



**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 virtually via Microsoft O365 Teams Live Event.

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo	J. Bowyer	C. Nosseir	
K. Burke	T. Barill		
T. Chapman	S. Phoenix		
J. McCafferty	J. Abrams		
A. Massis	D. Mullane		
S. Casola	H. Killoran		
	R. Putnam		

SEAC Representatives

L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Representative
T. Robertson, APSSP Representative
M. Cope, CUPE Representative

A. Call to Order

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:31 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-2020-04-21-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, April 21, 2020 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 Superintendent Bowyer introduced the Director of Education, Tracy Barill, and welcomed her to the meeting.

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 March 3, 2020

Motion No. SS-2020-04-21-02
Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 3, 2020

None

G. Presentations

g.1 Budget Update – Special Education – R. Putnam

Superintendent Putnam provided an overview of the Multi-Year Budget Framework with an emphasis on enrolment and utilization, the provincial outlook and the risks and opportunities moving forward. Superintendent Bowyer also shared information about the Supports for Student funding as part of each employee groups new collective agreements. She also shared an update on the After Schools Social Skills Development funding, Mental Health Workers in the Schools and Special Incident Portion. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education will not be releasing Board budgets until May, so the precise Special Education Budget will be shared at that time. Superintendent Putnam advised that the Durham Catholic District School Board remains very supportive of special education. Superintendent Putnam responded to questions as they arose.

g.2 Special Education Plan – Distance Learning – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer shared that the Ministry's expectation was that all regulatory committees of the Board would continue to meet in a public forum. SEAC meetings will continue on their regular schedule using the virtual Office365 Teams application.

Superintendent Bowyer provided an overview of the Ministry expectations for phase two of distance learning and discussed what supports have been put in place for supporting students well-being and mental health. Superintendent Bowyer also shared information around special education accommodations and modifications, alternative goals and assistive technology. Limited access had been granted to schools to retrieve essential resources and materials and once again to disseminate technology to families that required board technology to assist with distance learning.

H. Discussion Items

None

I. Delegations

None

J. Notices of Motion

None

K. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

L. Staff Reports

I.1 Coordinator's Report – H. Killoran

On April 2, 2020, World Autism Awareness Day, DCDSB Schools celebrated Autism Awareness by tweeting pictures of their front foyer displays

There have been 28 referrals initiated from both Elementary and Secondary for 2019/2020. Supporting the areas of:

- Alternative Programming and Curriculum Modifications
- Communication
- Social Language
- Challenging Behaviour

Sensory Needs/Environmental Factors

- Additional supports for students who do not qualify for DCART services have been provided by our Consultant and Resource Teacher for Autism Services.
- The objective is to further develop capacity building in the school, while supporting the PST in their roles as Special Education Leaders

Sonderly Courses in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)

- Geneva Centre Ministry Course funding for ABA was given to DCDSB on the Sonderley online platform
- \$24,000 was provided to DCDSB. All funds were spent
- A Numbered Memo went out in January and offered courses to Educational Assistants who were interested in beginning a course on the P.A. Day
- A current waitlist for courses exists, in the event that more funding is offered in the future

PEAK Assessment in Early Intervention Classrooms (EIC)

- Promoting Emergence of Advanced Knowledge (PEAK) is an evidence-based assessment and corresponding curriculum that combines the traditional ABA verbal behavior approach with the science of Derived Relational Responding, It also helps with teaching problem solving skills and advanced language skills
- All members of DCART and EIC Staff were trained in a 2 day certification course last year
- PEAK is now being used to support student learning in both EIC sites, under the direction of Kara Kenney, BCBA

ABA Certificate Courses

- ABA courses well attended by educators
- Offered after school and on P.A. Days
- New course offerings have been created by members of DCART, including courses in:
 - Sensory Integration
 - Functional Behaviour Assessment
 - Social Language
 - Alternative Curriculum

After School Social Skills Program

- DCDSB currently offers PEERS for students in Grades 7-12, two nights a week at Arch. Denis O'Connor C.S.S. and at Fr. Leo J. Austin C.S.S.
- Friendship Lab has weekly double cohorts for students in Grades 4-6 at both St. Francis de Sales C.S. and Sir Albert Love C.S.
- Both programs have been well attended all year
- A year end celebration is being planned for alumni

Staff Training

- PSTs and Student Services Staff were given a half day program overview for the Friendship Lab by program developer, Cynthia Waugh, in November, to support students in the program, at their schools
- PSTs from the Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) pilot schools were trained on how to best utilize the Educational Assistants' newly acquired RBT skills, over 2 half day pull-outs in December and January, with focus on embedding skills in the IEP

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

Social Workers have been contacting students and families on their school caseloads – doing well-being check-ins. They continue to provide telephone support to those who have requested ongoing follow-up. Virtual counselling is also being explored

Pathway to support developed for students in crisis has been shared with all staff

Resources for self-care, coping strategies, & an extensive list of community resources are on the **board's main COVID-19 page**

Parent tip sheets related to special education and mental health are posted on the board's **Keep Learning** page

BRT adapting self-reg strategies for home environment have been made available to all educators (can be shared with parents as requested)

CYCs are working on a number of projects in the area of social emotional learning

The board's Mental Health Leader delivered WebEx presentation for OECTA, on behalf of SMHO, on Building Personal Resiliency - available to all Catholic educators in the province

Student Services has been working on developing a list of PD opportunities (e.g., free webinars, certificate courses and book study options) for all staff

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer thanked the dedicated staff in Student Services, the managers, coordinators and consultants and Candice who worked diligently over the last three weeks to ensure that we had the appropriate process in place to enable distance learning for all students.

Superintendent Bowyer shared that although schools were closed on April 2, a number of custodians did raise the Flag for Autism Awareness Day. Schools also tweeted messages of support and encouraged everyone to raise virtual flag on the Autism Ontario's website.

She also shared that schools also acknowledged Down Syndrome Awareness Day via twitter and other social media platforms. Schools will be encouraged to acknowledge Dress Loud Day to support students with Hearing impairments, whether we are back to school or not.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that the board's budget process has been delayed as Superintendent Putnam shared in his budget overview and the board awaits the release of the provincial budget later this month.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that Elementary Program Support Teacher interviews will be taking place later this month as Student Services prepares for September 2020.

Motion No. SS-2020-04-21-03

Approval of the April 21, 2020 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by A. Massis

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the April 21, 2020 meeting."

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

LDADR – K. Burke

April 30/20- Virtual Presentation by staff of Sagonaska (Provincial Demonstration School) on navigating learning for students with Learning Disabilities during these challenging times. Email info@ldadr.on.ca to receive the link.

Mailouts to all members sharing supports for learning and mental health during CoVid

All meetings (both whole Association and Executive) are virtual at this time in accordance with Provincial guidelines.

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – S. Casola

Meetings and conferences are on hold due to COVID-19

Information about up and coming webinars can be found here:

<https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/webinars/upcoming-webinars>

Autism Ontario has developed a list of resources available to support families with children, youth and adults living with ASD during the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.autismontario.com/list-resources-help-us-through-covid-19>

In March 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak, Autism Ontario conducted a survey in English and French to determine what services it should offer to help children and adults on the autism spectrum, and their families and caregivers.

The survey received a total of 182 responses, which we are using to inform our ongoing communications, programming, and resources for our community.

The survey contained three questions:

1. How can Autism Ontario best stay connected with you at this time?
2. Share your ideas of online resources we can create and share.
3. Are there particular needs or challenges you foresee?

<https://www.autismontario.com/news/supporting-our-community>

N. Correspondence

None

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2020-04-21-04
Adjournment

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by T. Chapman

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of April 21, 2020 adjourn.”

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Resource, Special Education
Advisory Committee

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier