



**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, October 8, 2019.

Present

V. Adamo (Chair)
K. Burke
M. Ste. Marie
C. Nosseir
S. Casola
M. LePage
H. Mendela

Staff

J. Bowyer
D. Mullane
D. Lood
F. Mosier

With Regrets

J. McCafferty
S. Phoenix

Absent

A. Call to Order

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. Approval of Agenda

b.1 Changes to the Printed Agenda

Item g.2 to be presented before Item g.1

b.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion No. SS-2019-10-08-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by M. LePage, seconded by K. Burke

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

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 September 10, 2019

Motion No. SS-2019-10-08-02
Approval of Minutes

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

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 10, 2019

None

G. Presentations

g.2 Learning Disabilities – K. Burke

Kari Burke, Director, Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Region presented “Walk A Mile in My Shoes” which provided low-level insight as to what it might be like to live with a Learning Disability. Kari shared some interactive activities with the Committee that shed some light on daily experiences someone with a learning disability may face.

g.1 Strategic Plan – Discovery 2023 – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer provided a brief overview of DCDSB's Strategic Plan – Discovery 2023. She provided a hard copy of the document to all in attendance and gave direction as to where the document could be located on the Board's website. Superintendent Bowyer as well as four DCDSB staff members then met with individual groups to give a more in-depth presentation of the five overarching pillars that drive the strategic plan.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 Draft SEAC Newsletter

At September's SEAC meeting, the Committee suggested that a quarterly newsletter may assist in creating more awareness and generating interest in SEAC for parents and stakeholders.

Superintendent Bowyer presented a draft SEAC newsletter and requested feedback from the Committee. Minor revisions were recommended. The first edition of the newsletter will be distributed online this 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

Autism/Friendship Lab

The Ministry of Education has once again provided the Student Services department with funds to provide after-school social skills development for students with ASD. One of the main programs that will be running is The Friendship Lab™. The Friendship Lab™ is a 10-week social skills program designed for children who struggle socially. Research has demonstrated effective use of The Friendship Lab™ with 7-12 year old children diagnosed with high-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder. Teachers of the

students who participate in The Friendship Lab™ are given a package for skills to be generalized at their schools. An information session about this program is being provided to all elementary Program Support Teachers on October 17th. This general overview of the program will help guide PSTs in supporting teachers and students with the skills that are being taught each week. In time, all schools will have students who are participating in the program or who have participated in the program.

There is also going to be Full Friendship Lab certificate training for a select number of staff which is being provided on Oct. 18th.

Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) Pilot Training is being shared with the Program Support Teacher's on Nov. 22nd and schools with staff that are trained in the program are going to be being targeted.

Pathways

The annual DCDSB Pathways to the Future information session will be held Tuesday November 5 from 2-4 pm and 6-8pm. This year Miska Jones from Autism Ontario will be the keynote speaker at the beginning of each session. As in the past, there will also be community agencies who will again provide information to staff and families in a carousel format.

Individual Education Plans

On September 18th, Teresa Ezquerra, Student Services Consultant, facilitated a Sharing of Excellence Session on "Creating an Effective IEP", which Program Support Teachers and Classroom Teachers across our Board attended.

Individual Education Plans will be sent home on October 16th.

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

TAMI updates: last week, educators from ten schools participated in the Intermediate TAMI Teacher Training, and DCDSB's classroom program is starting this week. The TAMI Secondary Summit is scheduled for Oct 24, with the keynote speaker being the Board's own Distinguished Catholic Alumni, Paul Ranger, former NHL player. The TAMI program has been recognized for two prestigious awards. The first one is the **Friend of Health Award** from the Region of Durham Health Department. The second one is the **Jordan James Pickell Mental Health Achievement Recognition Award**, a national award from the Mood Disorder Society of Canada. This award is presented to an organization who has made outstanding contributions to mental health education and anti-stigma activities and that have had a positive impact on the mental health community specifically, by actively engaging students and staff in understanding and accepting mental illness and the importance of mental health. There will be a formal award presentation with the Mood Disorder Society of Canada on November 5.

This year, Roots of Empathy has allotted DCDSB three spots for new facilitators. The training is taking place this week and new trainees will be expected to deliver the program starting in November. With three of DCDSB's existing facilitators on leave, this will allow the Board to run a total of 8 programs this year.

Today, Student Services staff met with Pinewood Centre of Lakeridge Heath, as they continue to work on developing a formal partnership agreement. Once established, this partnership will enable DCDSB to have an addictions counsellor from Pinewood providing services in selected Secondary schools.

On the PD day this Friday, Student Services will be offering Mental Health First Aid and SafeTALK sessions, with the target audience being EAs and Occasional Teachers.

The 5th annual Durham Youth Drug Awareness Conference (DYDAC), for Secondary students, is taking place on Oct 22nd.

DCDSB's Behaviour Resource Team (DCBRT) will, once again, be running its Professional Learning Series for all schools who have staff involved with the team this term (3 staff members per school). The focus of these sessions is on Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training, Functional Behavioural Assessment and Intervention, self-regulation communication and collaborative problem solving.

Finally, Student Services is ready to roll out the new **Guide to Supporting Students who Self-Injure** and will do so this month with Administrators, who will share with their staff.

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Last month Superintendent Bowyer, Mental Health Leader Diane Mullane and Consultant Patrick Costello had the opportunity to meet with some of the key managers from the Durham Region Health Department. They meet annually in the fall and in the spring to discuss the Board's Partnership with Public Health Department including ways in which the Board and the Health department can work together to develop programs in the school that support the mental health and well-being of students. For example, conversations about steps to combat vaping in the elementary schools ensued.

The Board's Numeracy Action Plan will be shared at the next SEAC as part of the presentation on EQAO results. Supporting students with special education needs is a key component of the plan - specifically in the emphasis on knowing the learner and using learning profiles and class profiles to determine the best approaches to use to address the individual needs of the students in the class.

A key aspect of the Numeracy Action Plan is our focus on Learning Disabilities. This past month we provided secondary schools with release time so that our Psych services member for the school could work with the grade 9 applied math teachers in understanding the learning profiles of the students in their class, particularly those students who have a diagnosed learning disability.

Sunday was World Teacher's Day. Unfortunately, the system wide mass that is normally scheduled to celebrate World Teacher's Day had to be postponed due to the potential labour unrest. It will be rescheduled later this month.

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Durham Catholic District School Board will become a wave of purple on October 24, 2019 which is Child Abuse Prevention Day. Child Abuse Prevention Month is an event sponsored by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. This year the Board will be participating at a media opportunity at a child care centre in Brooklin.

October is also Learning Disabilities Month. We have information on our website and information about the LDAO is going home in the IEP of every student who has a diagnosis of a Learning Disability.

Last night was the Board's Policy meeting. SEAC is always encouraged to provide feedback on policies, however there are no policies specific to special education up for input right now. SEAC members are reminded that they are always welcome to go onto our Board website to review new or revised policies and provide input where needed. Either next month or in December, SEAC will be asked to review the Policy on Service Dogs in the School.

Friday October 4, 2019 was St. Francis of Assisi day. On that day, the Catholic Education Centre was renamed the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Education Centre.

The Students Services Department is very thankful that CUPE was able to settle their negotiations without a strike. According to the media, CUPE negotiated an increase in the number of Educational Assistants across the province through the return of the Local Priorities money. As soon as this information comes to the department officially, additional Educational Assistants will be deployed to the system.

Motion No. SS-2019-10-08-03

Approval of the October 8, 2019 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by C. Nosseir, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the October 8, 2019 meeting."

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

Nov. 7/19 True Confessions of a Dyslexic Teacher 7 PM Brooklin Community Centre

Nov. 28/19 How Learning Disabilities Impact Social Skills – Presented by Integra
7 PM Brooklin Community Centre

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. LDADR thanks DCDSB for sharing this information on the DCDSB website, and for partnering in the distribution of Association fliers to appropriate families.

Ontario Human Rights Commission launches inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The Right to Read scope of inquiry will include examination in 5 areas: Universal Design for Learning, Mandatory Early Screening, Evidence-based reading intervention programs, Accommodation, and Psycho-educational assessments. Further information may be found at the Ontario Human Rights Commission website by referencing the Right to Read.

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

New Satellite location for Grandview Children's Centre at Paul Dwyer High School opens this week!

The construction of the Grandview Satellite at Paul Dwyer High School is complete. Clinicians start seeing clients Oct. 7 2019.

When Granview'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.

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:

- Port Perry – October 22 – 6:00-8:00pm
- Cobourg – November 6 – Registration not yet available
- Port Home – November 6 – Registration not yet available
- Oshawa – November 12 – Registration not yet available
- Oshawa – November 19 – Registration not yet available

Social Events:

Forsythe Family Farm, Uxbridge – October 12, 2019 -

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=1893>

Virtual Reality Fun – Ages 14-18 years – at VR Planet in Ajax – October 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-virtual-reality-registration-72892975853>

Halloween Party – at Donald A. Wilson SS, Whitby – October 26, 2019 at 12:00pm - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-halloween-party-tickets-72896233597>

Standard First Aid and CPR-C + AED - St. John's Ambulance, Oshawa – November 2, 2019 at 9:00 am – parents and children are welcome (children cannot attend on their own) - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-standard-first-aidcpr-c-aed-training-registration-57297380006>

Holiday Vendor Event – Saturday Nov. 9 – 10:00-4:00 at Donald A. Wilson SS. - <https://www.facebook.com/AutismDurham/photos/a.10150166443349241/10157656272994241/?type=3&theater>

Registration is now open for a PEERS Group which starts November 26, 2019 at 7:00pm – Oshawa - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-peers-registration-75681121271>

There were 3 additional advisory committee meetings held during September (the 13, 14 and 17) and the panel is currently in the process of writing their recommendations in a report that will be provided to the ministry. A summary of each of these recent meetings, in addition to those held over the summer is available on the MCCSS website here:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/autism/consultations.aspx>

Durham Catholic District School Board Trustees – M. Ste. Marie

At the Regular Board Meeting of September 23, 2019, John Rinella, Chair of the Board informed trustees of Anne O'Brien's decision to retire from the role of Director of Education for the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), effective December 31, 2019. Upon retiring from the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), she will continue to support Catholic education at the provincial level as Director of Education for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA). The process to find the next Director of Education for DCDSB has begun.

N. Correspondence

- n.1 Correspondence from Ecoles Catholique Centre-Est dated August 26, 2019**
- n.2 Correspondence from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence dated September 23, 2019 re: class sizes and e-learning**

n.3 Correspondence from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence dated September 23, 2019 re: autism services

n.4 Correspondence from Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence dated September 23, 2019 re: Bill 44

Motion No. SS-2019-10-03-04
Correspondence from SEAC Committees

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence from the Ecoles Catholique Centre-Est and Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence SEAC Committees shared at the October 8, 2019 Meeting.”

CARRIED

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2019-10-03-05
Adjournment

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

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of October 8, 2019 adjourn.”

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by K. Burke.

X

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

X

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier