



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 Learning Commons of Notre Dame CSS, 1375 Harwood Avenue North, in Ajax on **Tuesday, May 7, 2019.**

**Present**

V. Adamo (Chair)  
K. Burke  
C. Pegler  
M. Ste. Marie

**Staff**

J. Bowyer  
C. Plouffe  
D. Lood  
S. Phoenix

**With Regrets**

J. McCafferty  
S. Casola  
C. Nosseir  
M. LePage  
D. Mullane

**Absent**

**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**

Kari Burke called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Chair and Vice-Chair's absence and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Bowyer welcomed Maureen Cope, Chair of the CUPE Educational Assistant Unit and an Assistive Technology Specialist, to SEAC as the new CUPE Representative.

**CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Item e.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Item g.1      Special Education Budget Announcement**

The Ministry of Education 2019/2020 Education budget was released. It appears that DCDSB has had a small increase in Special Education funding. However, DCDSB will need to wait for the technical paper to confirm the expectations around the small increase. There were some positive announcements in the Special Education budget:

- Continued funding (with a slight decrease) for Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools which supports the hiring of additional Social Workers
- Continued funding for After School Development Program for students with ASD

The pilot project that DCDSB was involved in for additional training for educational assistants in ABA has ended.

The DCDSB will be using attrition from the Student Services department to provide funding for the additional educational assistants that were previously funded through the Local Priorities Fund, which comes to an end at the end of this school year.

## **DELEGATIONS**

None

## **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Item k.1      Coordinator's Report – C. Plouffe**

On April 30, all Guidance and Student Success teachers were trained on the use of eRaid (Electronic Referral Assessment Intervention Documentation System). All school team meeting notes and Student Services Clinical referrals will be managed through eRaid beginning May 1.

DCDSB welcomed Kevin Cameron on April 16 and 17 for two-day Traumatic Events Systems (TES) training. TES is a model of crisis and trauma response that focuses on assessment and intervention. Staff members from Student Services and throughout the system were involved in this training.

The Student Services PELI Committee has begun the process of determining EA allocation for September by reviewing student needs across the system.

DCDSB staff and students dressed in their loudest, wackiest and wildest clothes on Friday, May 3 to support kids with hearing loss.

**Item k.2**      **Mental Health Report – D. Mullane (verbally reported by C. Plouffe)**

Several capacity-building opportunities were provided for staff in the month of April including:

ASIST Tune-Up on April 9

- Mental Health First Aid for Adults Who Interact with Youth on April 11 & 12
- ASIST training on April 25 and 26

We also hosted our third TAMI Summit of the year on April 10<sup>th</sup> (for Intermediate students). The TAMI Coalition is very excited to be hosting our first parent event this evening, and we're pleased that our DCDSB SEAC will be participating. Approximately 150 people had pre-registered to attend the event.

Our May 1 Cannabis parent event was extremely successful with over 100 participants in attendance on a rainy evening. Our community partners from Public Health, Pinewood Centre of Lakeridge Health and Durham Region Police Services were extremely knowledgeable and the information was very well-received.

Children's Mental Health Week is celebrated across Ontario during the week of May 5-11. Schools have received a package of resources, including posters and flyers, as well as two videos and corresponding discussion guides to facilitate classroom conversations. We have asked all schools to participate in our **Five Ways to Well-being Campaign**, which focuses on things that everyone can do to maintain and enhance their well-being. We are also encouraging people to wear a green ribbon to show their support.

The Social Work team is in the final stages of a training initiative in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Students which is being delivered by Dr. Angela McHolm. This training was designed specifically for school-based clinicians and has included full day workshops as well as a series of live case consultations with Dr. McHolm. This has been a very enriching experience for the team and the benefits have been noted in Brief Intervention as well as the regular School Social Work services.

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

This week is Catholic Education Week with the theme for Catholic Education Week determined by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association. The theme for this year is Living as Joyful Disciples. Each day has an individual theme and the Board has system activities planned most of the days of this week. Yesterday the Board celebrated its annual system wide Mass for Catholic Education week and were very fortunate to have Bishop Nyguen celebrating the mass for us.

After school tonight DCDSB honoured the Distinguished Catholic Educators and our Distinguished Catholic Leader for this year. The Distinguished Catholic Educator for Student Services was Sarah McAvoy – Resource Teacher for Hearing Services. The Distinguished Catholic Leader was Lisa Sarna, the principal of St. Matthew the Evangelist Catholic School.

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

DCDSB had its distinguished Catholic Alumni celebrations last week. Very pleased to announce that Jocelyn Rowell, a graduate of Msgr John Pereyema was honoured as a distinguished alumnus for her continued success in the Special Olympics and for her volunteer work in the Board.

Last Friday, some schools across our system celebrated Dress Loud Day in support of students with hearing impairments.

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke**

May 30 – Child Development Institute – Executive Functioning and Emotional Regulation, Room 105 Trent University, Durham @ 7:00 p.m.

Power to Achieve Scholarship to DCDSB student with diagnosed learning disability as they move to post-secondary education.

**Autism Ontario – Durham Region – C. Pegler**

Our Annual Council Meeting is tomorrow evening at 7pm at our new location: 104-50 Richmond St E, Oshawa.

Our new free Education Portal is a great resource and one-stop shop for helpful articles, webinars and educational events. Please visit: [bit.ly/aoportal](http://bit.ly/aoportal)

The Government of Ontario is hosting an online survey as a means of public consultation on how children and youth with autism can be better supported. The survey contains 39 questions and takes about 20 minutes to complete. This survey is open to anyone regardless of their connection to autism.

The 2019 one-to-one summer support worker reimbursement fund registration is now open. Reimbursements will be provided based on random selection made from all eligible applicants who apply between May 6 and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Maximum reimbursements of \$600 per child or youth under 18 will be made to subsidize services purchased between June 24 and August 30<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.autismontario.com/news/2019-one-one-summer-support-worker-reimbursement-fund>

### VOICE for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

Voice wishes to thank the board for their support of dress loud day. We received several additional requests from our schools to participate this year. Participation packages were made available to all schools.

The annual VOICE conference was held this past weekend. Friday May 3 was the professionals day and was attended by over 65 professionals including several participants from DCDSB. On Saturday we had over 130 non-professional participants. Topics included mental health, various research findings principally around cochlear implants, a specific teens program and a panel of hearing sibling experiences.

This weekend also marked the kick off of voice camp registration. Camp will be held the August 9-11 weekend at Bark Lake Leadership Centre in Haliburton. Information is available on the VOICE website.

The VOICE board also appreciated our letter on class size concerns. This prompted them to begin discussion on their role in advocacy. I will be participating as we explore this further to see if a greater role is appropriate within and for VOICE at this time.

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

#### OAP Family Focus Group summary

Key learnings from the sessions were:

- All of the families who participated in the focus groups had received at least one service from Grandview – Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, therapeutic recreation, behaviour services.
- Families appreciated Grandview's "wrap-around", integrated approach to developing their plans.
- Some families seemed to know what services they wanted while other said they wanted an assessment that looked at a number of areas of need to help them determine their next steps or where to start with service.
- Excellent feedback collected with respect scheduling, location of program delivery, and duration of service.

Some gaps identified by participants included the need for:

- More community supports
- Respite support and options
- Recreational/social groups for children under 4 years of age
- More community-based groups for adolescents
  - Grief supports for children on the spectrum

Next steps: Open houses April 29 and May 2 to gather more feedback. Online feedback can be sent to [FAC@grandviewkids.ca](mailto:FAC@grandviewkids.ca)

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

There will be a special Board meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the position of the Durham Catholic District School Board City of Oshawa position. All are welcome to attend.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- m.1 Correspondence from Bluewater District School Board dated January 28, 2019 – Support of Bill 44, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- m.2 Correspondence from Toronto District School Board SEAC dated April 21, 2019 – “Exclusion of Students with Disabilities from School”
- m.3 Correspondence from Durham District School Board dated April 26, 2019 – “Proposed Changes to the Ontario Autism Program Funding”
- m.4 Correspondence from Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board dated April 26, 2019 – Support of Bill 64, Noah and Gregory’s Law

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Item p.1 Stomping Out Stigma by the Talking About Mental Illness Coalition**

The SEAC Committee retired to the Notre Dame CSS Auditorium to participate in the Stomping Out Stigma parent presentation by the Talking About Mental Illness Coalition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

**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