



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, December 5, 2017.**

Present

K. LeFort
L. Cook
J. McCafferty (tele)
V. Adamo
A. Shields (tele)
L. McInnes
M. LePage
C. Pegler
L. Smart

Staff

J. Bowyer
D. Mullane
K. Remiz

With Regrets

K. Burke
J. Oldman
E. Van de Klippe
C. Nosseir

Absent

M. Feeheley

S.E.A.C. Representatives

K. McCarthy, APSSP
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 **Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Lynne 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**

Add correspondence from VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children dated November 15, 2017 as item m.1

Item b.2 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2017-12-05-01 Approval of Agenda

Moved by L. Cook, seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, December 5, 2017 meeting as amended.”

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 November 7, 2017**

Motion No. SS-2017-12-05-02 Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by L. McInnes

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

Carried

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

None

PRESENTATIONS

Item g.1 **Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities** **K. Remiz**
in Mathematics

Kate Remiz, Student Services Coordinator – Assistive Technology detailed the success of the 2016/2017 pilot project, Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in Mathematics. A research study was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Amanda Fuentes and Dr. Carla Baetz from psych services. The drive for the study was to understand the challenges and more importantly the strengths for each child and produce evidence based practices, to come up with a universal design that would be beneficial to all students, not just those with learning disabilities.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

STAFF REPORTS

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

1) Parents, children and Facilitators of Friendship Lab located at Sir Albert Love CS and St. Bernard CS celebrated the completion of the nine week program with a pizza party last week. The program was well received by both parents and children.

2) Program Support Teachers reviewed the Policy and Program Memorandum 140, "Incorporating methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders" with their school staff. Staff, including teachers, administrators and support staff were provided with a brief overview of the requirements of this PPM including how Applied Behaviour Analysis methods are to be incorporated into IEPs to support students with ASD; and planning for transition between various activities and settings for students with ASD. In the near future, school board staff will receive further training opportunities that will deepen the understanding of the principles of ABA programming.

3) The Ontario Council for Exceptional Children Conference was held on Friday November 24th in Toronto. Three workshops were facilitated by members of the Student Services staff. Topics included:

- A Pilot Study of School-Board Implementation of the Friendship Lab Social Skills and Theory of Mind Training for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Assistive Technology: Supporting Transitions from Elementary to Secondary
- Numeracy Intervention Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities

4) Last Thursday, the Assistive Technology Team concluded their final Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip. There were 20 trips this year that supported the transition of 200 students with Assistive Technology. Since March 2016, approximately 550 students have participated in this initiative that supports transitions and pathways for our students with Assistive Technology.

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

1. Capacity-building sessions in November included a safeTALK training in Uxbridge for staff who live and work in the north, as well as introduction to Mindfulness session for all staff members who were potentially interested in participating in our System Approach to Mindfulness this year. 34 staff members have committed to participating in a six-week online Mindfulness Fundamentals course starting in January and a follow up event in March.
2. On November 28, the annual TAMI Secondary Summit day was held at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Delegates from all but one of our Secondary schools participated in this event. Students and staff members left at the end of the day full of enthusiasm, and with a new toolkit of ideas to bring back to their school.
3. Parent conference update: our parent conference will take place on Feb 27, 2018 at Father Leo J Austin Catholic Secondary School (see 'Save the Date' flyer provided). Details are still being worked out, but it looks like we'll be maximizing Dr. Clinton's time (90 minutes) followed by a choice of three breakout sessions.
4. Upcoming December Workshops and Capacity-building: today, December 5th, we provided a workshop called ASIST Tune-Up, which is a refresher course for staff who have previously participated in the ASIST two-day training. Sharing of Excellence workshops are offered on December 6 (Webinar: The Importance of Attachment to Development) and December 7 (Newcomer Mental Health).
5. The board's Staff Wellness Committee, in collaboration with the board's Family Services Employee Assistance Program (FSEAP) is offering a series of four workshops over the school year. The first one took place on November 2nd on the topic of Balancing Personal and Work Life. The next one is scheduled for January 11th on the topic of Personal Strategies for Self-Care.
6. On November 27, we officially launched the revised Mental Health Strategy at the Board meeting. Metroland picked up the story, which was followed by a request from Lorne Coe, MPP to visit and learn more about the work we're doing in the area of mental health.

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

At the Inaugural Board meeting Trustee Tricia Chapman from Whitby was elected as the Chair of the Board and Trustee Monique Forster from Ajax was elected Vice-Chair.

Thank you to our trustee representatives Janice Oldman and Kathy LeFort for serving on SEAC. Committees will be assigned at the next Board meeting and we may or may not have the same people back.

Thank you to the Chair of SEAC Lynne Smart for her leadership this year. Elections will be held at the next SEAC meeting which is in the first week of school.

We have hired a new Behaviour Analyst, Amber Zealand, who is coming to us from the Region of Durham. She will begin in two weeks and will support the Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team, as well as the pilot project on ABA training for Educational Assistants.

Earlier this month, members of SEAC were invited to participate in public consultation on Assessment Practices. More information on the engagement program and other ways to give input can be found at: OntarioALearningProvince.ca

Last week, I was invited to participate in stakeholder input into Provincial Special Education issues. The Special Education / Success for All Engagement Conversation stream provided information about recently released and upcoming ministry resources including *Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12, Policy and Resource Guide (2017)*, *Learning For All K - 12 Professional Learning Facilitator's Guide (draft)*, *Supporting Safe Teaching and Learning Environments (Working Title)*. Participants had opportunities to provide feedback on the resources, and to think about implications for their school/system improvement planning, equitable and inclusive processes and practices, and supporting positive learning environments.

Last week we had a presentation for the Safe Schools teams from all schools by Dr. Wendy Craig, the Co-founder and co-director of PREVnet, an active network of Canadian researchers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments working together to stop bullying in Canada and to promote safe and healthy relationships for all Canadian children and youth. She is a psychology professor at Queens' University. It was an excellent opportunity for school teams to look closely at their School Climate Survey data in order to determine next steps for their Bullying Prevention and Intervention goals.

Motion SS-2017-12-05-03

Approval of the Dec. 5, 2017 Verbal Coordinator,
Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by V. Adamo, seconded by L. Cook

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the December 5, 2017 Meeting.”

Carried

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Grandview Kids – C. Nosseir

Upcoming Paperwork Party to help parent’s complete applications and organize medical binders. Dec. 12 Grandview AJAX.

Our CEO, Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann was awarded the Ontario Association of Children’s Rehabilitation Services Tribute Award of Excellence. This award represents the very highest honour accorded by OACRS, and is awarded only to an individual who “has been extraordinary and has enhanced the lives of children and families serviced by children’s treatment centres”. Lorraine was nominated based on her leadership at the national level related to CAPHC (Canadian Pediatric Hospital and Rehabilitation) where Lorraine has lifted the profile of Children’s Treatment Centres to a leading feature of this organization, her provincial leadership with the Special Needs strategy, and of course our work here, close to home, with the announcement of our new facility.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

2nd Annual Princess Ball – Ajax Convention Centre, Sunday, February 4, 11 am – 2 pm.
For more information visit our Facebook Page - DurhamCFPrincessBall

17th Annual Strokes for Life Golf Tournament – Oshawa Golf and Curling Club,
Thursday, June 7. More information will be available soon.

Autism Ontario – C. Pegler

Sunday Dec 17, 1230-230. This event is for teens aged 13-17 interested in expressive art and movement across multiple mediums including percussion, visual arts and creative journaling. Registration is required; <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-whitby-teen-movement-expressive-arts-13-17-years-old-registration-40850375573>

Our provincial office has dubbed Wednesdays as Webinar Wednesday. Each week a new webinar is posted on their Facebook page. Past webinars have included funding options, housing and IEPs.

On October 17, 2017, the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) received a request from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to provide advice related to Applied Behaviour Analysis. Autism Ontario was asked to distribute the online survey across our communication channels. While this survey may not be applicable to everyone, the HPRAC is widely distributing the survey to seek responses from a diverse range of individuals. To complete the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XWSJVBB>

Join Autism Ontario on Monday, April 2, 2018 to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day. Help us build ASD inclusive schools and communities across our province! Register your school or community today: <http://bit.ly/2j30nKt>

VOICE – V. Adamo

Durham Kawartha chapter is hosting a Family fun night Dec 13 530 to 745 pm Joeys Fun World Bowmanville

On November. 30 Voice held a book launch ceremony for an ebook featuring family accomplishment stories to share the amazing achievements and journey of many of the Voice families to help support families in their journeys and to provide information for those families of newly diagnosed kids.

Voice has proposed an alternate candidate his name is Andrew Anderson.

CORRESPONDENCE

m.1 Correspondence from VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children dated November 15, 2017.

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the correspondence from VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children dated November 15, 2017 nominating Andrew Anderson as the alternate representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee.”

Carried

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by V. Adamo

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee recommend Andrew Anderson as the alternate representative from VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children to the Special Education Advisory Committee to the Durham Catholic District School Board of Trustees.”

Carried

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2017-12-05-04 Adjournment

Moved by K. LeFort, seconded by L. McInnes

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of
December 5, 2017 adjourn.”

Carried

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

Lynne Smart
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Janine Bowyer
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier