

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 Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, in Oshawa on **Tuesday, June 4, 2019.**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>With Regrets</b>	<b>Absent</b>
V. Adamo (Chair)	J. Bowyer	K. Boyer-Miller	
K. Burke	A. O'Brien	D. Lojet	
C. Pegler	D. Lood	J. McCafferty	
M. Ste. Marie	S. Phoenix		
L. MacLellan	D. Mullane		
C. Nosseir	M. Meraw		
S. Vincent			
M. LePage			
H. Mendela			

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

B. Larson, APSSP  
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association  
M. Cope, CUPE

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Item a.1 Land Acknowledgment**

**Item a.2 Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Item h.1 under Discussion Items to be moved to Item g.1 under Presentations

**Item b.2 Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2019-06-04-01      Approval of Agenda

Moved by M. LePage, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, June 4, 2019 meeting, as amended.”

Carried

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Bowyer advised that Kinark Child and Family Services had resigned from the Special Education Advisory Committee as they would be unable to commit to attending regular meetings at this time.

## **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 May 7, 2019**

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

Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by L. MacLellan

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

#### **Item f.2**      **Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 7, 2019**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Item g.1**      **Strategic Plan**

Director O'Brien presented DCDSB's new multi-year strategic plan that will be launched in September. She shared that the Board consulted stakeholders, including staff, employee group representatives, community members, committees and Catholic partners and students in the planning process. She then sought input from those in attendance at the meeting.

**Item g.2**      **Special Education Plan**

Michelle Meraw, Consultant for Student Services provided an overview of the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan as required by Regulation 206. She highlighted minimal changes that were made to the plan from the previous version which were more in terms of wording that is consistent with ministry documents and board policies. The changes included:

- 1) Standard 1 – Board’s Consultation Process: a list of the presentations that were made at SEAC this year, based on consultation and requests by SEAC members.
- 2) Specialized health support services in school settings: details of the Board’s change from Community Care Access Centres to the LHIN (Local Health Integration Networks) and to Grandview Children’s Centre in Central East Region; the eligibility criteria for students to receive the service as well as the agency or the person who performs the service (OTs and PTs now operate under Grandview while nursing continues under LHIN was updated.
- 3) Special Education Staff: information about the types of staff providing special education services and programs and the qualifications required for the categories of staff.
- 4) SEAC committee: updates to the names and contact information for each member

The SEAC Committee was provided an opportunity to suggest any changes they may wish to see prior to submitting the final version to the Ministry of Education by the August 30, 2019 deadline.

Motion No. SS-2019-06-04-03

Approval of 2019-2020 Special Education Plan

Moved by S. Vincent, seconded by C. Nossier

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan.”

Carried

**Item g.3**      **Budget Update**

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the Ministry had released a technical paper that included some positive opportunities. Superintendent Bowyer advised SEAC of the implications for DCDSB from the announcements and responded to questions as they arose.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS****Item I.1      Coordinator's Report – M. Meraw**

On May 14, we had our annual celebration with our Program Support Teachers. Lisa Coghlan and the Oshawa Family of Schools planned a fun and engaging day. The morning was spent at the Abilities Centre where we participated in a tour of the facility, a presentation on Inclusion, and engaged in Adaptive Sports including wheelchair basketball and sledge hockey. After lunch, we celebrated Mass with Fr. Keith Wallace and played some more adaptive games. It was a great day where we truly celebrated the Joy of Inclusion.

Today we held our final PST meeting for this school year. This was another celebratory day as we welcomed Francesca Mosier as the Student Services Coordinator and Teresa Ezquerra as the Student Services Consultant for the upcoming school year and bid farewell to several of our retirees.

We will wrap up another successful year with our final PST mentoring session on June 11. This program has proven to be very valuable for our mentees as they continue to develop their skills and knowledge as a Program Support Teacher.

Autism Update:

The last session of Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) training is finishing up next week. The pilot will not be renewed for the Fall. PSTs who have had EAs in the training program will be inserviced on how to use the principles of ABA in their students' IEPs.

After School Skills Development Program:

We are offering a summer program for PEERS at Pereyma on Wednesday nights for students in Grades 7-12 through the months of July and August, through Continuing Education.

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

We're in the process of finalizing our Guide to Supporting Students who Self-Injure, and hope to share this information in the fall with all educators. This month, we are working on the Ministry deliverables, including a Board Scan and the annual Action Plan.

We are hosting two Mental Health First Aid sessions this summer - July 3-4 and August 27-28. All staff, including new hires, are being invited to attend. We're also opening it up to community partners through the Durham Children and Youth Planning Network (DCYPB). In the first week of July, I will be presenting a workshop at the Canadian Association of School System Administrators Conference on Engaging Youth in Anti-Stigma Activities.

**Item I.2      Mental Health Report – D. Mullane (cont'd)**

Working alongside our community partners on the DCYPN Youth Suicide Prevention Action Group, we've developed some suicide prevention and postvention resources, including a wallet card and postcard focused on prevention and a community postvention protocol. These resources will be available for download on the DCYPN website (electronic copies of these documents will be forwarded).

As of this fall, School Mental Health Ontario (formerly SMH-ASSIST) will be launching their new website. The new site will include sections for parents and for students, in addition to educators and school leaders. There will be online learning available for teachers and school leaders. We look forward to promoting and supporting the roll-out of this material in the fall.

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

Superintendent Bowyer thanked the members of SEAC for their support over the past year. She noted that it was another great year for SEAC and shared how appreciative the Board was of what SEAC accomplished this year and looked forward to continuing to grow the presence of our SEAC in the coming year.

Superintendent Bowyer also thanked the staff members from Student Services who have supported the work of SEAC – for being at the meetings every month to act as a Resource when needed and to the members of the Student Services executive who organized and ran events that were sponsored by SEAC.

Superintendent Bowyer also thanked the Union and Association representatives – Lyn Wardle and Paula Sorhaitz for the Durham Catholic Principals Association, Kathy McCarthy and Brooke Larson for APSSP, Maureen Cope for CUPE and Kim Boyer from OECTA elementary.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has appointed a twenty member panel to look at the proposed model for Autism support in the province of Ontario. She advised that Director Anne O'Brien will be representing Education on this panel.

Superintendent Bowyer announced that the Student Services department had two significant retirements this year. Student Services Coordinator Lisa Coghlan and Special Education Consultant Michelle Meraw. Superintendent Bowyer thanked both Lisa and Michelle for their many dedicated years of service to the Board in general and special education specifically. Superintendent Bowyer noted that Michelle Meraw is a pillar for special education in Durham Catholic. Everyone in the community knows her and values the work that she has done on behalf of the Board. At the PST meeting today, Michelle and Lisa received a standing ovation.

Superintendent Bowyer congratulated Teresa Ezquerra (currently a Student Services Coordinator) as the new Student Services consultant and Francesca Mosier, PST at St. Patrick CS, as the new Coordinator of Student Services.

Superintendent Bowyer shared that usually by this time of the year, Michelle Meraw would have submitted the SEAC PRO-Grant proposal for next year. The Board does know that they are going forward with applications for next year, but have not had any word about it yet. DCDSB will put in an application as soon as something is known.

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

Superintendent Bowyer shared that earlier this morning Student Services hosted the final PST meeting of the year and Student Services said good-bye to a number of Program Support Teachers who are retiring.

St. Mary: Don Murphy and Sharon Singh

All Saints: Curriculum Chair Margaret McDonald

St. John Bosco: Lainey Kennedy

St. Francis de Sales: Debbie Cauley

Superintendent Bowyer advised that she was able to place 5 teachers into the role of PST.

Superintendent Bowyer noted that the month of June brings a close to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Board. Last Sunday DCDSB had a Family Picnic at Lakeview Park in Oshawa that began with an outdoor mass celebrated by Father Keith Wallace from St. Bernadette Parish in Ajax. DCDSB also had the book launch of the book People of the Beatitudes which is the history of Catholic education in the Region of Durham.

And finally, Superintendent Bowyer shared slides from the Ministry of Education Special Education Branch that detailed the number of students in the province supported in special education programs. She also highlighted the number of these students that had received an IPRC and those that had not. This data indicated that last school year was the first year that the number of students in special education programs without an IPRC (52%) was more than the number of students in special education programs with an IPRC (48%). Superintendent Bowyer indicated that with the support of full inclusion, that Boards are recognizing that the need for IPRCs is not as great.

Motion SS-2019-06-04-04

Approval of the June 4, 2019 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by L. MacLellan

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the June 4, 2019 Meeting.”

Carried

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir**

New Autism Services Offerings

<https://grandviewkids.ca/programs-services/programs/autism-services-and-supports/>

How to Access Grandview Autism Services and Supports

Families can call Service Navigation at Grandview Children's Centre directly: 905-728-1673 x 2533 or toll-free 1-800-

304-6180 x 2533 and we will be pleased to answer your questions and get you started.

Service coordination is available to families who require some additional support to determine the programs and

services that are the best choice for their family.

An assessment can be scheduled, and our team can work with you to identify a goal(s) to address during service needs.

Grandview's Youth Advisory Committee was awarded a City of Oshawa Accessibility Award on May 28 in response to their accessible events for Grandview families. The YAC's next event is a teen Music,

Movement and Munchies (Zumba & Drums) night on Fri. June 21. Registration information will be shared on

Grandview's social media.

### **Autism Ontario – S. Casola**

On Thursday June 13 from 12:00-1:00pm there will be a live webinar with Dr. Mohammad Zubairi – "Exploring why and where culture matters in working with diverse children and youth with autism and their families". Registration is free

On June 23 the Durham Chapter is hosting a movie morning at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby, featuring the Secret Life of Pets 2. The concessions and doors open at 9 and the movie starts at 10. Children with ASD and parents/caregivers are free, siblings are \$3.00 each.

Great Wolf Lodge in September – Families can book at a discounted rate any night between Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday September 30. Registration provides a group code and families must then book their room directly with Great Wolf Lodge and pay for the room at the time of booking.

Great Wolf Lodge "Howl-oween" in October – Families can book at a discounted rate any night between Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration provides a group code and families must then book their room directly with Great Wolf Lodge and pay for the room at the time of booking.

Last week, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services announced an Autism Advisory panel that will provide input into the development of a needs-based system for the Ontario Autism Program. There are 20 expert members who have been appointed to the panel, each of whom bring diverse skills and perspectives. These members include representation from parent advocacy groups, parents, medical and ABA backgrounds. The Executive Director for Autism Ontario, Marg Spoelstra will be Co-Chairing this advisory panel.

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS (cont'd)****Durham Down Syndrome Association – L. MacLellan**

Annual Picnic at Nova's Ark, 7505 Cedarbrook Trail, Whitby, from 11:45 to 4. Free for members and their families.

**Durham Catholic District School Board Trustees – M. Ste. Marie**

At the June 10, 2019 Regular Board meeting the new Trustee for the City of Oshawa, Robert D'Sousa will be sworn in and the Board Budget will be brought for approval. This is a public meeting and all are welcome to attend.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- n.1 Correspondence from District School Board Ontario North East dated May 22, 2019 re: Changes to the provincial Funding model for Autism services
- n.2 Correspondence from Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board dated May 21, 2019 re: Changes to the provincial Funding model for Autism services
- n.3 Correspondence from Durham District School Board dated June 3, 2019 re: Provincial funding model for class size averages and mandatory e-learning

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2019-06-04-05      Adjournment

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by L. MacLellan

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of June 4, 2019 adjourn.”

Carried

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

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Valerie Adamo  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

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Janine Bowyer  
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier