



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

November 2, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present:

V. Adamo (Chair, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired), K. Burke (Vice Chair, Learning Disabilities Ontario), J. McCafferty (Trustee), Alex Massis, Akilah Dressekie (Community Representatives)

Staff Present:

S. Lee-Fernandes (Superintendent of Education), J. Abrams (Senior Manager, Psychological and Speech-Language Services/Chief Psychologist), F. Mosier (Student Services Coordinator)

SEAC Representatives:

L. Wardle (Principal/Vice Principal Representative), B. Larson (APSSP Representative), M. Cope (CUPE Representative), L. Jemmott (OECTA Representative)

1. Opening

- 1.1. Land Acknowledgements
- 1.2. Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., offered the opening prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Adamo noted that quorum was not reached so the meeting would be proceeding without motions.

- 1.3. Roll Call and Apologies
- 1.4. Call to Order
- 1.5. Approval of the Agenda
- 1.6. Approval of the Minutes of the October 5, 2021 SEAC Meeting
- 1.7. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Items for Information/Decision

2.1. Announcements

2.1.1. LDADR change of Representation

On October 14, 2021, Superintendent Lee-Fernandes received correspondence from Learning Disabilities of Durham Region (LDADR) appointing Julie Sorhaitz as their new Alternate SEAC representative. Vice-Chair Burke announced the appointment of Julie Sorhaitz and the resignation of Heather Mendela at the November 2, 2021 meeting.

2.1.2. Nomination of new member

Chair Adamo welcomed Akilah Dressekie, the new Community Representative to SEAC and both agreed, at an opportune time, to meet for an orientation session.

2.2. Presentations

2.2.1. Special Education Review

Deferred

2.3. Business arising from previous meeting

None

2.4. Staff Reports

2.4.1. Coordinator's Report - Francesca Mosier

Elementary IEPs were sent home on October 19, 2021. Secondary Quadmester 1 Report Cards will be sent home on November 22, 2021.

On October 6th, Teresa Ezquerra, Student Services Consultant, offered a Sharing of Excellence session to all teachers, entitled, "How to Write an Effective IEP". The session highlighted: writing SMART IEP goals, parent-friendly assessment data, and student strengths & needs.

The upcoming November Sharing of Excellence Series will include the following presentations by Student Services Staff:

- Principles of ABA Data Collection (2-part certificate course)
- SAFE Talk

- Supporting Healthy Minds (3-part mental health literacy series focusing on some common mental health problems routinely observed at school)

Last month, DCDSB, in conjunction with Greenfield Learning, offered 3 Lexia sessions for all interested PSTs

- 1 session was a refresher for PSTs that used Lexia last year
- 1 session was Core 5 training for PSTs who have not previously been trained on C5 and will be using it this year
- 1 session was Power Up training for PSTs who have not previously been trained on PU and will be using it this year

Lexia licenses have been allocated to all interested elementary & secondary PSTs and assigned students are using the program.

All educators in DCDSB are being offered online training in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) through the Geneva Centre's Sonderly platform. There are 6 courses to choose from. Registration is granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Educational Assistants received training in the Principles of ABA at the October 8 P.A. Day

Behaviour Management Systems(BMS) training is being offered to Program Support Teachers on November 3.

Francesca answered questions as they arose.

2.4.2. Mental Health Leader's Report - Dr. Jessica Abrams

During the month of October, Student Services offered in-person training for suicide alertness (SafeTALK) and suicide intervention (ASIST). 19 EAs participated in the safeTALK session on the Oct 8 PD day and 19 "gatekeepers" (Vice Principals, Student Success Teachers, Chaplains, Program Support Teachers, Guidance Counsellors, and Student Services staff) participated in the ASIST training on October 13 and 14.

Another safeTALK session will be offered on November 16, as part of the after-school series, which is open to all staff.

On October 19 and 20, all of our administrators participated in an in-service with Dr. Abrams and Shelley Phoenix on the updated **Responding to Critical Incidents and Traumatic Events** protocol.

The Staff Wellness Committee has been resurrected and are planning activities for the year. The committee has been sharing resources in the new “Weekly Buzz” internal newsletter and have launched a Gratitude initiative, in which staff can pick up a physical card (or download an electronic card) to share messages of gratitude with their colleagues.

The Supporting Minds 3-part Mental Health Literacy series is once again being offered in three after-school workshops during the month of November.

Last spring, the DCDSB entered into a partnership with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) and two other school boards, to co-develop a video series and accompanying Educator’s Guide (**Understanding Substance Use, Stigma and Cannabis Vaping**) to help educators working with youth from grades 6 to 12 learn about substance use. These resources are intended to help educators understand substance use, providing knowledge and tools to support their students, promote well-being and reduce substance-related harms in young people. This resource is being launched this month and we will be providing two facilitated learning sessions on November 23 for all educators in grades 6 -12 or anyone who has an interest. These modules will help to build capacity of our educators, with the intention of further scaling up to meet the needs of educators with other school boards across jurisdictions in Canada.

2.4.3. Superintendent's Report - Susie Lee-Fernandes

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes presented a breakdown of the timeline for Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for the current school year both for the Elementary and Secondary panels. She indicated that the processes and timelines for the creation of IEPs will continue as usual. The Team meetings are taking place both virtually and in-person to accommodate families while following the current health and safety measures for Covid-19.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes shared that in regard to Psychological and Speech-Language Services, the referrals and

feedback started in September. The Speech-Language Pathologists are consulting with and supporting the Kindergarten teams.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes also shared that the Child and Youth Counsellors (CYCs) continue with tier 1 implementation supports for the whole class. Individual and small group support also continues and Social Workers have been carrying out their regular duties.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes provided a brief description of the Specialized Teams including the Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team and the Durham Catholic Behaviour Resource Team.

2.5. Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association of the Region of Durham - K. Burke

LD Events/Resources Calendar: November 2021

Events: November 2021

- Thursday, November 4th

LDAWC – Getting an IEP That Works workshop

Join Carol McMullen as she presents a workshop to help parents get the most from their child's IEP. She welcomes participants to bring their current IEPs. Bring your questions for this wonderful opportunity to receive one-on-one assistance.

- Friday, November 5th

ONBIDA – French Science of Reading workshop

Online workshop about French Science of Reading for French educators from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

- Tuesday, November 9th & 16th

CADDAC – Advocating For Your Child with ADHD in Canadian School Systems workshop

Advocating for your children's educational rights may be one of the most frustrating and confusing experiences you will encounter. This two-part presentation will help you understand your provincial special education system, its benefits, and drawbacks while offering you tips on how to navigate that system. Parents' fear of labeling their child,

psychoeducational testing, and understanding and contributing to an IEP will all be covered. The presentation will also include a review of your child's rights and a discussion on how to become a more effective advocate. In addition, we will be reviewing numerous supporting documents CADDAC has developed to assist you with evaluating your child's school environment and effectively communicating with the school, and advocating for your child.

- Thursday, November 11th

Integra – The Social Impact of Learning Disabilities webinar

In this workshop, we will discuss why children with LDs are at risk for experiencing social challenges with their peers. Participants will explore what skills are needed in order to be socially competent in everyday life. Strategies on how to understand and support social competence will be shared.

- Thursday, November 25th

Integra – Understanding Memory and Learning Disabilities webinar

This experiential workshop is designed to give participants a better understanding of the different types of memory challenges (verbal, visual, and working memory). We will look at the impact memory challenges have on everyday life for children and youth with LDs (socially, emotionally, and behaviourally).

- Open date

- CADDAC 2020 PREP (Parent Readiness Education Program)
Recordings CADDAC Webinars

PREP, CADDAC's Parent Readiness Education Program, is a comprehensive 10-part series of filmed, online presentations. Each presentation is approximately 1.25 hours in length and presented by Heidi Bernhardt. Fee applies.

- CADDAC Spring 2020 ADHD Workshops Livestream Recordings
CADDAC Webinars

Recorded in April 2020, the recording includes access to 7 workshops geared to parents of children with ADHD, adults with ADHD and their families.

Resources:

- LDAO LD@Home <https://www.ldathome.ca>
- LDAO LD@School <https://www.ldatschool.ca>
- YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHEA_To2NoyMMKitLII-JQw/about
- Ontario Branch of International Dyslexia Association (ONBIDA)
YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/DyslexiaAssociation>

A variety of videos from ONBIDA's webinars

- International Dyslexia Association (IDA) YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/InternationalDyslexiaAssociation>

A variety of videos from IDA's various webinars and conferences

- Bytesized PD - DDSB YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeh8CGhc-2zSY-mC61dMT3g/videos>

Short videos on many aspects of education technology, including assistive technology how-to videos

- Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC) YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/adhdvid/about>

This youtube channel features video and audio that deals with an often misunderstood disorder... ADHD.

The channel is a presentation of CADDAC (Centre For ADHD Awareness, Canada) www.caddac.ca

- Sagonaska School YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0_Hza9fH6-UtxV7ooxaRnA

Videos about various aspects of learning disabilities

Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter - C. Pegler

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

Join Autism Ontario and Canada Revenue Agency for an informational workshop about financial matters and how they pertain to persons with disabilities. Registration is now open, and the workshop will take place over zoom on November 16 @ 6 pm.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6269>

“Getting the most out of your ABA services” Registration is now open for this interactive presentation that will take place over zoom on November 17th @ 7 pm.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6209>

“How to submit your OAP Expenses Information Session” Registration is now open for the zoom event on November 25th @ 10 am.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6322>

New Programs or Services:

Take Home Kit – Buttertarts!

Kits are available for children and young adults between the ages of 4 and 29. Registration is now open on Eventbrite until November 10th. Kits will be delivered to the address provided on November 15th and 16th.

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/take-home-kit-buttertarts-tickets-201425116947?fbclid=IwAR0JPF6LMlqP1dG0dLEilTGFENW8CyLgPf33gwFkiWSRg9_E4LNAGnFKvGg

Virtual Card Making Workshop

Registration now open for two dates; November 17 @ 5pm and November 24th @ 7pm. Kits will be delivered prior to the event.

https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6181&reset=1&fbclid=IwAR32MjyL44h2DgyQwq3R_29FBeHyZMxjpsurB1KqA5ngBCnY0TYN VFs40

Website:

[autismontario.com/chapters/durham-region](https://www.autismontario.com/chapters/durham-region)

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2.6. Correspondence

None

2.6.1. Draft letter to Minister of Education re: Bill 172

Deferred

3. Other Business

3.1. Board Communications

None

3.2. Motion to Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

3.2.1. The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 @ 7:30pm

3.3. Closing Prayer

Closing prayer was offered by Trustee McCafferty

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Susie Lee-Fernandes
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Delfina Pinto