

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 2, 2018.**

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo (Vice-Chair)	J. Bowyer	A. Shiels	
K. Burke	T. Ezquerra	C. Pegler	
C. Nosseir	D. Lood	T. McGarry	
J. McCafferty (tele)	D. Mullane	K. LeFort	
L. MacLellan		M. Feeheley	
M. LePage			
E. van de Klippe			

S.E.A.C. Representatives

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

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Land Acknowledgment**

Item a.2 **Memorials and Prayer**

Vice-Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 Special Education Supports for Students in French C. Caputo as a Second Language

Carol Caputo, Teaching and Learning Consultant, French as a Second Language-NTIP Co-Lead, provided an overview of a Ministry document titled “Including Students with Special Education Needs in French as a Second Language Programs” which focuses on providing the supports to assist students with special education needs in the three French as a Second Language programs to provide them with opportunity to learn French. Carol Caputo responded to questions regarding growth by ensuring that the Board is changing mindsets and the number of exemptions are declining.

Item g.2 Bullying Prevention and Intervention J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer provided an overview of the Board’s approach to Bullying Prevention and Intervention. She also shared some key points from a presentation that was provided to administrators and their Safe Schools teams by Dr. Wendy Craig, co-founder of PREVnet last school year.

Superintendent Bowyer highlighted some of the initiatives that take place in the schools during the Bullying Prevention and Intervention weeks in November and February such as “Think Pink”, pink shirt day, student contests, and other initiatives that help to promote awareness of this very important topic as the Board continues with their whole school approach. She also explained that bullying prevention is taught through the religion and fully alive program, as well as our own Bullying Prevention and Intervention Curriculum. Bullying Prevention is one of the core service offered by our Child and Youth Counsellors and there is a Child and Youth Counsellor dedicated to bullying early intervention programs in schools that have been identified as schools in need.

Superintendent Bowyer also explained the purpose and use of the School Climate Surveys which occur every two years. The School Climate Survey will be completed in November of this year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item h.1 Review of SEAC Goals

Superintendent Bowyer reviewed a calendar of presentations and goals set at the last SEAC meeting and made suggestions on how the Committee might move forward with some of the set goals. Claudia Nosseir requested that Grandview present at a future meeting with the topic still to be determined. No other changes were made at this time.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Item I.1 **Coordinator's Report – T. Ezquerra**

DCDSB is piloting Empower-

Empower is an intensive, evidence-based reading intervention program from Sick Kids. The program targets decoding, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary skills in struggling readers. Empower has seen significant success with students with learning disabilities. Students with Intellectual Disabilities- Mild have also met with some success. This year we purchased the materials and training for five schools. PSTs at Father Fenelon, St. Hedwig, St. Bernadette, St. Elizabeth Seton and Monsignor John Pereyma (7/8) participated in their initial training sessions September 20 and 21. They also received the materials required to facilitate the intervention program with a small group of 6-8 students. All students will be working on the Decoding and Spelling aspects of the program. The total cost to bring Empower to DCDSB this year is \$27 500. PSTs will be working with their school Psychological Services personnel to identify students who best meet the criteria of the program. After receiving permission from parents, they will begin working with students during dedicated 1-hr blocks, five days a week. PSTs will continue to be supported by Empower staff through official training and informal mentorship throughout this school year.

Pathways to the Future... Looking Beyond Secondary School is taking place November 6 from 2-4 and 6-8 at the Pope Francis Centre. Drop in to talk to representatives from various community agencies about post-secondary services and recreational, employment and educational opportunities available for students with exceptional needs. A flyer will be sent home in October with the IEP package for students in grades 7-12 with modified or alternative IEPs. Please join us before the November SEAC meeting or consider being a representative at the SEAC table during the event.

Transition Night for students with Learning Disabilities - November 20 at Notre Dame learning commons

We are excited to announce that we are working on a Pathways planning night specifically geared to students with Learning Disabilities and their parents. The goal of the evening is to provide information about how local Colleges and Universities support the learning needs of students through their Access Centres. We are pleased to be working with the Durham chapter of the Learning Disabilities Association.

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

This week is Mental Illness Awareness Week (Sept 30 to Oct 6). MIAW is an annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness. While we don't formally celebrate this week in the school board, we have been tweeting about it, as we want to make sure we keep the conversation going, as we work to stomp out the stigma surrounding mental illness.

- Today, Intermediate educators from 10 schools attended a TAMI Teacher Training session, to prepare them to run the TAMI Classroom program this year in all of their grade 7 and 8 classes.
- On October 4 and 5, we're running an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) session. The session is currently full, with a wait list.
- Our parent conference with Dr. Jean Clinton is fast approaching (Oct 17). We currently have 505 registrations, which is the maximum capacity for the theatre at Notre Dame. We are hosting a staff session with Dr. Jean Clinton in the afternoon of the same day.
- On October 19, we've joined with three other boards in Durham Region to offer a professional learning opportunity for our Social Workers and Psychological Services staff on Non-Suicidal Self-Injury. Dr. Stephen Lewis from University of Guelph will be leading this session, with a focus on school-based strategies and protocols.
- On the October 22 PD Day, our Educational Assistants will have the opportunity to sign up for one of several workshops. Among their choices, we're hosting both SafeTALK and Mental Health First Aid sessions.
- On this same date, we're also hosting an ASIST Tune-Up for our Psychological Services staff, who have asked for a refresher.
- The TAMI Secondary student Summit is taking place on Oct 23 at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences.
- The Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee has invited all Secondary schools to send delegates to the 4th annual Leader in Me: Awareness to Action student conference on October 29.

Finally, the Mindfulness Committee has been meeting to plan initiatives for the year. This year, we will continue to promote the Mindfulness Fundamentals online learning course through Mindful Schools, and we've been given a discount code for staff to be able to access this course at a significantly reduced rate. We are also offering two MindUP cafes this fall (dates still TBD) as we're looking at supporting educators in bringing mindfulness to their classrooms in a more direct way.

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

Last month Father Leo J Austin hosted the Special Olympics Durham Schools Track and Field Meet. There were over 150 participants and four of our schools participated. Two of our students sang O'Canada at the Opening Ceremonies. A big thank you to Erin Malkin, Program Support teacher at Father Leo J Austin for hosting the event and making the day extra special for all of the athletes.

We are happy to announce that we have received some of the money that has been on hold for the last month. The ABA pilot program that provides capacity building opportunities for 30 of our educational assistants. It includes targeted 40-hour online training module for Educational Assistants based on the Behaviour Analyst Certification Board (BACB) Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) task list. We have also received the payment agreement to run the after-schools social skills training program that we ran last year with much success.

The Board's Numeracy Action Plan will be shared at our next SEAC as part of the presentation on EQAO results. I am excited about the role that student services will have within our Numeracy Action Plan – including the implementation of learning profiles and class profiles, and a greater focus on supporting students with Learning Disabilities.

Yesterday was World Teacher's Day. We celebrated our system wide mass last night at Holy Family Parish. It included a commissioning ceremony for all of our new staff.

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We will be turning the Durham Catholic District School Board into a wave of purple on October 24, 2018 which is Child Abuse Prevention Day. Child Abuse Prevention Month is an event sponsored by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. We will be doing a special photo opportunity at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School.

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 ABA Supports in the School came to third and final reading. The policy and Admin procedure on Student Protection came to first reading and was made Interim due to the legislative changes. At the next policy board meeting in November, I will be bringing forward a number of revised policies that SEAC would be especially interested in so I will share them at the next SEAC meeting. 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

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

Thursday, October 25 Brooklin Community Centre 7 to 9 PM
Viewing of Richard Lavoie's F.A.T. City – How Hard Can this Be?
A film that explores living with Learning Disabilities. Part of our Learning Disabilities Awareness activities.

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

October 9,10, 11 Meet and Greet at Whitby Central Library

Collaboration with Student Services Department in planning and delivering a special Post Secondary Transition Information Evening for student with Learning Disabilities. The event will take place in November 2018.

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

Paperwork Party Workshop – network and get support filling out funding applications (SSAH/ACSD) – Oct. 18 RSVP required : <https://paperworkpartyoct.eventbrite.ca>
password: family

Believe Campaign Launch – The Foundation has raised 14.5 million of their \$20 million goal

Annual Accessible Halloween event – Sun. Oct. 28 - Whitby Safety Village

CORRESPONDENCE

None

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

None

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

Valerie Adamo
Vice-Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier