



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Durham Catholic District School Board
May 3, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Virtual Webinar

If you require accessibility-related accommodations for attendance at this meeting, please notify delfina.pinto@dcdsb.ca in advance of the meeting date so that arrangements can be made.

Agenda

1. Opening

- 1.1. Land Acknowledgements
- 1.2. Memorials and Prayer
- 1.3. Roll Call and Apologies
- 1.4. Call to Order
- 1.5. Approval of the Agenda
- 1.6. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- 1.7. Declarations of Interest

2. Items for Information/Decision

- 2.1. Announcements
- 2.2. Presentations
 - 2.2.1. Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Tracy Barill, Director of Education
- 2.3. Discussion Items
- 2.4. Business arising from previous meeting
- 2.5. Staff Reports
 - 2.5.1. Coordinator's Report - Teresa Ezquerra
 - 2.5.2. Mental Health Leader's Report - Jessica Abrams
 - 2.5.3. Superintendent's Report - Susie Lee-Fernandes
- 2.6. Association Reports
- 2.7. Correspondence
 - 2.7.1. Letter from York Catholic DSB dated April 5, 2022
 - 2.7.2. Letter from York Catholic DSB dated April 5, 2022

3. Other Business

- 3.1. Board Communications
- 3.2. Motion to Adjourn
 - 3.2.1. The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 @ 7:30 pm
- 3.3. Closing Prayer



York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
Tel: 905-713-2711, 416-221-5050, 1-800-363-2711, Automated Lines: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051
Fax 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

April 5, 2022

Honourable Christine Elliot
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Chirisitine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Floor 900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Minister.edu@ontario.ca
Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Honourable Christine Elliot and Honourable Stephen Lecce.

The York Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee is writing to you in support of District School Board of Niagara's recent letter denoting the impact of the current nursing shortage on school boards across the province. Currently there are hundreds of students across Ontario awaiting nursing care that is required for them to attend school safely and meaningfully. School staff cannot perform the duties of a nurse/registered health care professional, but stress that it is also imperative that we take every reasonable step to ensure that all students have access to education.

Though this shortage is not the responsibility of school boards, many school districts including the YCDSB have advised they are committed to being part of a temporary solution for student and families affected. One way Boards have supported students requiring health care services in our schools is by allowing parents/guardians or a temporary health care service provider, designated by the parents/guardians, to visit the school, adhering to all safety protocols, to provide the health care services, where possible, for their child. Furthermore, our schools continue to creatively engage with and provide academic support to students who are at home awaiting nursing care. We are aware that the updates to the Ministry of Health "**Family-Managed Home Care/Self Directed Care**" program eligibility requirements now include parents/guardians of students with complex medical needs that prevent them from attending school due to the shortage of school nurses. However, families and Board staff note that funding for this program is exceedingly difficult to access and few families receive support, likely due to the extensive and complex process required to procure the funding.

It is a clear and widespread fact that in-person learning is the best learning environment for students. With the support from the province and significant planning, commitment and efforts by District School Boards, schools opened this fall. Tragically however many students are unable to attend school with their peers, and their families are bearing much of the burden in managing the care of students who do not have at- school nursing support secured at this time. Like many other School Boards across Ontario, we are committed to being part of the solution



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for our students and families affected. We stand with other Boards in requesting that this issue be a top priority for this government and that an immediate and accessible solution be developed to allow all children to access the learning they require and deserve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Wigston in cursive.

Jennifer Wigston
Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Trustee Vaughan Area 4
York Catholic District School Board

Handwritten signature of Eleonora Morgillo in cursive.

Eleonora Morgillo
Co-Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
SEAC Association Representative for Autism
Ontario, York Region
York Catholic District School Board

cc: Board of Trustees, YCDSB
Domenic Scuglia, Director of Education, YCDSB
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



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April 5, 2022

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Floor 900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Minister.edu@ontario.ca
Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Honourable Stephen Lecce,

The York Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee is writing to you in support of Durham District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee recent letter with regard to **Special Incident Portion Claim Funding**.

In the spring of 2018, the previous government announced an increase to the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claim funding of \$11,016.00, increasing the funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the increase would be clawed back to \$28,518.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,518.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education decision to claw back that increase given that the true cost of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than that amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant is \$58,870.00. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be a cost of \$117,740.00 plus. The Ministry of Education's SIP amount covers approximately 24.2% of the cost to support a student with significant learning needs. The YCDSB covers the remaining 75.9% of the cost from our Special Education and operational grants.

The budget gap at the YCDSB between Special Education revenues and expenditures for the last three years has averaged 5.3%. This current school year alone, the YCDSB allocated \$8,841,444.00 more than what was given in Special Education Grants to Special Education services. Some of the money YCDSB used to fund this gap is the Local Priorities funding (Support for Student Funding), which is not guaranteed to be received annually from the Province.

YCDSB SEAC is expressing our concerns that the funding the Ministry of Education provides for SIP is inadequate. The claw back of the SIP increase announced on August 24, 2018, along with the reallocation to the Special Education Per Pupil amount resulted in a net decrease in



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funding, further increasing the YCDSB deficit. As the Auditor General highlighted in 2018, the Ministry of Education's "[f]unding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review." YCDSB SEAC is extremely concerned by the direction funding for special education is taking, leaving our most vulnerable children further at risk. Inadequate funding of Special Education at the YCDSB puts our most vulnerable children at risk by cutting the services that they need to be successful. Our entire system is strained when the YCDSB takes revenues from other areas to meet its statutory commitment to children accessing Special Education services.

We request the Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly. We further request, that the Special Education funding model be reviewed and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Wigston in black ink.

Jennifer Wigston
Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Trustee Vaughan Area 4
York Catholic District School Board

Handwritten signature of Eleonora Morgillo in black ink.

Eleonora Morgillo
Co-Chair
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cc: Board of Trustees, YCDSB
Domenic Scuglia, Director of Education, YCDSB
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees