



**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, November 5, 2019.

Present

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

Staff

J. Bowyer
D. Mullane
D. Lood
H. Killoran

With Regrets

J. McCafferty
M. LePage

Absent

SEAC Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association
M. Cope, CUPE

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. and offered the opening prayer. Chair Adamo 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-2019-11-05-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, November 5, 2019 meeting, as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 Chair Adamo advised SEAC that Diana Lojet, current Community Representative provided her written resignation to Superintendent Bowyer on November 5, 2019. The Committee accepted the resignation.

Motion No. SS-2019-11-05-02
Acceptance of Community Representative Resignation

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the resignation of Diana Lojet, SEAC Community Representative.”

CARRIED

c.2 Superintendent Bowyer welcomed Special Education AQ course students to the SEAC 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 October 8, 2019

Motion No. SS-2019-11-05-03
Approval of Minutes

Moved by C. Nosseir, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 8, 2019

None

G. Presentations

g.2 EQAO Data – C. Corso

Christine Corso, Teaching and Learning Numeracy and Science Consultant, shared EQAO data that detailed the position of DCDSB's Students with Special Education needs relative to the province. She shared which areas of the testing may present challenges (e.g., application questions versus knowledge and understanding) to those students. She noted that DCDSB is typically in line with the province's EQAO scoring or slightly above. She shared that EQAO has announced a modernization to the EQAO assessments but at this time the Board is not clear on what that will look like. She also responded to questions from the Committee as they arose. Superintendent Bowyer provided that the results clearly indicated the majority of students are in fact passing math, but there is still work to be done to help more students achieve a level three. There are still some areas that need improvement but the Board continues to work on strategies to support students with special needs.

g.1 Vision Services – New Technologies – C. Dixon

Cheryl Dixon, DCDSB's Resource Teacher for Vision Services, provided a high-level overview of the multiple technology options that are available for the Board's visually impaired students. The Committee was given the opportunity to view and test the technology on site to get a feel of what the classroom experience might be like for students with visual impairments. Cheryl responded to questions as they arose.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 Review of Special Ed Component of Draft Board Improvement Plan

Superintendent Bowyer provided a brief overview of the Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan that was released at the October Board meeting with emphasis on the goals under the Celebrating Inclusion and Well-Being pillar as they directly relate to students with special needs. The Board Improvement Plan consists of the one year action items that flow from the strategic plan which was discussed in detail at the October SEAC meeting. Superintendent Bowyer advised that the Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan will be reviewed with Principals at the next two Directors meetings to assist in the preparation of the School Improvement Plans which will flow from the Board Improvement Plan.

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

Pathways to the Future...Looking Beyond Secondary

DCDSB's annual Pathways to the Future event was today. This year Miska Jones from Autism Ontario spoke to attendees about the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. A variety of community agencies were available to speak with the parents, students, Program Support Teachers and educators in attendance.

Challenger Baseball in the Schools

On November 1, 10 DCDSB schools and 15 educators (teachers, educational assistants and principals) attended a free **Challenger Baseball in the Schools** training session at the Ajax Community Centre.

Challenger Baseball in the Schools is an adaptive baseball program sponsored by Jays Care. It is designed to empower athletes in DCDSB schools living with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Challenger Baseball currently runs in over 120 communities across Canada, reaching nearly 7,000 athletes of all ages.

Challenger Baseball ensures every athlete has the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment where they learn to become more independent, build confidence and self-esteem, improve their communication skills, and set and achieve their own personal goals.

After attending the 1-Day Workshop, Jays Care provides the following FREE OF CHARGE to all Challenger Baseball in the Schools Programs:

1. Program Handbook and full Activity Manual
2. All equipment, including: Baseball Equipment Kit from Rawlings and an Adaptive Equipment Kit from Flaghouse
3. Ongoing support from Jays Care staff and facilitators on the Challenger Baseball Advisory Committee

We are very excited about this partnership and opportunities it provides DCDSB students.

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

School Mental Health Ontario will be launching their new website by the end of this week (www.smho-smsso.ca). This website will have resources and training tailored to specific audiences, including school leaders, educators, parents and students. At a provincial meeting in October, they shared many new resources that are being launched now and in upcoming months. One of the resources is an educator mental health literacy course (6 online modules) for both elementary and secondary educators, with extension modules for Guidance teachers and eventually school administrators. In January, they'll be launching an Early Years resource, with a series of videos featuring Dr. Jean Clinton, along with print resources. DCDSB is part of a pilot called "Faith and Wellness" which is an online suite of everyday mental health strategies that can be easily implemented by teachers. The Board has 22 educators participating in this pilot. These are just some of the exciting things that are happening with School Mental Health Ontario.

This month, DCDSB has several capacity-building opportunities scheduled:

- Nov 12, 19 and Dec 3: Supporting Minds Mental Health Literacy Series (Sharing of Excellence workshop)
- Nov 14: MindUP Café (after-school workshop)
- Nov 20: Mindfulness 101 (Sharing of Excellence workshop)
- Nov 21 & 22: Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

The TAMI Intermediate Summit is taking place on November 26 at Ontario Shores Mental Health Sciences. The TAMI Secondary Summit, which took place on October 24 was a huge success, as was the DYDAC conference on October 22. All Secondary schools are now working on initiatives back at their schools, and have been encouraged to make the connections between substance use and mental health. During parent interviews, all parents of grade 7 and 8 students will receive an information sheet on Cannabis, along with a pen with the message: "Stay connected by talking to your teens."

DCDSB's Staff Wellness committee has launched a new "Live Well" campaign. During the month of November, the theme is "Sleep Well." All staff have been invited to participate in this campaign where they can track their sleep and take steps to improve their sleep skills. All staff who participate can enter into a draw for a chance to win a sleep basket.

I.3 Superintendent's Report – J. Bowyer

Superintendent Bowyer congratulated Colleen Plouffe, and all of the coordinators and consultants for successfully organizing a Pathways to the Future event today. There was a wonderful turn out from parents and program support teachers.

Superintendent Bowyer also congratulated Diane Mullane and the TAMI Coalition on receiving their National Award from the Mood Disorders Association of Canada today. She shared that she has seen first hand as a principal and a Superintendent, the

positive impact that TAMI can have on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness. She acknowledged that the honour is well deserved.

Next week is Bullying Prevention and Intervention week – schools will be hosting a number of activities that week. As well, there will be a photo contest to create a new picture for the landing page of the Report It button. DCDSB moved the week ahead by a week from the National Week, because Wednesday November 13th is International Day of Kindness and the Board wanted it to fall within Bullying Prevention and Intervention Week.

Last month, Superintendent Bowyer had talked about sharing the Policy and Administrative Procedure on Guide Dogs and Service Animals for Students. The policy and administrative procedure will go to first reading at the Policy Board meeting on Monday. Once it passes, Superintendent Bowyer will send out a message to everyone to go on the policy input page to review them so they can be discussed next month.

In light of the declining numbers of representatives on SEAC, Superintendent Bowyer will be working with Senior Administrative Assistant Candice Cavalier to seek representation from other local associations. Superintendent Bowyer advised the Committee that if they had any ideas on a local association that might want to have a member on SEAC please let me know. The following criteria must be met:

- a. Operates locally within the jurisdiction of the Board
- b. Is affiliated with an incorporated organization that works on behalf of one or more exceptional students throughout Ontario;
- c. Is not an association or organization of professional educators, either locally or provincially

Superintendent Bowyer advised that with respect to the PRO Grant, the Ministry of Education has announced that the funding provided to Boards has been cut in half. She advised that the Board has no further information than what was presented in the media and will share further details when they become available.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that EA Appreciation Day falls on November 20 this year. DCDSB always appreciates the hard work of its Educational Assistants.

Superintendent Bowyer advised that DCDSB is awaiting the results of the the ratification vote from the recent CUPE bargaining. OECTA Elementary and Secondary Teachers are involved with the process of collecting a strike vote. If they were to go on strike, they are required to provide five days notice of any action to provide parents time to make arrangements for child care.

Superintendent Bowyer shared that she had regretfully accepted the resignation of Dr. Diane Lood, Manager, Psychological and Speech Language Services as Dr. Lood accepted a position of Chief Psychologist at York Catholic District School Board. Dr. Lood added a great deal of knowledge and expertise to the Student Services department and she will be missed.

Motion No. SS-2019-11-05-04

Approval of the November 5, 2019 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. Burke, seconded by S. Casola

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the November 5, 2019 meeting.”

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

Autism Ontario – S. Casola

“**Who we are**” – An introduction to the roles of a Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Board Certified Behaviour Analyst – Whitby, November 19.

Parent Support Group – Oshawa – November 29, 2019

Holiday Vendor Market – November 9 10:00 – 4:00 at Donald A. Wilson Secondary School in Whitby.

All programs and services can be found on this page here:
https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=Durham

OAP Childhood Budget Info Sessions: Cobourg – November 6; Port Hope November 6; Oshawa, November 12; Oshawa November 19; Oshawa December 3; Whitby December 12.

Family Bowling at Neb’s Fun World – November 6, 2019

Family Movie Morning – Frozen 2 – Ajax – November 24, 2019

Holiday Party – Cobourg – December 15, 2019

PA Day Swim and Cookie Decorating – Oshawa - November 15, 2019 – Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-pa-day-swim-cookie-decorating-tickets-75489455995?fbclid=IwAR2kYL5zEAKjn75GzQBXMzlkzil8PdcWevWjCiEdhH-loSE4EiBrHLT-cro>

Oshawa Generals Game – Young Adult Social Group – November 22 – Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-young-adult-social-group-oshawa-generals-game-registration-79849823973?fbclid=IwAR37NTQq4DQqK5uh8RFEXnTZcxhd9U28nTaGLILgl-Q9NCWxOuwWuNJazfk>

Oshawa Generals Game – Family Event – December 29, 2019 – Link:
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-oshawa-generals-registration-75494765877?fbclid=IwAR3b6ApncKOqWIRfWYXcAI4Py6S0NriEQ1ozl4O15MngWx_cm4kxAre7CU0

Laser Tag - Family Event – November 13, 2019 – Link:
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-oshawa-generals-registration-75494765877?fbclid=IwAR3b6ApncKOqWIRfWYXcAI4Py6S0NriEQ1ozl4O15MngWx_cm4kxAre7CU0

Pancakes with Santa – November 23 (two seatings) – Oshawa – Link:
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-durham-pancakes-with-santa-tickets-75490264413?fbclid=IwAR1kHbBQqnE-Qtecuh4_ze_rm9N49N4mTMZwC1n2b253Ro2bBXrK3POyqu8

The **Ontario Autism Advisory Panel** released their report last week providing recommendations to the provincial government regarding the new Ontario Autism Program. A copy of the report, including all recommendations can be found here: http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/documents/specialneeds/autism/AutismAdvisoryPanelReport_2019.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0YpR1o_qX57Em1OYHrMV4SO7Drhn9DfWRd1EkW1i_V5qHIOAulm92_504 - The report specifically recommends priority pathways for individuals with ASD who need access to early intervention services, mental health services or who require urgent response services. The panel urged a new definition of “need” as well as “complex need” which broadens the understanding beyond an income bracket. Section 3.1 speaks specifically to the Ministry of Education and calls for better alignment and integration between services and schools.

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

Nov. 7- Confessions of a Dyslexic Teacher presented by Jennifer LaCombe, 7 PM
Brooklin Community Centre

Nov. 28- Integra presents Social Implications of Learning Disabilities, 7 PM Brooklin
Community Centre

Jan. 30, 2020 Nancy Wise of French Immersion Educational Consultants presents “Are students with Learning Disabilities at Greater Risk in French Immersion?”
7 PM at Whitby Public Library Central Branch

Durham Down Syndrome Association – L. MacLellan

The DDSA holiday party is happening on Saturday, November 23 at Port Whitby Marina from 2 to 5 for the younger members with festive activities and a visit from Santa and from 6:30 to 10:30 there is a dance for the teen and adult members at the supervised dance party. This is a free event for DDSA members and \$5 event for non-members. RSVP by November 16.

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

Grandview's 5th annual Accessible Halloween event happened on Sunday Oct. 27 at the Safety Village of Durham Region. Over 650 clients and their families registered for the event. Grandview's biggest yet.

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

There will be a Board Policy Meeting on Monday, November 11, 2019 where policies that are currently being revised are reviewed by the Board of Trustees. All policy meetings are open to the public.

Congratulations to Diane Mullane, DCDSB's Manager, Mental Health Initiatives/Mental Health Leader, and the TAMI Coalition for achieving the Jordan James Pickell Mental Health Achievement Recognition Award from the Mood Disorders Society of Canada.

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-2019-11-05-05
Adjournment

Moved by L. MacLellan, seconded by M. Ste. Marie

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of November 5, 2019 adjourn."

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by C. Nossier.

X

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

X

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier