



Durham Catholic District School Board

MINUTES of the **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** meeting of 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, June 5, 2018.**

Present	Staff	With Regrets	Absent
L. Smart (Chair)	J. Bowyer	K. LeFort	
V. Adamo	T. Ezquerra	A. Shiels	
C. Nosseir	C. Baetz	E. van de Klippe	
J. McCafferty	D. Mullane	L. Cook	
C. Pegler	S. Phoenix	T. McGarry	
K. Burke			

S.E.A.C. Representatives

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

CALL TO ORDER

Item a.1 Land Acknowledgment

Item a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIONS

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item e.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Item h.1 PAAC on SEAC Guide to Special Education Funding**

Superintendent Bowyer provided a detailed overview of the PAAC on SEAC Guide to Special Education Funding and responded to questions as they arose. Superintendent Bowyer will align the final 2018-2019 school year SEAC calendar with suggestions from the guide and provide a draft final at the September SEAC meeting.

Item h.2 Yearly Calendar Review for 2018-2019

Superintendent Bowyer opened the discussion for any suggestions for presentations that the Committee may have for the upcoming school year SEAC Committee meetings and took note of any suggestions from the Committee. Superintendent Bowyer requested that the Committee representatives inquire within their organizations about any presentations that they would be interested in attending or providing for the upcoming school year and provide any responses at the September SEAC meeting.

Item h.3 Parents as Partners Series Participation

The Committee will discuss in September any involvement in parent sessions once the Ministry has provided approval to the PRO-Grant proposal recently submitted by Michelle Meraw, Student Services Coordinator.

DELEGATIONS

None

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**Item k.1 Approval of Special Education Plan**

Deferred

STAFF REPORTS**Item l.1 Coordinator's Report – T. Ezquerro**

For the 2018-19 school year, we are bringing the Empower Reading Program to 5 of our schools. Empower is a one-year reading intervention program based on research for the Hospital for Sick Children. The program supports all students who are reading below grade level. It has been found to be especially effective for students with a Learning Disability in reading. Our schools will select up to 8 students with Learning Disabilities to work with over the course of the next school year.

The Assistive Technology Team is excited about this year's summer camp program. Program Support Teachers, in consultation with their school's Assistive Technology Specialist, have identified students who have shown leadership skills and success with their Assistive Technology. These students will be trained to be Assistive Technology mentors in their schools, helping to normalize AT in the schools.

This year, our End-of-Year Program Support Teacher Meeting will be held at Camp Samac in Oshawa. The meeting is a full day and an opportunity for our Program Support teachers to gather together to share in the eucharist, reflect and celebrate all of the wonderful accomplishments our students have achieved over the year. Our guest speaker for the day will be Raven Murphy. Raven is a proud Anishinabe (First Nations) woman who wholeheartedly shares her experiences and the wisdom of her Ancestors by way of The Medicine Wheel. The Medicine Wheel bridges us to the ancient understandings of interconnectedness and re-establishes our earth-connection. Earth elements that are created by God are the root of Indigenous spirituality. Throughout this day will we be learning about Indigenous ways of knowing and that learning is holistic and lifelong. Program support teachers are asked to consider how might we foster and support the child with special needs from a First Nations perspective?

Item I.2 Mental Health Report – D. Mullane

Our Mental Health and Addictions Steering Committee met on May 23 to review initiatives that have taken place this year, and to begin planning for next year. Our Action Plan for 2018-2019 will include a greater focus on student voice / youth engagement and on getting to the classroom level, with several new educator resources from School Mental Health ASSIST being launched in the fall.

On May 11, Shelley Phoenix and myself participated in a professional learning opportunity with Dr. Stephen Lewis on Non-suicidal Self-Injury. This is an area where we plan to focus some attention next year, with the development of a board-level protocol and capacity-building for staff. We've partnered with three other boards in our area to bring the speaker here in the fall to do an expertise-level training session with our clinical staff.

We're currently in conversation with Roots of Empathy with regard to the number of training spots they will allot to DCDSB next year. An "expression of interest" form has been sent to all schools.

One Mental Health First Aid session is being offered over the summer on July 4 and 5. This session is open to all staff, and has been offered to interested community members as well, through the Durham Children and Youth Planning Network.

Finally, the Canadian Educators Conference on Mental Health is taking place in Toronto on November 8 & 9, 2018. Early bird registration is available until June 30, 2018. Further information and registration details can be accessed at this link: www.cecmh.ca

Item I.3 Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer

Thank you to the members of SEAC for their support over the past year. It was another great year for SEAC and I am very appreciative of what we accomplished this year. I look forward to continue to grow the presence of our SEAC in the coming year.

Thank you also to the staff members from Student Services who have supported the work of SEAC – for being here every month to act as Resources when needed and to the members of the Student Services executive who organized and ran events that were sponsored by SEAC.

Thank you also to our Union and Association representatives – Lyn Wardle and Mark Lacy for the Durham Catholic Principals Association. Kathy McCarthy and Brooke Larson for APSSP, and Colleen Plouffe from OECTA Secondary.

Michelle Meraw has submitted the SEAC PRO-Grant proposal for next year. It included two large parent conferences and a number of smaller parent sessions spread across the region.

We have two tentative dates for our large conferences next year. Dr. Jean Clinton will be presenting on October 17th in the afternoon for school staff and PSTs. On November 6 for our Pathways to the Future event – our transition evening. November 8 is a SEAC meeting night. Diane Mullane is currently working on developing other parent nights as part of our PRO-Grant.

This Friday we are hosting our year end Program Support Teacher meeting at Camp Samac based on the theme of Indigenous Education. This will be a great opportunity to thank our PSTs for all of their hard work over the course of the year.

A significant number of changes this year with the influx of money. We were able to hire a significant number of staff to support our DCART and DCBRT teams, as well as our Hearing Services Departments.

A big good bye and thank you to Dr. Carla Baetz for her almost 20 years with the Board, especially as Chief Psychologist. We have grown and evolved so much over the time that Carla has been the Chief that the Student Services department before her time is almost unrecognizable. A special thank you to Carla for taking the lead for our Board, but also for our region on the Special Needs Strategy. I know that the voices of Education were well represented because of her presence at the table and in her role as Co-Chair. Carla is going to be missed – I especially have always appreciated Carla's expertise and professionalism when dealing with difficult situations, and the way that she has been able to explain situations to parents so that they better understand the school perspective. As always, it will be hard to imagine Student Services without her there in her corner office - but the time has come to say goodbye.

We did hire Dr. Carla Baetz's replacement – Dr. Diane Lood – a Coordinating Psychologist from York Region District School Board.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Autism Ontario – E. Van de Kilppe and C. Pegler

A Safe Park for All - The Town of Ajax is the first municipality in Ontario to officially open a Safe Place to Play at the Miller's Creek Park in July 2016. It is located at Miller's Creek Park, McLean Community Centre, 95 Magill Dr., Ajax.

June 13 - Autism Ontario - **Meditative Mindfulness Class for Parents** - 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM EDT, Art With A Heart Inc., 209 Dundas Street East Lower Level Units 1 & 2, Whitby

Autism Ontario - Durham - **Mom's Night Out** - Expressive Arts Evening June 22, 2018, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT, Join us for a fun, low-stress event involving snacks and art expression... no artistic skill required!, Art With a Heart, Whitby

1.) Do I need to bring proof of diagnosis?

No, not needed. Just check in at the registration desk and enjoy the event.

2.) Do I need to be a member of Autism Ontario to register and participate?

No. While membership does provide other great opportunities, all Potential Programme events from Autism Ontario are open to all families with children under 18 with ASD who reside in Ontario.

Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir

Grandview staff will be participating in Summer Camp staff training for Municipal Summer Camps. Providing tools to help camp staff support all children in a mainstream camp environment. Camp training sessions take place June 21& 23.

Grandview Kids, through a partnership with Ontario Sailing, is offering an accessible sailing camp! June 16th to 20th from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily for children aged 8 to 13 years old. To register: <https://grandviewkids.ca/programs-services/programs/therapeutic-recreation/>

CORRESPONDENCE

None

INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

None

PENDING ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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