



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Minutes of the **Special Education Advisory Committee** of the Durham Catholic District School Board which was held in the North Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Present

V. Adamo
K. Burke
T. Chapman
C. Nosseir
L. McLellan
J. McCafferty

Staff

J. Bowyer
T. Ezquerra
S. Phoenix
J. Abrams

With Regrets

D. Mullane

Absent

SEAC Representatives

P. Sorhaitz, Principal/Vice Principal Association
M. Cope, CUPE

A. Call to Order

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Superintendent Bowyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and offered the opening prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. Approval of Agenda

b.1 Changes to the Printed Agenda

None

b.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by V. Adamo, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, January 7, 2020 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 Superintendent Bowyer announced the appointment of Tracy Barill as the new Director of Education. Director was present and offered greetings to the members of SEAC.

c.2 Following the inaugural Board meeting on December 3, 2019, Trustee Committees were confirmed. Superintendent Bowyer announced that Trustees Tricia Chapman and Jim McCafferty will serve on SEAC for the 2020 year.

D. Considerations of Motion

None

E. Elections for the Position of Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee

e.1 Superintendent Bowyer opened the floor for nominations for the position of chair of SEAC for the period January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Nominee	Moved by	Seconded by	Willing to Stand?
V. Adamo	J. McCafferty	K. Burke	Yes

Superintendent Bowyer called three times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed.

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-02
Close Nominations

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by L. McLellan

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Chair of SEAC for the period from January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Bowyer announced that Valerie Adamo, representative for VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, was acclaimed to the position of Chair of SEAC for the period from January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Valerie assumed the position of Chair.

F. Elections for the Position of Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee

f.1 Chair Adamo opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice chair of SEAC for the period January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Nominee	Moved by	Seconded by	Willing to Stand?
K. Burke	J. McCafferty	C. Nosseir	Yes

Chair Adamo called three times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed.

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-03
Close Nominations

Moved by V. Adamo, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Vice Chair of SEAC for the period from January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020.”

CARRIED

Chair Adamo announced that Kari Burke, representative for Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region, was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair of SEAC for the period from January 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Kari accepted the position of Vice Chair.

G. Declarations of Interest

g.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

H. Actions to be Taken

h.1 Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 5, 2019

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-04
Approval of Minutes

Moved by C. Nosseir, seconded by J. McCafferty

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

CARRIED

h.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 5, 2019

None

I. Presentations

i.1 Behaviour Resource Team Updates – F. Hurst/S. Kearns

Fran Hurst and Sandra Kearns, Resource Teachers, Behaviour Resource Team provided a detailed presentation with respect to the behaviour resource teams objectives and strategies with an emphasis on self regulation and their 12 week intervention model. They provided an overview of what the behaviour resource teams roles are and the services they offer to students, parents and schools. The behaviour resource teams are continuously working on building capacity with staff and collaborating with outside resources. Fran Hurst and Sandra Kearns responded to questions as they arose.

J. Discussion Items

j.1 Service Animals

Superintendent Bowyer provided the committee with a copy of the Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Policy and requested their feedback. She provided a brief overview of the changes and explained why the changes were now being implemented within DCDSB. The approval of the use of service animals will continue to be approved on a case by case basis.

K. Delegations

None

L. Notices of Motion

None

M. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

N. Staff Reports

n.1 Coordinator's Report – T. Ezquerro

Special Incident Portion (SIP) Application Process

Throughout the month of November, Student Services Coordinators and Consultants 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. Claims were submitted and received by the Ministry on December 16.

Read & Write

Student Services has purchased licenses for Read and Write. **Read** and **Write** is a simple and easy-to-use floating toolbar that provides speech feedback, phonetic spell checking and many other literacy support tools to help with **reading** and **writing**. All students in grade 1 through 12 now have access to Read and Write on school computers, Chromebooks and iPad. To facilitate this process, more than 100 Board Staff, including ESL Teachers, Intermediate Guidance Teachers, Program Support Teachers, and Psych Services staff will receive training this month- Training occurred on Dec. 10.

Carving your Own Path – Considerations for Post-Secondary Learning for Students with Learning Disabilities

In partnership with the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region and the Durham District School Board, we are hosting a post-secondary information night for students with learning disabilities, and their families. The event, "Carving your Own Path – Considerations for Post-Secondary Learning for Students with Learning Disabilities," will be on January 22, 2020 from 6pm-8pm in the Learning Commons at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School. Schools sent home information flyers with students in grades 9-12 before the Christmas break. Candice will send flyer to all SEAC members.

Autism Spectrum Disorder:

On November 29th, Helen Killoran presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference, on the After School Social Skills Program, outlining the work that has been done with Friendship Lab and PEERS over the past three years. DCDSB was part of the pilot, which has now been funded in all the school boards in the province.

The first term of Friendship Lab ends next week. 40 students and their parents have been trained in the program this term, with two cohorts at each site – St. Francis de Sales and Sir Albert Love. Registrations are being accepted for the upcoming term, beginning January 27th. PSTs have been given the forms to forward to applicable parents and students.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has provided funding to Geneva Centre for Autism to offer the **Ontario Educator Online Autism Training Program** to publicly funded school boards. DCDSB educators will be invited to register for these free courses in the coming weeks. Topics include: Functional Behaviour Analysis, ABA for Educators: Level 1 and 2, Supporting Play-based Learning, Registered Behaviour Technician, Charting a Pathway to Success in your Classroom

n.2 Mental Health Report – T. Ezquerro for D. Mullane

On November 19, Durham's Children and Youth Planning Network offered a free workshop for Durham Region professionals: **Best Practices in Mental Health Treatment for ASD**, with Dr. Jonathan Weiss. Fifteen staff members from our Social Work and Psychological Services departments participated in the training, which focused on: how mental health problems look within the context of autism; evidence-based interventions; common adaptations to psychotherapy; and working with parents of children and youth with autism and mental health problems.

In November, the Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee (DYDAC), a community partnership that includes DCDSB representation, presented a poster at the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) national conference. There was much interest in the DYDAC poster, with other communities interested in replicating our model.

On November 21 and 22, twenty-eight staff members participated in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

On November 26, we held our second TAMI Summit of the year, this one for Intermediate students. DCDSB was well-represented, and once again, Paul Ranger, Distinguished Catholic Alumni and former NHL player was the keynote speaker for the event.

On December 12, 80 elementary teachers participated in a half-day training on the new Health and Physical Education curriculum, with a session on mental health literacy and social-emotional learning. Community partners joined us in sharing resources for educators to support delivery of the curriculum.

Our **Sleep Well** staff wellness campaign was a great success. Sleep tips were sent out each week, and staff were asked to track their sleep habits, with a goal of improving their habits. More than 200 ballots were received, and a winner was drawn for a sleep-themed gift basket. Our next campaign, starting in January will be called "Move Well" with a focus on increasing activity.

On January 21 and 30, we'll be offering a workshop for Intermediate teachers on a how to integrate mental health literacy into a novel study. Bell Let's Talk Day falls on January 29th. Resources will be sent to schools and an event is being planned for board office staff.

n.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer welcomed Jim McCafferty and Tricia Chapman as trustee reps on SEAC.

Last month, Tracy Barill was appointed as DCDSB's new Director of Education. She began officially on January 1, 2020. At last night's special board meeting, Susie Lee-Fernandes was appointed as Superintendent of Education taking over the Whitby Family of Schools, Student Achievement, Equity and Inclusive Education and Early Years.

Staffing changes in Program Support as the result of two retirements (Janet Broder and Molly Anne Thomas) and two maternity resulted in some movement this month including the placement of three PSTs off the PST Roster.

French Immersion registration is taking place at this time. During today's PST meeting PSTs were provided with further information on using accommodations and modifications in a French Immersion program that will allow second language learning to be accessible to all.

This month's Capacity Building for elementary school Math Leads and a small team from each school will be focused on supporting students with IEPs in numeracy based on their learning profile.

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-05

Approval of the January 7, 2020 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by L. McLellan

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the January 7, 2020 meeting."

CARRIED

O. Association Reports

DDSA – L. McLellan

Saturday, January 11, 10-12 at Portraits by Goguen Gallery, 191 Centre St. South, Oshawa: Art sessions offered for 8 to 13 year olds. \$10 (including materials) for members/\$20 non-members

The DDSA will be teaming up with schools interested in their toonie fundraising campaign, which will occur in March. Any interested schools should contact president Yma Frison at mastermail@ddsa.ca

Leadership in Training at the Abilities Centre: Designed for youth of all abilities. Contact Geraldine Wade at gwade@abilitiescentre.org 905-665-8500 x 226

LDADR – K. Burke

Jan. 22- Carving Your Own Path Transition to Post Secondary Learning for Individuals with Learning Disabilities. 6 to 8 PM. Learning Commons, Notre Dame High School Ajax. Target audience students in grades 9 to 12 and their parents.

January 30- Speaker Series- Dr. Nancy Wise- Is French Immersion an option for students with Learning Disabilities. Whitby Main Library 7 to 9 PM

Ontario Human Rights Commission continues to welcome public input via surveys, emails, phone calls and public hearings. Further information at www.ohrc.on.ca.

P. Correspondence

None

Q. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

R. Pending Items

None

S. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2020-01-07-06
Adjournment

Moved by L. McLellan, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of January 7, 2020 adjourn.”

CARRIED

T. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Chair Adamo .

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Resource, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Recording Secretary: Barbara Rotondi