by K. LeFort

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Valerie Adamo  
Vice-Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

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Janine Bowyer  
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier