



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, September 13, 2016.**

Present

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

Staff

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

With Regrets

V. Derby
J. Vermulst
P. Pulla

S.E.A.C. Representatives

B. Larson, APSSP
D. Wilson, OECTA Secondary
M. Thomas, OECTA Elementary
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 7:35 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-2016-09-13-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. LeFort seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, September 13, 2016 meeting as printed.”

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item c.1 **Introduction of New Union Representatives**

Superintendent Bowyer introduced the new representatives from OECTA Secondary and OECTA Elementary.

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 June 7, 2016**

Motion No. SS-2016-09-13-02 Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the June 7, 2016 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

Item f.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee June 7, 2016**

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 Assistive Technology Summer Camp

K. Remiz

Kate Remiz, Co-ordinator for Assistive Technology, presented on the Assistive Technology Summer Camp for students with learning disabilities. The camp was held July 11-14, 2016. A total of 20 students attended the camp. This year's theme was the "Olympics". Students had an opportunity to brush up on Assistive Technology skills, explore new technologies, and make new friends. Kate highlighted the links between the camp and our Catholic Graduate Expectations and what it means to be a 21st Century learner.

Item g.2 Developing Orientation and Mobility Skills through Geocaching

B. Larson

Brooke Larson, Orientation and Mobility Specialist from Student Services, presented on Geocaching. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunt game that uses GPS coordinates. Participants can hide and find containers called caches. There are different types of geocaching: Traditional, Event, Multi-Cache, Mystery, Wherigo, Letterbox, EarthCache, Virtual and Webcam. It is a great way for students to explore their communities and stay active.

Website: www.geocaching.com

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item j.1 Correspondence to Minister of Education Re: Autism

Superintendent Bowyer discussed the late June announcement from the Ministry of Education regarding the funding model for IBI therapy. As such, the letter that the Chair of SEAC was going to write to the Minister of Education was put on hold until more information is forth coming.

Moved by E. Van de Klippe seconded by K. LeFort

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee table the decision to send a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the changes to Autism/IBI programs."

Carried

STAFF REPORTS

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

- Five delegates from DCDSB attended the Geneva Centre for Autism School Team Training on August 25th and 26th. On day 1, delegates chose to attend one of two training sessions, either "Practical Applications of Applied Behaviour Analysis in the Classroom" or "Transitioning to Meaningful Post-Secondary Life". On day 2, educators attended a keynote event with internationally recognized speaker, Dr. Paula Kluth. We received positive feedback from our delegates, expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to attend.
- DCDSB has been provided with 29 spaces for educators to register for on line ABA certificate courses through Geneva Centre for Autism for 2016-17.
- In the last week of August, Student Services participated in the 'Sharing of Excellence Summer Institute' series. 150 staff members participated - with lots of offerings in numeracy, technology, and celebrating inclusion. Special Education topics included:
 - How to write an effective IEP
 - Explore the accessibility features of the iPad
 - ABA workshop
 - ABC and Beyond
- The Assistive Technology (AT) team worked very hard in the summer to deliver all equipment transfers to elementary and secondary schools. This means that students who would normally receive their Assistive Technology in the second and third week of school, received their equipment during the first week of school. This was a pilot endeavour and we pleased to report we are off to a good, strong start this summer with more student having their A.T. equipment much earlier in the school year.
- This month the A.T. team is jumping right into supporting our Program Support Teachers with training on using our eBooks website which is a repository for electronic texts. We are also providing refresher training on the different assistive software such as Kurzweil, WordQ, and Smart Ideas.
- Next month, we are looking forward to moving our 'Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip' (SWATT Trip) system wide. This transition day is an opportunity for Grade 8 students with Assistive Technology to participate in a Grade 9 day while using their A.T.

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

- Diane Mullane, Mental Health Leader, attended the Canadian Association of Senior School Administrators (CASSA) conference in July. As part of this conference, Diane had the opportunity to present a workshop, sharing information on how anti-stigma initiatives align with a mental health strategy.
- Two Mental Health First Aid sessions were held over the summer. For the August session, we were able to offer several spots to community partners through the Durham Children and Youth Planning Network. 17 community partners attended, and learned alongside DCDSB educators.
- For our students transitioning to high school, we created 4 well-being lessons for the Head Start program. The lessons covered topics such as: What is Mental Health?; What is Stress?; Coping with Stress; How to access support. Teachers delivered these lessons over the four days of the Head Start program. During the first week of school, all grade 9 students were given a "Be Well" magnet, along with a scripted well-being message.
- The "Together for Mental Health -Summer Updates" newsletter was handed out to all SEAC members.
- At the Principal/PST meeting today, schools were given information on Roots of Empathy. This year, we will be able to train five additional staff members as Roots of Empathy instructors, and we've decided to offer the training to Early Childhood Educators in Kindergarten classes. Principals were asked to nominate strong ECE/teacher teams to run the program in their classroom. We also shared information on a "system approach to mindfulness," and we will be moving forward in offering this opportunity to as many schools as possible.
- This is the last year of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy ("Together for Mental Health"). We will be seeking stakeholder input throughout the year to help with creating the next three-year strategy.

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

- Superintendent Bowyer welcomed the new members of Student Services Department
 - Dr. Amanda Fuentes – Psychologist
 - Sandra Marty – part-time Social Worker
 - Nia Hachey-King – part time CYC
 - Kara Kenney- ABA Facilitator
 - Melissa Hooper – Behaviour Support Specialist
 - Lisa Studer – Behaviour Support Specialist

Item k.3 **Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer** (Cont'd)

- ABA Facilitator – In the last week of June, we received word that the Ministry of Education was going to provide funds to Boards to support the hiring of specialists in Applied Behaviour Analysis. This followed the government's announced changes to their previously announced Autism programs. We were fortunate to hire a ABA Facilitator. Kara Kenny is well known in our Board. She previously worked with Kinark in the Connections for Students program - where she supported the transition of students from IBI into our schools. She is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst. This is great news for all of our students supported by our Autism Resource Team as well as students supported by our Behaviour Resource team.
- We received word that our Pro Grant proposal had been approved for \$7500. We will use it to pay for our Pathways to the Future event as well as an evening event on March 3. Our Mental Health Steering Committee will be organizing it under Diane's leadership with support from SEAC.

Motion SS-2016-09-13-05

Approval of the September 13, 2016 Verbal
Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and
Superintendent Reports

Moved by V. Adamo seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the September 13, 2016 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Community Living – Durham North – T. McGarry

- Letter and brochure to schools introducing Spinclusion, which is a fun interactive game that increases awareness about inclusion with children and youth. See flyer.
- Website: www.cldn.ca

Autism Ontario – Durham Region – E. Van de Klippe

- Inside Out View of Autism Spectrum Disorder workshop featuring Bill Nason. This 2-day workshop will be held September 20 and 21, 2016 at Carruthers Creek Golf and Country, Ajax. Register at www.billnason.eventbrite.ca. See flyer.
- Website: www.autismontario.com/durham

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth – Durham Region – L. McInnes

- Annual General Meeting and Family Day – Saturday, September 24, 2016 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. at WindReach Farm. See flyer
- Durham Region Child Care Forum (DRCCF) Conference – Saturday, October 1, 2016 at J. Clark Richardson Collegiate in Ajax. See flyer.
- LEGO Group – Thursdays, October 20th to November 24, 2016 at RFECY. A 6-week group building social skills through LEGO based games and activities.
- Website: www.rfecydurham.com Access our Resource Portal through this website.

VOICE for the Hearing Impaired – V. Adamo

- The annual Voice Conference is being held this coming weekend September 17, 2016. Registration closes on September 13th. To register email: admin@voicefordeafkids.com The conference will return in 2017 to its May time slot.
- A very successful Voice camp was held the weekend of August 19, 2016 at Bark Lake Leadership centre in northern Ontario. 32 families attended. Of those, 8 families were from the Durham region.
- Camp for 2017 will return to its normal week August 11-13 at Bark Lake.
- The organization has been undergoing a fundamental review by the Board of Directors. As a result, the organization has returned to a full volunteer board without dedicated employees. The focus will remain on collaboration and support of Voice families and advocacy for kids with hearing impairment and loss. The full board is now in place and is working on the agenda for 2017.
- Website: www.voicefordeafkids.ca

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

- CF Parent Support Group meeting – September 29, 2016 at St. Christopher's Library, 7:00 p.m.
- Princess Ball – Sunday, February 5, 2017, Oshawa Golf and Curling Club
- Website: www.cysticfibrosis.ca

Community Representative – L. Cook

- Para Olympics on television are providing awareness for overcoming challenges faced by a disability.
- Special Olympic program sign up is taking place.
- Website: www.specialolympicsontario.com

Kinark Child & Family Services – M. Feeheley

- New programs or services:
 - DBT – Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
 - ABA specialist to support CMH programs
- Moving on Mental Health – Ministry initiative.
- Agency involved in restructuring into the second of 3-year plan
- Website: kinark.on.ca

Durham Down Syndrome Association – April Shiels

- Special Needs Information Fair – October 22, 2016 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Heydenshore Pavilion, 589 Water Street, Whitby. Cost is free.
- DSAO Conference – October 14-16, 2016 at Great Wolf Lodge
- National Down Syndrome Awareness Week – 1st week in November
- New programs or services:
 - Speech Therapy – reimbursement (membership required)

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham – Lynne Smart

- LDADR presents “How do we learn to read?” hosted by Trent University, Thursday, September 29, 2016, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Location: Trent University Durham, 55 Thornton Road South, Oshawa, Room 106. All are welcome! No registration or fee required. Come and learn about what skills are needed to become a good reader. We will also discuss early signs of reading difficulties as they relate to dyslexia and how they impact reading and writing. See flyer.

CORRESPONDENCE

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

n.1 Review of Terms and Reference

Lynne Smart reviewed the Terms and References document; in particular attendance expectations outlined on page 6 for members and their alternates and the regular use of the SEAC Association Report Form (Appendix 2) in advance of our monthly meeting.

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2016-09-13-08 Adjournment

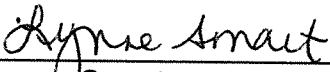
Moved by L. McInnes, seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
September 13, 2016 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: Liz Beckstead