



**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, September 10, 2019.

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo (Chair)	J. Bowyer	C. Pegler	
K. Burke	S. Phoenix		
M. Ste. Marie	D. Mullane		
J. McCafferty	D. Lood		
C. Nosseir	C. Plouffe		
S. Casola	F. Mosier		
M. LePage			
H. Mendela			

A. Call to Order

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She 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-2019-09-10-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, September 10, 2019 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

None

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 June 4, 2019

Motion No. SS-2019-09-10-02
Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 4, 2019

None

G. Presentations

g.1 Ministry Goals – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer shared information on the Ministry's focus areas for the future direction of the Ontario education system with respect to modern classrooms, modern learning and Health and Physical Education and responded to questions as they arose. She provided clarification as to what these goals will look like for DCDSB with the information provided by the Ministry thus far.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 Goal Setting – SEAC

Superintendent Bowyer provided that item h.1 and h.2 could be discussed jointly.

Superintendent Bowyer shared an outline of annual activities and presentations prepared by the Student Services department and asked the committee if there was anything further they would like to see added or if there was any feedback. The Committee shared their feedback on the outline and provided suggestions for items that they would like to see at future SEAC meetings. The calendar will be updated accordingly.

h.2 Calendar Review

See above

I. Delegations

None

J. Notices of Motion

None

K. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

L. Staff Reports

I.1 Coordinator's Report – C. Plouffe

Principals and Program Support Teachers gathered today (Sept. 10) for the first meeting of the year. School teams were given the opportunity to plan and set goals for the year. Student Services staff provided information and reminders about Student Services procedures and programs. Highlights include information on Autism and Mental Health.

AUTISM

- Funding for the social skills after school program has been renewed for the next three years. PEERS and Friendship Lab registrations have been sent out for classes beginning on September 24th.
- 15 after school courses for ABA have been added to the Sharing of Excellence workshop series, offered by members of DCART. The courses include certificates workshops as well as targeted learning for all educators.
- Functional Training for ABA will resume this year for educators who are involved with DCART and BRT. 5 sessions are provided to 3 members of each school team. Data collection and analysis, BMS and Functions are Behaviour are key topics.

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

Over the summer, Student Services provided two sessions of Mental Health First Aid for board staff and community members.

On the August PD day, DCDSB's Staff Wellness committee created a presentation for all staff which included a video that was done by OECTA, featuring Clara Hughes. Feedback was very positive, and staff seemed to appreciate the intentional focus on their well-being at the start of the new school year.

At the PST/Principal meeting today, Student Services shared a **Pathways for Mental Health and Addictions Services** resource to be shared and distributed to all staff at their next staff meeting. The purpose of this card is to help all staff understand their role in promoting student well-being, to build awareness of pathways to care, and help educators recognize when a student might be struggling, and when and how to seek additional support.

Today (September 10) is World Suicide Prevention Day, an opportunity for everyone in the community to join together to promote understanding about suicide and highlight effective prevention activities. Please feel free to re-tweet any of the multiple tweets from DCDSB (@DurhamCatholic; #WSPD19; #DCDSBWellbeing)

DCDSB is once again recruiting schools for the TAMI Intermediate classroom program. Nine schools will be selected and Intermediate staff will attend a teacher training session on October 3.

Student Services continues to run the Roots of Empathy program in several schools and have asked ROE for additional training spots this year to expand the number of schools where it can be offered. Their funding has been substantially reduced, so they are in the process of determining how many spots each board can have.

Finally, Diane Mullane will be meeting with DCPIC this week to share some ideas for capacity building related to mental health for parents. Parent engagement is an important component of DCDSB's strategic plan and it makes sense for Student Services and DCPIC to work together on this.

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer welcomed back all of the returning SEAC members and the members of the audience. She shared the names of the new staff members in Student Services. Student Services has not heard whether or not the SEAC Pro-Grant will be released for the 2019-2020 school year yet, but are prepared to offer a Pathways to the Future event on November 5, 2019 regardless. Student Services also has plans to offer smaller, more localized and intimate parent sessions, many of which can be done without the SEAC Pro-grant. Student Services will put forward a Pro-Grant should the opportunity arise.

Staffing Changes-

Francesca Mosier - Coordinator of Ajax/Pickering

Colleen Plouffe - Coordinator of Oshawa/Whitby

Teresa Ezquerra - Consultant for Student Services

Helen Killoran - Consultant

Transitioning to Post-Secondary Pathways graphic organizer - at today's PST meeting, Student Services handed out a placemat for Program Support teachers to use for conversations with parents about possible program pathways for students with Individual Education Plans. It is the expectation that team meetings be used, in part, to discuss pathway opportunities for students based on their strengths and interests. This graphic organizer is a simple representation of the four program pathways that students can be on in secondary school. All pathways lead to the workplace.

As part of the Board's math strategy, next week release time will be provided to the secondary schools to enable Grade 9 Applied Math teachers to meet with the Psych Services staff member for the school to review any Psych assessments that may exist for students in their class. This will be done with parent permission. This is the third year of organizing this support and it has been very well received by all involved. The psych services staff member is really able to help the subject teacher understand the strengths and areas of need for each of the students - helping the teacher to really develop a better Learning Profile for each student.

At the beginning of the school year, Student Students always reviews the Student Protection procedures. This year, they are also reviewing the Durham School Boards and Children's Aid Societies Protocol. The Board always want to make sure that all employees are well aware of their requirements under the Student Protection Act.

Motion No. SS-2019-09-10-03

Approval of the September 10, 2019 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by M. LePage, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the September 10, 2019 meeting."

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

September 26, Annual General Meeting followed by presentation on IEP's

November 7, Personal Insights on Living with Dyslexia by Jennifer Lacombe

November 28, Integra Presents the Social Implications of Learning Disabilities

October is LD Awareness Month

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

Ontario Autism Program (OAP):

An Autism Services Fall Update Flyer for the programs and services available to purchase with Government provided OAP Childhood budgets, benefits or personal income was circulated to over 2000 Grandview families.

The Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS) announced at the end of July that another 6 month extension would be provided to those clients currently with an active Ontario Autism Program Behaviour Plan (considered "in service"). Grandview has 143 families for whom this applies and they need to assign staff to provide therapy for the additional 6 months. While the July announcement was received as good news it did create a work force allocation issue for Grandview regarding the availability of staff to support the new Fee for Service programs for families who must access services by using their Childhood Budget dollars.

These are families coming off the wait list. In essence, there are 2 separate and distinct autism programs running in the province and providers are reluctant to “staff up” to run 2 programs when 1 of them disappears in April 2020 as only the fee for service option will remain. To make this even more challenging, another advisory council is making recommendations to government about applying needs based factor to the program which could result in fairly significant operating guideline changes for services again. Grandview is doing its best to balance the needs of children, youth and their families and fair practices for their staff. A number of other Children’s Treatment Centres in Ontario have issued lay off notices to their staff as the fee for service operations of the future are very unpredictable. For more information about the Grandview Autism Programs you can contact Service Navigation at 905 728 1673 extension 2533 or visit grandviewkids.ca

New Satellite location for Grandview at Paul Dwyer High School:

The construction of the Grandview Satellite at Paul Dwyer High School continues to proceed as planned. It is anticipated that services will begin in this new 6,000 square foot Satellite location in October. Grandview will gain access to the space in mid to late September. The location was needed to provide some relief to the overcrowding at the Oshawa headquarters. When Grandview’s new facility opens in Ajax (2023/24 fiscal year) this Oshawa satellite will remain in place to support East Durham families. This location brings the current number of Grandview locations to 7 (Oshawa headquarters, Oshawa Paul Dwyer, Abilities Centre- adolescent program, Whitby Mall location, Ajax Westney Road location, Port Perry S.A. Cawker location and Bowmanville Knox location). The location is in partnership with Durham Catholic District School Board.

Ontario Health Team Submission:

Grandview is working with a number of other Durham organizations in the submission of a phase 2 Ontario Health team application. The Durham Ontario Health Team was invited to proceed with phase 2 after an initial submission indicating the opportunities in Durham to organize care across the continuum in Durham. Grandview’s participation pertains to working to better support Children and Youth living with medical complexity across their care needs in hospital, home and community. The need for a Paediatric Complex Care Program in Durham has been advocated for and a priority of Grandview on behalf of those Grandview has served since 2015. Since that time there have been windows of opportunity with the LHIN that did not materialize and Grandview looks to the Ontario Health Teams opportunity with hope.

New Grandview:

The Federal Government completed the funding required to move into the next phase of getting Grandview’s new 128,000 square foot, 6 story facility built in Ajax (on land donated by the Town of Ajax). The Federal Government provided 17.5 million dollars and that was added to the 31 million from the province and ongoing fundraising. Grandview is at 15 million of their 20 million dollar campaign. Grandview kids are fortunate to live in a region with such caring people helping to make this dream a reality.

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – S. Casola

OAP Childhood Budget Sessions – at this workshop, Service Navigators will provide a step-by-step guide to the Childhood Budget, including how to understand and fill out your childhood budget form. Information and registration for any of these sessions can be found here: https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=Durham

Dates and locations of each session is as follows:

- Oshawa – September 17 – 2:30pm-4:00pm
- Whitby – September 25 – 9:00am-11:00am
- Oshawa – October 8 – 11:00am-1:00pm
- Port Perry – October 22 – 6:00-8:00pm
- Oshawa – November 12 – Registration not yet available

Oshawa – November 19 – Registration not yet available

Social Events:

- Port Hope Family Model Train Event - there is an AM and a PM session on September 14. Registration link: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=1679>
- Colborne – PA Day Fun at the Big Apple – September 27 from 2:00pm – 4:30 pm. Registration link: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=1782>
- On August 19, 2019 Public Health Agency of Canada announced Autism Ontario was awarded a strategic fund to support autistic adults and their families in Ontario. This funding will support the Mental Health Matters project which is a combination of two existing programs offered by CMHA. For more information about this project please see here: <https://www.autismontario.com/news/public-health-agency-canada-announces-autism-ontario-awarded-strategic-fund-support-autistic>
- Throughout the summer, Autism Ontario's Executive Director Margaret Spoelstra co-chaired the OAP Advisory Panel Meetings regarding the design of the revised OAP. A summary of each meeting is available on the MCCSS website here: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/autism/consultations.aspx>

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

Camp this year was a great success. VOICE hosted over 40 families with about 8 from durham region.

Several of the Voice families who have children with moderate hearing loss who had previously been denied for the Child Tax Credit have recently reported that they have suddenly received retroactive payment as qualified for the child tax credit. VOICE is not sure why this has happened but it is a good result for those families.

Voice is also happy to report that they are forging a stronger working relationship with the Canadian Hearing Society and believe this will help smooth the transition of families when their children transition to adult services.

N. Correspondence

n.1 Correspondence from Greater Essex County District School Board dated July 5, 2019 re: Bill 44

n.2 Correspondence from Greater Essex County District School Board dated July 5, 2019 re: funding for Special Incidence Portion

n.3 Correspondence from Greater Essex County District School Board dated July 5, 2019 re: class size changes and e-learning

n.4 Correspondence from Greater Essex County District School Board dated July 5, 2019 re: Bill 64

n.5 Correspondence from Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board dated June 4, 2019 re: autism funding

n.6 Correspondence from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board dated May 21, 2019 re: “modernizing learning in Ontario’s publicly funded education system”

n.7 Correspondence from Peel District School Board dated May 10, 2019 re: funding for Special Incidence Portion

Motion No. SS-2019-09-10-04
Correspondence from SEAC Committees

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence from the Greater Essex County District School Board, Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Peel District School Board SEAC Committees shared the September 10, 2019 Meeting.”

CARRIED

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2019-09-10-05
Adjournment

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of September 10, 2019 adjourn.”

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by J. McCafferty.

X

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

X

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier