



**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, November 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
V. Adamo (Chair)	S. Lee-Fernandes	I. Massis	
K. Burke	D. Mullane		
T. Chapman	J. Abrams		
J. McCafferty	C. Dixon		
C. Nosseir	C. Congrady		
S. Casola	A. Roffey		
	S. Phoenix		

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 7:31 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-2020-11-03-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, November 3, 2020 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 October 6, 2020

Motion No. SS-2020-11-03-02
Approval of Minutes

Moved by S. Casola, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting, as submitted.”

CARRIED

f.2 Business Arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 6, 2020

None

G. Presentations

g.1 Programming Strategies for Special Education – C. Congrady

Christine Congrady, Student Services Coordinator, provided a detailed overview of virtual programming for students with special education needs. The information provided included data on the student population and a breakdown of the supports provided for students enrolled in virtual learning. She responded to questions as they arose.

H. Discussion Items

h.1 Review of Special Education of Draft Board Improvement Plan – S. Lee-Fernandes

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes shared the special education portion of the draft board improvement plan, Discovery 2023, with the Special Education Advisory Committee and detailed how it aligns with the Durham Catholic District School Board's core commitments of Excellence, Equity and Engagement.

h.2. Review Accessibility Plan – C. Dixon

Cheryl Dixon, Resource Teacher for Vision Services provided a breakdown of the Durham Catholic District School Board's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan with an emphasis on the standards of employment, transportation, technology and facilities. The focus of the Accessibility Plan is aligned with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, with customer services standards at the forefront. She responded to questions as they arose.

I. Delegations

None

J. Notices of Motion

None

K. Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

None

L. Staff Reports

I.1 Coordinator's Report – C. Congrady

Fundamentals of IEP Online training was provided to support new teachers in the virtual schools.

Monthly virtual Program Support Teacher meetings and mentoring have continued. A presentation was provided to mentees on Weschler Fundamentals while mentors engaged in professional development to develop their mentor-coaching skills.

Coordinators have just completed their initial round of visits to their Family of Schools.

Important Dates

- Quadmester 1 Secondary IEPs went home October 6, 2020
- Elementary IEPs went home October 20, 2020
- Select Student Services staff will take part in the Geneva Centre for Autism Online Symposium on November 11-13, 2020

Student Services staff have provided Sharing of Excellence Workshops on the following topics:

- How to Use a Token System
- Understanding Students with Autism (Geneva Centre Ministry Course)
- LessonPix (online application for creating visual schedules and learning tools)
- Structured Teaching (how to set up, teach and monitor the use of structure work systems in the classroom for all ages of student)
- Navigating the School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) website and accessing other mental health resources

Lexia

DCDSB piloted Lexia, a reading intervention program, in several schools last year. The feedback from teachers was that the program was highly successful and engaging. In the 2019-2020 school year, DCDSB had 219 licenses. This year there will be an additional 281 licenses bringing the total to 500 licenses. 37 elementary and 6 secondary schools will be offering Lexia this year. Training sessions for Lexia began in October and continue this month. Sessions include Refreshers for those teachers previously trained, Core 5 for students up to Grade 5 and Power Up for students in Grades 6 and up.

Assistive Technology

The AT department continues to be busy. The team has processed 65+ packages that were received since school reopened in September. Additionally, 37 students transferred into DCDSB with AT and 3 students with AT transferred out of board.

AT specialists provided sessions to teachers at the DC Virtual Elementary and Secondary schools on how to support students virtually using Read & Write.

I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

On October 26 and 27, Durham Catholic District School Board virtually hosted the first ever Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training (VTRA) – Level Three. This session was attended by Managers, several Social Workers, as well as community partners including staff from Durham Region Police Services, Durham District School Board, Kinark Child and Family Services and Chimo Youth and Family Services – along with participants from other communities across Canada. The Level 3 training focuses on the third stage of VTRA, which is data-driven case formulation and treatment planning culminating in “comprehensive multidisciplinary interventions.” This training was overlaid with trauma-informed practice and was a rich clinical experience for those who participated.

Last week, Student Services shared updated Suicide Protocols, as well as a new Guide to Supporting Student who Self-Injure, with principals and vice principals. These documents will also be shared at the upcoming Program Support Teacher meeting with all PSTs, Guidance staff and Student Success Teachers.

On the October 23rd PD day, 23 Educational Assistants registered to participate in LivingWorks Start, which is a 90-minute online module that teaches participants to recognize the warning signs that someone might be at risk of suicide, and to take the first steps in helping that person. As DCDSB is not able to offer face-to-face training (ASIST or SafeTALK) at this time, this online module is the only suicide-related training, and will continue to be made available to various groups until the Board is able to resume live training.

DCDSB has been invited to participate in a joint project with two local school boards, Durham Region Police Services, Pinewood Centre of Lakeridge Health and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions (CCSA), as well as a school board in Ottawa. The project will be an expert panel discussion and Q & A on the topic of substance use in the time of COVID. The panel will be moderated by a youth and made up of various experts, as well as persons with lived experience. Classrooms will be invited to join. The tentative date for this event is December 2, 2020.

The Roots of Empathy “Adapted” program will be running in six schools, starting in January. In this version of the program, there will be no live or live streamed family visits. The baby will visit the classroom virtually by way of video snippets and photos.

Lastly, Student Services has been actively sharing some excellent School Mental Health Ontario resources throughout the system. The resources focus on supporting the well-being of students in our virtual schools, as raising awareness of the links between anti-Black racism and mental health and supporting mentally healthy conversations about this important topic. These resources are available on the SMHO website, for anyone who might be interested in learning more.

I.3 Superintendent’s Report – S. Lee-Fernandes

Equity Action Plan

The Board has hired an Equity and Engagement Officer to support equity work and a plan has been developed for broad consultation with students, parents/guardians to inform next steps starting with the secondary panel. Principals and Vice-Principals have been invited to a training session titled, Challenging Systemic Barriers: Anti-Racism and Equity with a focus on starting and continuing courageous conversations. These workshops can then be used at the school level with their staff.

Superintendent's Report – S. Lee-Fernandes (cont'd)

Tier 1 Supports/Programs

There are many evidence based universal programs aimed at improving Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in whole classes. While most are written for teachers to implement, many educators experience barriers to implementation (i.e., limited time, competing demands). Given the challenges faced by many students during the pandemic, a strong focus on universal programming aimed at SEL was the key priority for Child and Youth Counsellors to support wellbeing during the transition back to school

Motion No. SS-2020-11-03-03

Approval of the November 3, 2020 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by C. Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the November 3, 2020 meeting.”

CARRIED

M. Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

Events

Thursday, November 5th

- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario - ADHD in Older Adults: From Late Diagnosis to

Treatment Strategies (online) [LDAO Upcoming Events](#)

● Thursday, November 5th

- Integra - The Social Impact of Learning Disabilities (online) [WORKSHOP SERIES](#)

[FALL 2020](#)

● Tuesday, November 10th

- CADDAC TDAH et Sommeil (French, online) [CADDAC Webinars](#)

● Wednesday, November 18th

- International Dyslexia Association Ontario - Exploring Alternative Education Resources

Ontario (AERO) (English) online [IDA Ontario webinars](#)

AERO creates accessible documents, including text to speech PDF and audio formats.

Join Isabel for an

overview of AERO's services and eligibility requirements.

● Thursday, November 19th

- Integra - Understanding Memory and Learning Disabilities (online) [WORKSHOP SERIES FALL 2020](#)

Resources:

- LDAO LD@Home <https://www.ldathome.ca>
- LDAO LD@School <https://www.ldatschool.ca>
 - YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHEA_To2NoyMMKitLII-JQw/about
- Ontario Branch of International Dyslexia Association (ONBIDA) YouTube channel
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/DyslexiaAssociation>

A variety of videos from ONBIDA's webinars

- International Dyslexia Association (IDA) YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/InternationalDyslexiaAssociation>

A variety of videos from IDA's various webinars and conferences

- Bytesized PD - DDSB YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeh8CGhc-2zSY-mC61dMT3g/videos>

Short videos on many aspects of education technology, including assistive technology howto

Videos

- Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC) YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/adhdvid/about>

This youtube channel features video and audio that deals with an often misunderstood disorder... ADHD. The channel is a prestation of CADDAC (Centre For ADHD Awareness, Canada) www.caddac.ca

- Sagonaska School YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0_Hza9fH6-UtxV7ooxaRnA

Videos about various aspects of learning disabilities

Autism Ontario – 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:

November 26th at 3:00 pm – Jordan’s Principle: Understanding the Funding and How to Apply – a child-first needs-based requirement in Canada to ensure that First Nations children living on and off reserve have equitable access to all government funded public services. You can register here:

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=4521>

December 10th at 12:00 pm – Collaborative and Proactive Solutions with Dr. Ross Greene – will focus on his evidence-based Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model which has transformed our understanding of social, emotional and behavioural challenges. You can register here:

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=4530>

We have a number of distance program offerings – primarily virtual workshops being offered in Durham Region – all can be found here:

https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=Durham&event_type_id=All

Autism Ontario has launched a new Autism Service Listing – it is a one-stop-shop where people across Ontario can search for any autism-related service for themselves and their children. The list includes: mental health professionals, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, dentists, speech language pathologists and so much more! The link is available here: <https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/finding-providers-and-professionals>

Durham Catholic District School Board Trustees – T. Chapman

Durham Catholic District School Board welcomes Richard Damianopoulos as the new Trustee for the Townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock.

N. Correspondence

None

O. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

P. Pending Items

None

Q. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2020-11-03-04
Adjournment

Moved by T. Chapman, seconded by K. Burke

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of November 3, 2020 adjourn.”

CARRIED

R. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo.

X

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

X

Susie Lee-Fernandes
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier