



Durham Catholic District School Board

MINUTES of the **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** meeting of the Durham Catholic District School Board which was held in the North Board Room of the Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, in Oshawa on **Tuesday, January 5, 2016.**

Present

L. Smart
V. Adamo
L. Cook
K. LeFort
M. LePage
P. Pulla
April Shiels
E. Van de Klippe

Staff

J. Bowyer
C. Baetz
D. Mullane
S. Phoenix
K. Remiz

With Regrets

B. Cummins
V. Derby
T. McGarry
J. McCafferty
L. McInnes
M. Feeheley
J. Vermulst
T. Vetere

S.E.A.C. Representatives

K. Plaunt, APSSP
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association
C. Colligan, OECTA

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Superintendent Bowyer called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

Item a.2 **Roll Call and Apologies**

Superintendent Bowyer welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item b.1 **Changes to Printed Agenda:**

none

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2016-01-05-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by P. Pulla , seconded by L. Smart

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, January 5, 2016 meeting as printed”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

c.1 Following the inaugural Board meeting on December 14, Trustee Committees were confirmed. Superintendent Bowyer announced that Trustees Paul Pulla and Kathy LeFort will continue to serve on SEAC for the 2016 year. Superintendent Bowyer thanked Lynne Smart for acting as the Chair of SEAC last year and for her leadership in the role.

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

None

ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Superintendent Bowyer opened the floor for nominations for the position of chair of S.E.A.C. for the period of January 5, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Moved by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	<u>Willing to Stand?</u>
Lynne Smart	M. Lepage	L. Cook	Yes

Superintendent Bowyer called three times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed.

Motion SS-2016-01-05-02 Close Nominations

Moved by P. Pulla , second by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Chair of S.E.A.C. for the period from January 5, 2016 to December 31, 2016.”

Carried

Superintendent Bowyer announced that L. Smart, representative for the Learning Disabilities Association – Durham, was acclaimed to the position of Chair of S.E.A.C. Lynne assumed the position of Chair and expressed her thanks.

ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair Smart opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C. for the period of January 5, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Moved by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	<u>Willing to Stand?</u>
Paul Pulla	M. LePage	V. Adamo	Yes

Chair Smart then called three times for further nominations. Nominations were then closed.

Motion SS-2016-01-05-03 Close Nominations

Moved by E. Van de Klippe, seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee close nominations for the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C. for the period from January 5, 2016 to December 31, 2016.”

Carried

Chair Smart announced that Paul Pulla was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair of S.E.A.C. Paul expressed his thanks and accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item g.1 **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Item h.1 **Approval of minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 3, 2015**

Motion No. SS-2016-01-05-04 Approval of Minutes

Moved by M. LePage, seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the November 3, 2015 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item h.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee November 3, 2015**

None

Note: Minutes for the December 8, 2015 SEAC meeting were presented as information only, as there was no quorum for this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item k.1 **SEAC Handbook**

Superintendent Bowyer reviewed the draft of the SEAC handbook with members and a discussion took place about various policies and procedures relating to membership, roles and responsibilities, attendance at meetings, and other possible additions to the handbook. When the handbook is completed, it will be reviewed by legal counsel to ensure that it is compliant with Board by-laws. Further discussion will take place at the February meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Item l.1 **Coordinator's Report – K. Remiz**

Mental Health updates:

Upcoming events and trainings:

Mental Health First Aid Training (for elementary staff) - Jan 27 and 28, 2016

SafeTALK sessions - for Elementary E.A.s - Jan 22 and for Secondary E.A.s on Feb 1, 2016

Durham Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) coalition Intermediate grades Summit being held on Jan 26, 2015 at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Item I.1 **Coordinator's Report-continued**

Coordinators' Updates:

Durham Region Health and Social Services Committee has expressed an interest in what school boards are doing in the area of mental health, specifically related to suicide prevention. Diane Mullane, and the Mental Health Leaders from the 3 other Durham boards will be doing a joint presentation for them on Jan 12, 2016.

The Ministry of Education has asked School Mental Health ASSIST to provide leadership related to the mental health of newcomers expected from Syria in the coming months. They've formed a "Newcomer Resource Group," consisting of 25-30 Mental Health Leaders, Superintendents, Chief Psychologists and Chief Social Workers. The purpose is to provide a platform for sharing of materials and resources in support of student mental health and well-being and to co-develop new resources, as needed. Diane and Shelley are both involved with this, and have been collaborating locally with others involved in newcomer settlement, in anticipation of the possibility that we have newcomer families in our system.

On December 15th, Program Support Teachers participated in the *Behavioural Management Systems Practitioner Training Course*. Program Support Teachers learned about strategies that support successfully managing behaviours and result in safe and secure learning environments. Follow-up to the program will be provided at the upcoming January Program Support teacher meeting.

After working closely with the Program Support teachers throughout November and December, the Coordinators submitted their completed Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claims to the Ministry at the end of December 2015.

On December 18, the Student Services department attended a presentation on the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Through discussion and group activities, participants were able to identify how this curriculum aligns and connects to Family Life Education and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations.

Item I.2 **Superintendent's Report- J. Bowyer**

The Superintendent provided additional information about the funding model for SIP (Special Incident Portion) claims and the support of 70-80 students in our system through this funding. The Coordinators and Program Support teachers worked collaboratively through the process of preparing claims and submitting documentation to the Ministry of Education. The process was completed in December.

Superintendent Bowyer welcomed Paul Pulla and Kathy Lefort back as our Trustee representatives on SEAC.

Item I.2 Superintendent's Report-continued

The new DCDSB website was launched January 5. The site contains many new accessibility features as well as a much improved search engine. As well, Senior Administrative Assistants will have access in order to keep it as up to date as possible. SEAC agendas and minutes will be posted monthly on the SEAC page of the site, after they have been approved at the Board meeting.

There have been changes at the Senior Administrative level – Superintendent of Facilities Tim Robins has retired. Superintendent Bob Camozzi has taken his place. Rosemary Leclair is returning to our board as Superintendent of Education.

French Immersion registration is taking place at this time. At the upcoming PST meeting, we will be working with our Program Support teachers to examine accommodations and modifications in a French Immersion program that will make second language learning accessible to all.

Superintendent Bowyer provided a copy of the Director's Annual Report 2014-2105 to each SEAC member for review.

Superintendent Bowyer asked Diane Mullane, Mental Health Leader, to provide the following updates on the upcoming "Parents as Partners" Mental Health night and Mental Health Action Plan:

Parents as Partners 2105-2016 – Parenting Resilient Children and Youth: Promoting Positive Mental Health – event will take place at All Saints CSS, Whitby – Thursday, February 25, 2016 – 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be Ann Douglas – "Big Picture Parenting"

The poster for the event is ready and was shared with SEAC. Flyers and formal invitations will go out to the system. SEAC members were asked to share the information with their agencies, in church bulletins, and with their communities. An electronic version was also shared through email.

Mental Health Action Plan 2015-2016 – Diane Mullane provided a handout to SEAC members and gave an overview of the priorities for the remaining school year with respect to the promotion of positive mental health, support to staff, students and parents, and plans for communication and collaboration within the Board and community.

Continuing her report, Superintendent Bowyer announced that UOIT, in partnership with DCDSB, is offering Special Education Part 1, which will be facilitated by Helen Killoran, Autism Resource teacher, Student Services.

Motion SS-2016-01-05-05

Approval of the January 5, 2016 Verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Reports at the January 5, 2016
Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

- **2016 March Break Reimbursement** – to subsidize services purchased between March 14 and March 18, 2016.
- **Raise the Flag Campaign** – school posters available – link on website
- **Central East Region Respite Flexible Funding for Children with ASD** – for children age 17 and under
- **Healthy Relationships** – Educational group for young adults with Autism: Mondays, January 11 – February 8, 2016 from 7 – 9 p.m.
- **Sensory Friendly Movie** – Saturday, January 9, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. – Star Wars
- **Igniting Fitness Possibilities (IFP)** a weekly, inclusive, evidence-based physical activity program for youth with and without disabilities in grades 6 – 8. begins Thurs Jan 21 – contact jleo@abilitiescentre.org or (905) 665-8500 ext 105 for more information.
- **Employment Works** – development and practice social, communication and employment skills in a variety of workplace settings and teams. New session begins Jan 26 at the Abilities Centre – orientation evening the week before. jleo@abilitiescentre.org or Worktopia website: www.worktopia.ca
- **Zumba® - Special Needs** – Mondays, 4:45 – 5:30 at the McLean Community Centre – begins Jan 11, 2016. Register with code: 122926.
- **Connectability.ca** – Check out the new ASD Topic located under Youth, Adults and Seniors – links to resources, general information about ASD, Spirale (a complete listing of ASD specialists in Ontario) videos from families sharing their success stories and challenges. <http://connectability.ca/asd>

Website: www.autismontario.com/durham

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

- Voice is currently in the process of appointing a new Board of Directors and will be conducting a mandate review
- Auditory Verbal Therapy procedures will be changing – SEAC will be informed as these changes are implemented.
- Feb 20 – a workshop will be held for all SEAC members – more information to come.

CORRESPONDENCE

n.1 Ottawa Carleton District School Board

Motion SS-2016-01-05-06 Receive and File Correspondence

Moved by M. LePage seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence at the January 5, 2016 Meeting.”

Carried

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

none

PENDING ITEMS

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2016-01-05-07 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of January 5, 2016 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by P. Pulla



Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory
Committee



Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Cynthia Mackey