



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, November 3, 2015.**

Present

L. Smart
V. Adamo
L. Cook
M. Feeheley
K. LeFort
M. LePage
L. McInnes
A. Shiels
E. Van de Klippe
T. Vetere

Staff

J. Bowyer
C. Baetz
S. Phoenix
C. Plommer

With Regrets

B. Cummins
V. Derby
J. McCafferty
T. McGarry
P. Pulla
J. Vermulst

S.E.A.C. Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association
C. Colligan, OECTA

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair L. Smart called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and offered the opening prayer

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

none

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2015-11-03-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by L. McInnes seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, November 3, 2015 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

None

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Item f.1 **Approval of minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee Meeting of September 15, 2015**

Motion No. SS-2015-11-03-02 Approval of October 6, 2015 Minutes

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

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee October 6, 2015**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 **Learning Disabilities**

Dr. C. Baetz

DCDSB Chief Psychologist, Dr. Carla Baetz, distributed a reference document entitled “Cross Referencing Learning Disabilities” and discussed different learning disabilities, their descriptions, and the navigation of various reports and test results created through the process of psychological assessment.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

none.

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 **Coordinator’s Report – Corrie Plommer**

Mental Health- Upcoming events and activities:

- **Nov 6 - DYDAC (Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee) - "The Leader in Me: Awareness to Action" Student Conference.** This is a joint initiative by DCDSB, DDSB and various community agencies. Five DCDSB Secondary Schools have been invited and will be attending this full-day event. The rest of our schools will participate next year.
- **Nov 10 - TAMI (Talking About Mental Illness) Secondary Summit** - a full day event happening at Ontario Shores. All of our high schools will be represented at this summit.
- **Nov 12-13: ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) session** - we continue to target "gatekeepers" for this training.
- **Nov 25 - safeTALK training session** (suicide alertness) - open to all staff
- **Mental Health Conference** -Our parent mental health conference will take place on Feb 25, 2016. Valerie Adamo has joined our working group as the SEAC rep, as well as Jim McGrory as a community rep. Jim has also recently joined our Mental Health and Addictions Steering Committee, as a community representative.

Item k.1 **Coordinator's Report – continued**

Assistive Technology Update

On the October 23rd PA Day, Assistive Technology Specialists Donna Conn and Kristi Norris, and Assistive Technologist, Jennifer Baal presented a full-day Assistive Technology training to 20 Educational Assistants. This was an interactive, hands-on workshop for training and awareness of Assistive Technology software which included Smart Ideas, Word Q, and Kurzweil. Educational Assistants had an opportunity to increase their knowledge of this software in order to help support students' success.

Nicola Dunning, Speech and Language Pathologist, and Kate Remiz, Coordinator for Assistive Technology, also presented to Educational Assistants on the PA Day. Their workshop, entitled 'Exploring the iPad - Communication and Support in the Classroom', focused on the use of the iPad in the classroom, and highlighted many of the assistive features found on the iPad. Participants engaged in a 'digital' scavenger hunt that highlighted these different features, and learned about various apps to support inquiring minds and differentiated instruction in the classroom.

Participants also learned about the Proloquo2Go program that many of our students use to communicate – the vocabulary embedded in the program, how the program is used, and the various functions of communication that it services.

Professional Development Day

Friday October 23rd was our first Professional Development day of this school year. Our Educational Assistants were offered 11 professional learning opportunities to choose from. Sessions were led by student services staff. Some of the topics included equipment training lifts and transfers, exploring the iPad for inquiry, communication and support in the classroom, Behaviour Management System training (non-violent crisis intervention), Understanding Self-Regulation, Mental Health First Aid and Assistive Technology training.

Pathways to the Future

Today marked Durham Catholic's third Annual Pathways to the Future ...Looking beyond Secondary School event. DCDSB and 25 community agencies came together to support parents and staff about post -secondary services and programs available for students with exceptional needs. The event was well -attended this afternoon and continues on this evening from 6-8 pm. For pictures of the event, you can refer to our Twitter feed @SpecialEdDCDSB.

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

Superintendent Bowyer extended congratulations to Lisa Coghlan, Michelle Meraw and all of the coordinators for organizing fantastic Pathways to the Future – Looking Beyond Secondary School event at the Conference Centre. The response from parents and program support teachers was wonderful.

Last year, under the direction of Shelley Phoenix, Manager of Clinical Services and Chief Attendance Officer, we focused attention on proactive approaches to supporting and improving good attendance patterns. We know that attendance patterns are set at an early age and good attendance has a significant impact on student achievement and well-being. Students who have good attendance patterns generally feel more connected to the school community. Shelley Phoenix shared attendance magnets and postcards that are part of this year's information campaign.

The upcoming PA day in November is the Faith Awareness Day for all members of our school board. Each family of schools will be hosting their own Family of Schools event. The staff of student services will be gathering together for the day for an in-depth look at Equity and Diversity. The day will be led by Shakel Choudhrey – a member of Anima Leadership. The focus for his day will be on Deep Diversity and how that differs from multiculturalism. He will help us examine our own biases in order to understand the impact of systemic racism and discrimination.

The Student Well-being and Achievement and Board Improvement Plan has been published and is available on the Board website. It includes both Academic and Corporate strategic priorities and goals. SEAC Members were provided with a copy of the plan and Superintendent Bowyer reviewed the Celebrating Inclusion goals. As outlined in the Discovery 2020 Strategic Priorities, each year we have to set measurable goals for each of the priorities.

A draft copy of the SEAC handbook was distributed to committee members for review and any ideas or suggestions for additions will be discussed at the December meeting.

Motion SS-2015-11-03-03

Approval of the November 3, 2015 Verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Reports

Moved by M. LePage seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal
Coordinator and Superintendent Report at the November 3, 2015
Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Community Representative – L. Cook

A pilot program is testing whether a wellbeing champion could help schools tackle obesity, anxiety and other problems:

<http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/nov/03/healthy-school-head-of-wellbeing-the-answer>

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

The next parent support meeting will be held on Nov 12 – 7:00 p.m. – St. Christopher C.S.

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

VOICE is welcoming a new Executive Director and a strategic review is underway within the organization.

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

Partners for Planning Resource Network - A future planning resource for people with a disability, their families and caregivers: <http://hub.partnersforplanning.ca/>

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Region – L. Smart

LDADR has partnered with Whitby Public Library to present a special screening of *'The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia'* – a film directed by James Redford (son of Robert Redford). This film provides accounts of dyslexic experience from children, experts, and iconic leaders at the top of their fields to help in the understanding of dyslexia.

Date: Thursday, November 26, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Brooklin Public Library – 8 Vipond Road, Brooklin, Ontario.

Funding has been received for the "LD@School" Program. More details available at the website: <http://ldatschool.ca/>

Kinark Child & Family Services – M. Feeheley

From the Kinark Website: The SNAP® Model is a program for children aged 6 to 11 who are engaging in aggressive, antisocial behaviour and/or have come into contact with the police as a result of their behaviour. SNAP® helps children and parents deal effectively with anger by teaching them how to respond in a way that makes their problems smaller, not bigger.

<http://www.kinark.on.ca/services/centralEast.aspx>

CORRESPONDENCE

m.1 Upper Canada District School Board

Motion SS-2015-11-03-04 Receive and File Correspondence

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by M. Feeheley

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence at the November 3, 2015 Meeting.”

Carried

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

none

PENDING ITEMS

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2015-11-03-05 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of November 3, 2015 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by K. LeFort



Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory
Committee



Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Cynthia Mackey

October 22, 2015

Lynne Smart, Chair, SEAC

Durham Catholic District School Board
650 Rossland Road West
Oshawa, Ontario
L1J 7C4

Dear Ms. Smart,

Re: Nominations of The Durham Down Syndrome Association's Representative to the DCDSB SEAC.

I am writing to notify you that The Durham Down Syndrome Association has appointed April Shiels as nominee for the position of Representative to the DCDSB SEAC for the 2015-2016 term.

April Shiels is a member in good standing of The Durham Down Syndrome Association and has the qualifications required under the Education Act for the position of SEAC Representative.

We are grateful for her willingness to represent our organization in this volunteer capacity, and we look forward to receiving notification from you that her nomination has been approved by the DCDSB SEAC.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Wallis
DDSA President

president@ddsa.ca