



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, March 6, 2018.**

| <b>Present</b> | <b>Staff</b> | <b>With Regrets</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| L. Smart       | J. Bowyer    | L. Cook             |               |
| K. LeFort      | L. Coghlan   |                     |               |
| V. Adamo       | D. Mullane   |                     |               |
| K. Burke       | C. Baetz     |                     |               |
| M. LePage      | S. Phoenix   |                     |               |
| C. Nosseir     |              |                     |               |
| C. Pegler      |              |                     |               |
| J. McCafferty  |              |                     |               |
| T. McGarry     |              |                     |               |
| A. Shiels      |              |                     |               |

**S.E.A.C. Representatives**

K. McCarthy, APSSP  
C. Plouffe, OECTA Secondary  
L. Wardle, Principal/Vice Principal Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Item a.1 Memorials and Prayer**

Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 7:32 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**

None

**Item b.2 Approval of Agenda**

Motion No. SS-2018-03-06-01    Approval of Agenda

Moved by V. Adamo, seconded by M. LePage

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, March 6, 2018 meeting as printed.”

Carried

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **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 January 9, 2018**

Motion No. SS-2018-03-06-02                      Approval of Minutes

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by K. LeFort

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting as submitted.”

Carried

### **Item f.2      Business Arising from the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee January 9, 2018**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Item g.1      Pilot Speech Program (Grandview)    **M. Stratton****

Meredith Stratton, Preschool Outreach Program Manager at Grandview provided an overview of the Preschool Outreach Pilot Program running from September 2017 to the end of March 2018. This pilot program focuses on licensed child care centres only. Previously Grandview would attend the child care centres to consult with the educators and assess the children and provide strategies to assist with the child’s development. Parents were not present during the consult/assessment. The Pilot Program allows for the assessments to be done at the Grandview Centre with the parent present and offers a separate consult visit with the educator to allow time for the educator to learn strategies moving forward. These consultations are provided by Ministry funded Speech Language Therapy Assistants who develop and documented plan with the educators

which is then provided to the parent. Grandview has recently been notified that this pilot program has been approved to become a permanent program by the Ministry of Education.

**Item g.2      Tiered Level of Intervention for Social Work/  
Child Youth Counsellor Support      S. Phoenix**

Shelley Phoenix, Manager of Clinical Services, Durham Catholic District School Board, provided an overview of the Tiered Levels of Intervention.

Tier 1 are often manualized programs being designed for whole classrooms/schools. This allows the teachers to implement these programs on their own and can be reinforced throughout the day. Child and Youth Counsellors can offer support if needed.

Tier 2 are programs designed for few students when a concern has been identified. This can include Child and Youth Counsellor supports in the area of social-emotional well-being, bullying intervention/prevention, coping skills, etc. and Social Work supports in the area of Mental Health, counselling, crisis intervention, etc. These programs can be offered to individuals as well as in a smaller group setting.

Tier 3 programs require a lot of collaboration with community partners. These programs support students with the greatest needs.

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Item k.1      Coordinator's Report – L. Coghlan**

Renewed Math Strategy:

On February 13, gr. 9 and 10 math teachers and math coaches continued to explore teaching and learning in their classes. This session focused on the work of Steven Katz and using teacher self-assessment to improve teaching and learning. School teams also had an opportunity to work with math tools and solving problems in unique ways.

DCDSB recognizes World Down Syndrome day on March 21. Staff and students throughout the system will wear blue and yellow on this day.

**Item k.1      Coordinator's Report – L. Coghlan (cont'd)**

World Autism Awareness Day:

On Tuesday, April 3, DCDSB will celebrate World Autism Awareness Day. Schools will be emailed a package which contains student activities for the month of April, for each grade, as well as a Program Support Teacher lead initiative to decorate their front foyer in a "Light It Up Blue" theme. Prizes will be awarded for most creative display. Schools are encouraged to use the age-appropriate video links provided, to share with students. Principals are asked to tweet a picture of their Light It Up Blue display to further promote Autism Awareness. The goal is to improve understanding and awareness of people with an autism diagnosis, and to celebrate each student's unique strengths.

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

We were very disappointed that our parent conference had to be cancelled, due to speaker illness. We're in conversation with Dr. Clinton and plan to reschedule for an October date.

In January, our Staff Wellness Committee officially launched our "Elephant in the Room" campaign. Principals were given a blue elephant, an information brochure and posters to bring back to their schools, as well as a presentation to share with staff. The blue elephant is intended to symbolize a safe place to speak about mental health issues, and we hope that it will increase awareness and continue the conversation. The campaign has been positively received by schools and the media, including Metroland, Global Durham and CTV, all who have done stories on it. This anti-stigma campaign was a good lead-up to Bell Let's Talk Day, an initiative in which many of our schools participated.

On the Feb 16 PD Day, staff from 7 schools, Student Services and Teaching and Learning participated in the first phase of our Trauma-Informed Schools Pilot. In this first phase, staff heard from an expert in the field, Dr. Kristen McLeod. Part 2 of this pilot will include a voluntary book study with the 7 pilot schools, led by our Social Work and/or Psych staff, to allow for deeper learning on this topic. (Note: Trauma-informed practice is a school-wide approach in which all adults in the school are aware of how trauma impacts learning and are committed to practices and relationships that support safety and collaboration and reduce the negative effects of trauma. Using a "trauma-lens" means considering the context of behaviour, suspending judgement, moving from a punitive approach and responding with supports and strategies that help students feel safe, supportive and valued).

Other staff capacity building initiatives include two Mental Health First Aid certificate trainings, one in January and one in early March; a "Supporting Minds @ School: Mental Health Literacy" (3 part) series being offered as an after-school workshop in Feb/March; and a follow-up session for our Mindfulness pilot groups on bringing mindfulness to the classroom on March 21st.

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

Superintendent Bowyer handed out the Director's Annual Report for 2016-2017 and reviewed the section on Celebrating Inclusion found on page 35.

Dr. Carla Baetz provided an update on the Special Needs Strategy and answered questions about the next steps for the Durham proposal.

Superintendent Bowyer reviewed Policy and Program Memorandum 161 from the Ministry of Education on Prevalent Medical Conditions. PPM 161 directs Boards to create a policy on prevalent medical conditions that includes anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, recognizing that Boards are already required to have policies on anaphylaxis and asthma. Superintendent Bowyer shared that the policy would be going to first reading at the Board on Monday March 19 and members of SEAC are invited to go onto the public consultation site on our Board website to provide any feedback they wish.

Nominations for the DCDSB Board Award of Merit. Candice will email the form. If you know someone, or a group, who meets the criteria please consider nominating them or we could nominate someone as SEAC. Nominations close on Friday April 8.

Updates from the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation. 5th Annual Durham Catholic Children's Foundation Dinner – Thursday May 3, 2018. At the Jubilee Pavilion. Tickets are 100. Can be purchased online.

Catholic School Board Budget Consultation Process – Please go on line to see the process. Either individual submissions on line or an in person. We will discuss the special education budget at the April meeting after the budget gets announced at the end of March. Candice will send out the budget consultation information tomorrow.

Superintendent Bowyer provided answers to questions asked by the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region regarding transitions for students with a Learning Disability from grade 8 to 9 and from secondary to post-secondary.

Motion SS-2018-03-06-03

Approval of the March 6, 2018 Verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports

Moved by C. Nosseir, seconded by J. McCafferty

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports at the March 6, 2018 Meeting.”

Carried

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region – L. Smart

Preparing for a transition to high school: March 29/18: See attached flyer

Student Self-Advocacy Training: 4 sessions geared to students in Gr. 7 or 8 starting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration is [info@ldadr.on.ca](mailto:info@ldadr.on.ca) or call 905-430-9230

AMI Scholarship Program <http://ami.ca/scholarship>

### VOICE – V. Adamo

<http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/>

Dress Loud Day will be celebrated on Friday May 4 this year, it is the annual fund raising and awareness event in support of the voice organization. Materials are available for use in this campaign on the voice web site.

The Annual voice conference is also being held in May on May 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>. This year it will be held at Centennial College. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite and information is available on the voice web site.

Planning for our annual summer family camp is underway and information should be available on registration soon on the voice website. Camp will be held again in August at the Bark Lake Leadership Centre, Irondale Ontario

### Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter – C. Pegler/E. Van Klippe

[www.autismontario.com/durham](http://www.autismontario.com/durham)

On Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> there is a workshop being held at the Courtyard by Marriott Toronto Mississauga/West. This workshop is for parents with children that have been newly diagnosed with ASD and will help familiarize families with current best practices of early intervention. This workshop is now sold out but given the popularity of it, we hope to have more in the near future.

On Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a workshop held by Education Consultant, Ed Mahony at the Courtyard by Marriott in Mississauga. This workshop is designed to support parents in asserting rights, allowing them to be heard in a respectful and positive manner. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mississauga-workshop-helping-parents-be-heard-by-ontario-school-boards-hosted-by-educational-tickets-43090473767>

Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter – C. Pegler/E. Van Klippe (cont'd)

We are now accepting applications for Ontario wide Scholarships:

- MacDonald Family Scholarship for students with a parent with ASD
- Jeanette Holden Scholarships for siblings
- Eleanor Ritchie Scholarship for students with ASD

Deadline for applications is May 7<sup>th</sup> and more information can be found:

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/Scholarships>

For Durham residents only: We are accepting applications for the Hollylynn Towie Scholarship fund to students with ASD. Application due date is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Application package for download can be found on our website.

World Autism Awareness Day is April 2. Autism Ontario would like to invite everyone to register and help celebrate with us on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Participation in our campaign means access to World Autism Awareness Day resources to help your school or business celebrate! Help us build ASD inclusive schools and communities across our province.

As of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are now completely out of flags but you are still able to register at [rff@autismontario.com](mailto:rff@autismontario.com)

DDSA – A. Shiels

Our World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations will take place on Sunday March 25 from 3:00-5:00pm at the Brooklin Community Centre. Please distribute the attached poster with all the details.

The AGM for the Durham Down Syndrome Association will take place on Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00pm in one of the Meeting Rooms at The Whitby Public. At this time we are looking to elect up to 5 new members to the DDSA Board of Directors. Any person interested is welcome to attend the AGM and run for election.

On Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> the DDSA will be hosting a Spring Formal Dance for young adults. The dance will be held at Port Whitby Marina beginning at 7:00pm. DDSA members and non-members are invited to the dance. More detailed information will be coming about the dance.

Community Living Durham North – T. McGarry

We are running a March Break program through our Youth Group. This program is open to all and there are still openings for those who are interested.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

Outrun Cystic Fibrosis 5K Walk/Run – Carruthers Marsh Pavilion, Sunday, April 15,  
Registration – 11 a.m./ Event begins at 12 Noon

Strokes for Life Golf Tournament – Oshawa Golf and Curling Club, Thursday, June 7,  
Registration details TBA

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Item m.1** Correspondence from Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario  
dated January 30, 2018

Motion SS-2018-03-06-04                      Acceptance of the correspondence from Catholic  
District School Board of Eastern Ontario dated  
January 30, 2018

Moved by V. Adamo, seconded by C. Pegler

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the  
correspondence from Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario  
dated January 30, 2018.”

Carried

**Item m.2** Correspondence from Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord dated  
February 5, 2018

Motion SS-2018-03-06-05                      Acceptance of the correspondence from Conseil  
scolaire catholique Franco-Nord dated February 5,  
2018

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by T. McGarry

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the  
correspondence from Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord dated  
February 5, 2018.”

Carried

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

None



**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Motion No. SS-2018-03-06-06    Adjournment

Moved by J. McCafferty, seconded by C. Pegler

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of  
March 6, 2018 adjourn.”

Carried

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

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Lynne Smart  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

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Janine Bowyer  
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Candice Cavalier