



**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, March 3, 2020.

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo	J. Bowyer	C. Nosseir	
K. Burke	D. Mullane	S. Casola	
T. Chapman	S. Phoenix	C. Pegler	
J. McCafferty (tele)	J. Abrams		
A. Massis			
H. Mendela			
L. McLellan			

SEAC Representatives

P. Sorhaitz, Principal/Vice Principal Representative

A. Call to Order

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., 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-2020-03-03-01

Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by L. McLellan

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, March 3, 2020 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 Superintendent Bowyer announced the resignation of Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter from SEAC. Cystic Fibrosis Canada submitted their letter of resignation in late February.

c.2 Chair Adamo introduced Alex Massis, the new Community Representative and welcomed him to the Committee.

D. Considerations of Motion

None

E. Declarations of Interest

e.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

F. Actions to be Taken

f.1 Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of February 4, 2020

Motion No. SS-2020-03-03-02
Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of February 4, 2020

None

G. Presentations

g.1 Mental Health and Addictions Strategy – D. Mullane

Diane Mullane, Manager, Mental Health Initiatives/Mental Health Leader presented data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) with regards to drug/alcohol use in children grades 7-12 which showed a significant decline in the last 20 years. She also presented 2017 data from the Durham Region. This survey is completed every 2 years and Durham's 2019 data should be available soon, hopefully continuing the decline. Diane shared information and a short video from the annual DYDAC (Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee) Conference where students from across Durham Region come to learn more about the effects of drugs and alcohol. DCDSB schools are also participating in their own drug awareness initiatives with funding provided by the Board and the Ministry (e.g. high school students are presenting what they learned at the DYDAC Conference to grade 7 and 8 students).

g.2 Assessments – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer and Dr. Jessica Abrams, Manager, Psychological and Speech Language Services/Chief Psychologist, provided an overview of DCDSB's comprehensive internal and external assessment models (approximate complement, wait lists, what each assessment might look like) and responded to questions as they arose.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 PAAC on SEAC Survey

Superintendent Bowyer went through each survey question with the committee and asked for feedback. The Committee shared their comments on areas that SEAC does well and suggestions for improvement going forward.

I. Delegations

None

J. Notices of Motion

None

K. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

L. Staff Reports

I.1 Coordinator's Report – D. Mullane for C. Plouffe

Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip (SWATTT)

Over the past few weeks, all 7 of DCDSB's Secondary Schools welcomed gr. 8 students with Assistive Technology from their feeder elementary schools. The sessions were approximately 2 hours in length and included a Kahoot trivia game, Scavenger Hunt of the school, Self-Advocacy Scenarios, Student Mentor Voice, AT @ Secondary and of course, a snack!! The SWATT trips were supported by the secondary and elementary Program Support Teachers, Intermediate Guidance Teachers, the Assistive Technology Team and Student Services Consultant. SWATT is a valuable piece to support a successful transition to secondary school and feedback from staff and students has been very positive.

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

DCPIC hosted their mental health and wellbeing parent conference on Saturday, Feb 8 with Dr. Patrick Carney as the keynote speaker. The event was well-attended, and the feedback was very positive.

School Mental Health Ontario recently invited DCDSB teachers to participate in piloting a new online resource called **Faith and Wellness: A Daily Mental Health Resource**. This is the OECTA endorsed, faith-based version of a secular resource that is currently available, designed to equip teachers with practical tools to enhance mental health skills, attitudes knowledge and habits as part of their daily practice in Catholic Schools. 19 DCDSB teachers are currently participating in this pilot.

While the current climate has meant reduced PD and fewer meetings to share information with educators and administrators, there is still a lot going on behind the scenes. The student DYDAC and TAMI groups are running amazing initiatives in their schools, and are hoping that they will be able to move forward with many activities scheduled for March and early April including the second TAMI Intermediate Summit on March 24, an ASIST Tune-UP on April 2, a presentation by Dr. Kristen McLeod on the April 3 PD day as well as a Sharing of Excellence series in April. Student Services has also scheduled a safeTALK workshop for parents on May 7 and are working on setting a date for another Cannabis and Vaping event for parents.

Save the Date: The community Youth Suicide Prevention Action Group has scheduled a "Community Launch" for some of the resources that Student Services has previously shared with SEAC, (including a Suicide Prevention postcard and walletcard, and Community Postvention Guidelines). This free event will take place on the morning of May 20 at the Pope Francis Conference Centre and will feature Valéry Brosseau, Mental health speaker, writer and advocate.

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

In the past, the Ministry of Education budgets were generally released at the end of March. The Ministry of Education has informed Boards to expect the 2020-2021 budgets around mid-April. As has been past practice, during the April SEAC meeting, Superintendent Putnam will share the Board budget priorities and Superintendent Bowyer will share the proposed special education budget and any announcement for Special Education.

As part of the collective agreement with APSSP, there was the inclusion of Local Priority Funds to add additional staff. DCDSB received additional funding for approximately 0.6 staff. Superintendent Bowyer will be meeting with APSSP tomorrow to discuss DCDSB's proposal. The money in the previous collective agreement went toward Speech Language Services and when the money was not renewed last year, the position was reduced.

Last week, Superintendent Bowyer applied to the Ministry of Education for the subsidy for teachers to take the Additional Qualification Course on ASD. The subsidy is for three years, but will be based on whatever amount DCDSB is approved for. It will be handed out on a first come, first served basis.

This week is Social Workers Week. DCDSB will be acknowledging the work of Social Workers tomorrow across the Board.

On March 21, schools will be celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Day. On April 2, schools will be celebrating Autism Awareness Day.

Motion No. SS-2020-03-03-03

Approval of the March 3, 2020 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by L. McLellan, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the March 3, 2020 meeting.”

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

LDADR – K. Burke

Thursday, March 26, 2020 7 to 8:30 PM Brooklin Community Centre Boardroom

Hello Highschool- Preparing for a Transition to High School

Target audience: Students in Gr. 8 with a diagnosed Learning Disability and their parents

Focus on technology, self-advocacy, accessing resources and transition supports

Durham Down Syndrome Association – L. MacLellan

Sunday, March 22 from 2 to 4: World Down Syndrome Day celebration at the Abilities Centre, Theatre Room: various activities planned and refreshments will be provided

Sunday, March 29 from 11 to 3: Free ROM admission for DDSA members and families to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, courtesy of the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario. Contact mastermail@ddsa.ca for more info

Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter – C. Pegler

OAP Childhood Budget and One Time Interim Funding info sessions are ongoing throughout the region. Please check the following link for future dates. The next two sessions are for One Time Funding on March 9th in Pickering and March 10th in Oshawa. https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=Durham

Free Webcast on March 25 from 7pm-8pm on applying for Developmental Services once you have applied for passport funding. You can register for the webcast from the link below and can ask questions up until March 23rd. Registration:
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egwzad7qe3fa4a4b&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Submit questions:

http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egwzps54k6l6npyw/_tmp/questions?fbclid=IwAR1IbNV-wE4oCnBvQ7PLFV3rhigiV7VQIZB1r-jwuh319GFEDWGZFWepQU

Raise the Flag for World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. Register your school or business and request a Flag for your ceremony. Visit the website for Educator toolkits and other information to help spread awareness to your school or community.
<https://raisetheflagforautism.com/>

Great Wolf Lodge group pricing from April 28- May 6, 2020. Registration opens on March 11th at 9am. Rooms book up quickly!
https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=2813&reset=1&fbclid=IwAR3ZEtO1QHI3qJq-YPH_gGI5ZBJT9zThmG8JWnvo0A4xYI0uuFmKWp9sXEc

VOICE – V. Adamo

DRESS LOUD DAY

Support those with hearing loss by incorporating Dress Loud Day at your school or organization! On any day during the month of May (Speech and Hearing Awareness Month) have your students/staff dress in their most crazy, wild, and LOUD outfits! Participants are encouraged to bring a \$1.00 - \$2.00 donation that will go directly towards supporting deaf or hard of hearing children.

Posters will be mailed to your school or organization, and prize packages (that include bracelets, stress balls, water bottles) will either be mailed or hand-delivered.

Contact admin@voicefordeafkids.com for registration details for Dress Loud Day 2020!

Below are informational letters regarding Dress Loud Day 2020!

Click [here](#) to find out what Dress Loud Day is all about!

Click [here](#) to read about how to sign up for Dress Loud Day!

Information is available on the website. <https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Events>

VOICE CONFERENCE

The annual conference will be held May 1 & 2 (May 1 is geared to professionals)
The conference will again be held at Centennial College
The theme is 'EMPOWERING PARTNERSHIPS.' VOICE would like to celebrate how the collaborative teamwork of parents, teachers, LSL Specialists, AV Therapists, audiologists, doctors, etc. support families with their journey
Information is available on the website. <https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Events>

GREAT WOLF LODGE (this is a members only event)

Save the Date for our Family Weekend at the Great Wolf Lodge. Registration will be open May 1st online at our conference with special group pricing. This is a member only event and you must have your 2020 membership renewal up to date. More information to follow.

Information is available on the website. <https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Events>

VOICE CAMP August 7 to 9 at Bark Lake Leadership Centre

Attending this two night weekend getaway will give parents the opportunity to interact and meet other families who have children with hearing loss and kids and teens have the chance to spend a fun-filled weekend together. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration cost, as well as:

- Workshops for parents

- Camp activities for children (led by camp instructors)
- Access to Sandy Beach (with lifeguards present)
- Saturday Movie Night (and snacks!)

Information is available on the website. <https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Events>

THE GIFT OF HEARING FUND

VOICE has set up a fund to give back to our members who require financial assistance in order to obtain an upgrade for their child's hearing technology. This technology includes hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other primary hearing related devices that the child wears. If your family requires assistance please check the requirements and if you are eligible, send a completed application package by April 15th 2020

<https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Academic-Scholarships>

The Louise Crawford Scholarship 2020

This scholarship is for VOICE Members who are entering an accredited College or University in the Fall of 2020. .

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE WEBSITE

<https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Academic-Scholarships>

Looking for some helpful resources to educate your school or work place on hearing loss? Check out our [Resources](#) page for more information and communication tips!

N. Correspondence

None

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2020-03-03-04
Adjournment

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by T. Chapman

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of March 3, 2020 adjourn.”

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by L. McLellan

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Resource, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier