



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, April 4, 2017.**

Present

K. LeFort
J. Oldman
V. Adamo
K. Burke
L. Cook
M. Feeheley
J. McCafferty (*via teleconference*)
T. McGarry
C. Nosseir
C. Pegler
A. Shiels
E. Van de Klippe

Staff

J. Bowyer
C. Baetz
D. Mullane
T. Ezquerria

With Regrets

L. Smart
L. McInnes
M. LePage

Absent

B. Cummins

S.E.A.C. Representatives

K. McCarthy, APSSP
M. Lacy, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Vice Chair Valerie Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Superintendent Bowyer requested the addition of item g.1 – Continuing Education Department Presentation.

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2017-04-04-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Oldman seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, April 4, 2017 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

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 March 7, 2017**

Motion No. SS-2017-04-04-02 Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. Oldman seconded by M. Feeheley

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee March 7, 2017**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 Continuing Education Department

J. Wilson/S. Ritchie

Staff from Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre provided an overview of their Life and Culinary Skills programs for young adults with exceptionalities.

The goal of the life skills program is to upgrade functional living and vocational skills as well as provide general interest and socialization activities. The culinary skills program helps prepare students for job placements or volunteer opportunities. In these programs students learn safety awareness, health and nutrition, cooking and kitchen safety, how to maintain inventory, technology and computer skills, fitness and recreation, communication and socialization and real-world experiences.

Students are provided with opportunities to gain employability skills and make connections with a local Employment Ontario agency.

If you would more information on these programs, please contact Stacey Ritchie at 905-438-0570 ext. 57154 or via email at stacey.ritchie@dcdsb.ca

Item g.2 Review of Special Education Budget

J. Bowyer

The budget was not released as expected. An update will be given next month. The budget is expected to provide the last year of the HNA amount, which in our case is an increase and will off-set the declining enrolment impact on the SEPPA funding.

This year our Special Incidence Portion increase was significant enough that we are able to provide our secondary schools with enough funding for two additional sections of K courses. We are very excited about the potential of providing additional life skills programming for our highest needs students. All schools have been asked to run one semester of back-to-back Life Skills so they can provide special programming like we heard about at Fr. Leo J. Austin CSS. As well, schools will be offering a K course focused on Work Skills, in preparation for possible future cooperative education placements.

As part of this year's provincial collective agreements for CUPE, APSSP and OECTA, there was money provided for staffing enhancements that should mean additional staff to support special education. We are working with the unions this month and should be able to let you know by next month.

Item g.3 PST Mentoring

T. Ezquerra

Teresa Ezquerra, Student Services Coordinator, reviewed the PST Mentoring program. There are 10 mentees from the elementary and secondary panel enrolled in this eight session program. Feedback on the six sessions held so far have been very positive. Topics covered in the program include: Role of Educational Assistant, Assistive Technology, Administering & Scoring *Weschler Fundamentals* assessment tool, Psycho-educational and Speech & Language referrals and reports, Personal Resiliency (targeted to staff), Behaviour Resource Team (BRT) – supporting challenging behavior, Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team (DCART) – ABA principles, Movement breaks, Transition planning. Mentors undertook a book study – *When Mentoring Meets Coaching: Shifting the Stance in Education* by Kate Sharpe, Jeanie Nishimura.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Item k.1 Coordinator's Report – T. Ezquerra

Student Services Numeracy Update

During the March Elementary PST meeting, the Program Support Teachers worked with the Psychological Services Staff and the Teaching and Learning Staff Numeracy Facilitators and Consultants on supporting their students with Learning Disabilities in mathematics. Looking specifically at psychological processes, Program Support Teachers were able to delve deeper on their understanding of the processes while supporting their students in numeracy.

In our Secondary Panel, there continues to be work between Student Services and the Teaching and Learning Department in the areas of understanding Learning Disabilities and Numeracy. During Secondary pull-out sessions, Program Support Teachers who are designated to support numeracy initiatives in the schools, worked together with the Grade 9 and 10 applied level teachers on supporting students.

Item k.1 **Coordinator's Report – T. Ezquerra** (Cont'd)

Assistive Technology Update

Kate Remiz, Coordinator for Assistive Technology, and Kristi Norris, Assistive Technology Specialist, will be presenting at the ASET (Association for Special Education Technology) Conference at the end of April. Presenting on 'Students with Assistive Technology: Supporting Transition from Elementary to Secondary', Kate and Kristi will share an initiative at the DCDSB that supports students with assistive technology, as they transition from elementary to secondary school. With links to the Ministry of Education's 'Creating Pathways for Success' and the 'Learning for All' documents, participants will learn how to implement a transition trip that will support a successful transition into secondary school.

April 6 - Secondary Program Support Teachers will participate in a workshop to implement a program entitled, "JobStart" that has been developed by Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Employment Services. This program is a process to assist students to practice self-determination and self-discovery. Using this tool, teachers will be able to assess barriers to employment which are often related to people skills or soft skills.

Item k.2 **Mental Health Leader's Report – D. Mullane**

This month, we're hosting two sessions for staff capacity building: Mental Health First Aid on March 31 and April 6, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training on April 18 and 19.

The Student Senators are hosting an event on April 11th focused on physical and mental health. They've asked for specific resources and information that they can take back to their schools to share with their student body. Key messages normalizing mental health, promoting positive mental health and encouraging help-seeking will be shared at this event.

The Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) Intermediate Summit will take place on April 12, 2017. Several DCDSB schools have registered and will be attending.

On April 24th, I've been asked to speak at an event at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church for parents and community members on the topic of: Promoting Positive Mental Health. Invitations have been sent via the church to the Whitby feeder schools.

We've been invited by Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences to partner in an Eating Disorders Symposium in October. This event will be geared to Health and PhysEd Curriculum Chairs (and other educators) during the day, with an evening event being held for the community. The focus will be on creating a more "body-positive culture." We'll be applying for funding through Sick Kids Hospital.

Item k.2 **Mental Health Leader's Report – D. Mullane** (Cont'd)

Lastly, we're embarking on a process of collecting data to inform our revised Mental Health Strategy (2017-2020) and we would like your input on a couple of focused questions. (Handout)

Item k.3 **Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer**

Carla Baetz provided an update on the Special Needs Strategy specifically the Integrated Rehabilitation component of the Special Needs Strategy.

OSSLT proceeded as expected. They did not use the online version that was tried in October. Our students that required assistive technology were still able to access the test electronically.

A great deal of emphasis in the media on violence in schools. We have begun a process for auditing all of our Safety Plans to ensure that all students and staff are safe.

"So You Want to Be a PST" information session was held last week, and we had 15 people attend. Interviews will be held in May.

During next month's meeting, we will participate in consultation on Catholic education called Renewing the Promise. The Institute of Catholic Education has asked various stakeholder groups to share their thoughts about contemporary issues in Catholic education.

Autism Awareness Day was held on Monday, April 3rd. All schools were asked to acknowledge our "Light it Up Blue" Campaign to bring attention to our students with Autism.

Motion SS-2017-04-04-03

Approval of the April 4, 2017 Verbal Coordinator,
Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the April 4, 2017 Meeting."

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Community – L. Cook

Special Olympics Durham Summer Program – Registration takes place on May 3rd at Arc Industries in Ajax. Details can be found at: durham.specialolympicsontario.ca

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham – K. Burke

April 6/17 – Presentation by Dr. Marjorie Phillips of director of Integra. Understanding the Relationship between Learning Disabilities and Mental Health. **7 PM** Pickering Christian School

Self-advocacy program (SOAR) for students in Grades 6 and 7 who have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability or LD/ ADHD. Parent to attend with student. Four weeks beginning April 19. Register at info@ldadr.on.ca

Website: www.ldadr.on

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

Reminder that May is hearing awareness month and Dress Loud day is May 5.

May 6 is the annual Voice conference being held again this year at the University of Guelph.

Our own Melissa Fregonese will be presenting 3 sessions during the conference The survivor challenge, Apps that can promote listening and spoken language skills and panel moderator for the day's speakers in the conference wrap up.

Camp has been announced for August 11 to 13 again at Bark Lake.
For information on these programs visit the website: <http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/>

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

The Spring Into Literacy Conference is all set for April 8th at the Durham District School Board.

Tape a Toonie was a success raising over \$13,000 for Grandview Kids! Holy Trinity Catholic School collected the highest amount for the high school category and were presented with a trophy. Dr. Ross Tilley won for elementary school and COMPASS Learning Centres won for the child care centres. Thank you to all schools that participated!

McHappy Day is on May 3rd; Whitby and Ajax McDonald's will be donating proceeds to Grandview Kids.

Website: www.grandviewkids.ca

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

Niko's Night for Autism is being held on April 28th at the Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall in Markham. The Evening will be filled with fine dining, dancing, open bar, silent auction and guest emcee Bryan Muir, Stanley Cup Champion for the Colorado Avalanche. All proceeds raised through the gala will be donated to Autism Ontario.

4th Annual Autism Awareness 5km Run/1km Walk on May 7th at Heydenshore Park in Whitby. All proceeds will be donated to Autism Ontario on behalf of Autism Angels.

Family Caregiver Support Group - Friday April 28th @ 6:30 p.m.
The focus being on the Disability Tax Credit, RDSPs and other financial resources and planning for those with special needs.

April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated with many events being held across the Durham region.

On April 3rd, raise the flag ceremonies were held in Pickering, Ajax, Oshawa and Clarington.

Wednesday May 17th 7:00-8:30 p.m. - Electing the 2017/2018 Chapter Leadership Council at the Durham Corporate Centre, 105 Consumers Dr., Unit 3, Whitby. In addition, we will be recognizing the recipient of the 2nd Annual Junior Advocate Award. This award is in recognition of a school-aged child who has gone above and beyond or excelled in raising awareness and advocating for individuals with autism.

Community Living – Durham North – T. McGarry

A Million Possibilities Solo Ocean Row 2017 – this is a province-wide confederation, rooted in a strong network of individuals, families, friends, member organizations and community partners, the Community Living movement strives to have inclusive communities where people who have an intellectual disability belong, have equal rights, respect and acceptance, a sense of self-worth and opportunities for growth.

Colin Sanders will be rowing 4,000 kilometers across the Atlantic Ocean – from the Canary Islands to Antigua – to not only challenge himself, but the challenge others including YOU in making a real difference in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families.

Member organizations of Community Living Ontario are asked to participate in different fundraising initiatives to support Colin's adventure. Everyone can follow and support Colin from afar by visiting www.soloatlanticrow2017.com

CORRESPONDENCE

m.1 **Bluewater District School Board**

Motion No. SS-2017-04-04-04 Receive and File Correspondence

Moved by J. Oldman seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee receive and file the correspondence at the April 4, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2017-04-04-05 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of April 4, 2017 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by K. LeFort.

Valerie Adamo
Vice Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Liz Beckstead