



**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 on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo	J. Bowyer		
K. Burke	S. Lee-Fernandes		
T. Chapman	S. Phoenix		
J. McCafferty	J. Abrams		
A. Massis	D. Mullane		
S. Casola	F. Mosier		
C. Nossier	A. Roffey		

SEAC Representatives

L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Representative
B. Larson, 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 7:32 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-2020-06-02-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by C. Nossier, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, June 2, 2020 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 Superintendent Bowyer shared that Susie Lee-Fernandes, Superintendent of Education, Whitby & Brooklin Family of Schools, Student Achievement, Early Years, Equity and Inclusive Education would be assuming the role of Superintendent of Student Services, Equity & Inclusive Education and Policy Development in September of 2020 following Superintendent Bowyer's retirement.

c.2 Superintendent Lee-Fernandes shared that the Board is renewing its commitment to equity and making a stand in solidarity by sharing resources with families and teachers to acknowledge the recent events in the United States following the death of George Floyd. The Board has also sent correspondence to our parent community to share supports that are in place for those who have been adversely impacted by these events. Equity and Inclusive Education continues to be one of the Durham Catholic District School Board's core commitments in the strategic plan and the Board is dedicated to providing ongoing training for staff directly regarding issues of equity, bias, discrimination and racism.

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 April 23, 2020

Motion No. SS-2020-06-02-02
Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by S. Casola

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting, as submitted."

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of April 21, 2020

None

f.3 Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 5, 2020

Motion No. SS-2020-06-02-03
Approval of Minutes

Moved by T. Chapman, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 5, 2020

None

G. Presentations

g.1 Distance Learning Updates – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer provided an overview of synchronous (real time or live interactions) and asynchronous (flexible timeframe) learning, examples of both as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each. She also shared that report cards, IEPs and alternate report cards would be sent home electronically at the end of June and are currently being organized. Team meetings and IPRCs are still being held as needed. Superintendent Bowyer also shared that there is a continuation of support being offered to students during distance learning. Superintendent Bowyer responded to questions as they arose.

g.2 Summer Learning Updates – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer shared that the Ministry of Education will be investing funds to allow Boards to provide supports to students with special education needs and mental health concerns over the summer months. She also provided an overview of the potential summer learning opportunities that may become available for students through the summer. For example, funds are being provided to allow our school social workers to continue supporting students on their caseload and crisis situations, and enhancements to current summer learning opportunities (e.g., expansion of Summer Rays, providing PEERS in an online model during the summer).

Additional funding will allow for in-person back to school transition programs for students with special education needs and mental health concerns. Superintendent Bowyer requested input from SEAC for additional summer learning opportunities for the Board's consideration and responded to questions as they arose.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 Approval of Special Education Plan

SEAC was provided an opportunity to give final feedback on the 20-21 Special Education Plan. SEAC approved the 20-21 Special Education Plan as provided.

Motion No. SS-2020-06-02-04
Approval of Special Education Plan

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the 20-21 Special Education Plan, as provided.”

CARRIED

h.2 Review of Year

Superintendent Bowyer shared that although this year had many external forces impacting it, SEAC was still able to engage in various learning opportunities throughout the 19-20 school year. The committee reviewed the year's successes and discussed possible topics and learning opportunities in the 20-21 school year. It was agreed that in September, priority areas would be considered again.

h.3 Special Education Budget Update

Superintendent Bowyer shared that the Board had not received the 20-21 budget details from the Ministry of Education and therefore would be unable to share any information on the special education budget at this time. She advised SEAC that should she receive any information in the coming days, she would share the relevant information with the committee, otherwise, Superintendent Lee-Fernandes would share the information in the fall.

I. Delegations

None

J. Notices of Motion

None

K. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

L. Staff Reports

I.1 Coordinator's Report – F. Mosier

Two New Modules in IEP Online (IOL)

1. Learning Profiles - PSTs will create learning profiles within IOL for 'at-risk' students (eg. academic, mental health, attendance, etc.), in order to support student transitions

2. Safety Plans - PSTs will create safety plans within IOL outlining student behaviours and staff responses to ensure safety during various stages of escalation

- Both of these modules replace previous MS Word templates and allow for a standard template and shared repository
- PSTs were trained on the new modules at the May 12th & 19th (respectively) virtual PST meetings

Transition Plans

- Transition plans within IEPs will be revised to reflect current transition planning
- Transition plans will also be sent home at the end of June

Alternative Report Cards

- Alternative Report Cards will be completed for students working on alternative curriculum and will also be sent home at the end of June

Year End PST Meeting/Celebration

- will have a focus on self-care
- will be held virtually on June 16th

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

Virtual Mental Health Supports

The Ministry has determined that Ontario Telehealth Network (OTN) is the platform that school boards will be using for virtual mental health support.

Social Workers have been providing service to existing clients, as well as approx. They have serviced 50 new students since referrals opened up.

Expertise-level Training (SMHO):

To date:

- Virtual Care 101
- Implementation of Virtual Care within School Mental Health Practice
- Suicide Risk Assessment and Management with Youth

Future sessions include:

- Managing High Risk Scenarios in Virtual Care
- Evidence-Based Practice in Virtual Care
- Single Session Interventions

Staff capacity building

There have been ongoing PD opportunities (live Zoom sessions, discussions, book studies, etc.) available to all staff. LivingWorks START has been very popular (337 registrants). SMHO released Elementary version of new 6-module online course for educators called MH-LIT (Learn, Inspire, Teach). Support staff have also been given access

Trauma-informed schools

Dr. Kristen McLeod will be hosting 2 sessions on June 12, 2020. There will be a morning session for Administrators and an afternoon session for all staff. This training will include a specific focus on the current context to help staff to think about how they might approach the eventual return to school through a trauma-informed lens.

Mental Health Strategy

DCDSB is extending the 3 year strategy for an additional year and are working on developing a one-year Action Plan.

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer shared that Colleen Plouffe, Student Services Coordinator, has been promoted to Vice Principal at Monsignor Paul Dwyer effective September 2020. Frank Proco, PST has been promoted to Vice Principal at St. Matthew the Evenagelist effective September 2020 and Student Services also bids farewell to a long time PST, Anne Marie Sacco as she enters into retirement.

Superintendent also shared her sentiments about her own retirement as she said goodbye to the SEAC committee and thanked them for their dedication to children with special education needs. Superintendent Bowyer also extended her thanks to the Student Services staff for their tireless work in supporting staff and students especially in these unprecedented times.

Motion No. SS-2020-06-02-05
Approval of the June 2, 2020 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by T. Chapman, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the June 2, 2020 meeting.”

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

VOICE for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – V. Adamo

VOICE CONFERENCE – Rescheduled to Oct 2&3 2020

The annual conference will be held October 2 & 3 (October 2 is geared to professionals)

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)
Sadly this has been cancelled at this time.

VOICE CAMP _ CANCELLED FOR 2020

The decision has now been made to cancel camp for this year, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Can is now planned for Aug 6 to 8, 2021.

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 – Deadline extended to June 30

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 June 30th 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!

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – S. Casola

We have a number of excellent webinars available “on demand” on our website: <https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/webinars/recent-and-upcoming-webinars> - And include topics such as:

- Promoting Mental Health in Autistic People: The Importance of Context and Support with Dr. Jonathan Weiss
- Legal and Professional Issues to Consider when Providing and Receiving Telehealth Services with Richard Steinecke
- Professional Development Webinar Series – Employment Readiness for Youth and Young Adults with Sarah Southey – Including webinars such as: Resiliency in Job Searching During COVID-19; Thinking about Strengths, Values and Interests for Career Matching; Resume and Cover Letter Development; Interview Skills; Social Scenarios at Work; Disclosure, Job Searching and Being Social at Work Readiness for Youth and Young Adults
- Personal Development Webinar Series – Wellness and Self Care with Stephanie Moeser – a 4-part series including Wellness and Self-Care for Parents and Caregivers; Self-Care and Mindfulness for Autistic Youth and Teens; Self-Care for Siblings of People on the Autism Spectrum

As the Doctor: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children and Teens through Mental Health Challenges with Dr. Peter Szatmari

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – K. Burke

During the month of May, two virtual presentations were made to members of LDADR and other interested individuals by the staff of Sagonaska. The first was on Raising Efficacious Children, the second on Executive Function. They may be viewed by visiting the Sagonaska blogspot.

N. Correspondence

None

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

The SEAC Committee shared their sentiments on Superintendent Bowyer's upcoming retirement and said goodbye. They thanked her for extensive work and dedication to the students with special education needs.

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2020-06-02-06
Adjournment

Moved by T. Chapman, seconded by C. Nosseir

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of June 2, 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