



## 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, May 8, 2018.**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>With Regrets</b>	<b>Absent</b>
L. Smart (Chair)	J. Bowyer	C. Nosseir	
V. Adamo	M. Meraw	A. Shiels	
K. LeFort	C. Baetz	J. McCafferty	
M. LePage	D. Mullane		
E. van de Klippe (tele)			
L. Cook			
T. McGarry			
C. Pegler			

### **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 7:37 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**

#### **Item g.1 Children's Foundation Update**

**B. Miettinen  
S. Karwowski**

Stan Karwowski, Chair of the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation and Brian Miettinen, Vice-Chair of the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation provided an overview of the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation. They detailed the Foundation's mission and vision and provided examples and testimonials of how the Foundation has helped Durham Catholic families in the past, detailing how the schools receive their allocations and what types of situations they would be utilized for. They announced the

dates for the upcoming events to raise funds for the Foundation and presented a summary of funds raised in the past from these annual events.

**Item g.2**      **Special Education Plan**

**M. Meraw**

Michelle Meraw, Student Services Coordinator provided an overview of minor updates that were made to the 2017-2018 Special Education Plan. The Special Education Plan will be distributed electronically for the Committee's review and input. Input to be provided to Michelle Meraw or Candice Cavalier by May 31, 2018 for submission to the Ministry by July 31, 2018.

**Item g.3**      **Special Education and the Toronto Archdiocese**

**M. Meraw**

Deferred

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Item k.1**      **Coordinator's Report – M. Meraw**

The spring session of The Friendship Lab is in its final week. Our ninth and final week ends with a celebration with parents and children sharing a meal together as we review the Social Code for friendship making skills. We look forward to offering this social skills program in the 2018-19 school year as our After School Skills Development program.

Fitness Friends from across the system will be participating in the 19th annual end of year celebration at Iroquois Park on June 5th from 10am – 1 pm. DCDSB has participated in the program sponsored by Variety Village and was one of the founding partners. It is a great opportunity for our Fitness Friends teams to try new activities, connect with other students and educators, promote enthusiasm for our school's commitment to inclusive participation and enjoy the benefits of being active!

On June 8th, Program Support Teachers will attend an end of year gathering at Camp Samac to participate in fellowship, mass and a key note presentation by Raven Murphy.

June 4th is the final day for submitting Parent's Reaching Out (PRO) Grant application. These grants support projects that enhance parent involvement with their child, provide skill-building opportunities for parents and highlight schools as important resources for parents in the community. As in past years, we encourage our SEAC committee to submit an application for "Sharing of Excellence – Parents as Partners" project. As part of the proposal, our Student Services department would like to collaborate with SEAC to provide a workshop series for parents under two categories: 1) Supporting Students with Exceptional Programming Needs 2) Promoting Positive Mental Health. We would also like to include a parent conference in this proposal, "Connection is Key – Promoting Positive

Mental Health" with keynote speaker Dr. Jean Clinton. Break out sessions will be offered by our Student Services staff and community partners.

#### Mental Health Report

A couple highlights in April include:

- \* our third and final TAMI Summit of the year, held on April 18 for Intermediate students,

- \* receipt of the Healthy Workplace Award from the Region of Durham for our focus on staff mental health over the year.

Currently, our Continuing Education program has struck a committee to work on re-vamping the Head Start program. The intention is to formally schedule time each day to focus on well-being, and the proposed schedule will give equal time to well-being, numeracy, literacy and "high school life". We're working on "beefing up" the mini-lessons that had been previously created, and that were being used sporadically. This is good news, as youth have identified the transition to high school as a time of high stress.

This week is Children's Mental Health Week, celebrated across Ontario from May 7 to 13. Children's Mental Health Week focuses on increasing awareness of the signs of child and youth mental health problems, decreasing stigma and understanding that help is available and treatment works. To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, we are offering two safeTALK sessions for staff on May 9th. These sessions are both full to capacity. Additionally, we have provided schools with two resources, including posters on the theme of "how to help a friend," as well as a children's book on the theme of facing your fears accompanied by a curriculum resource guide developed by one of our own teachers. Additionally, a Resource Package was provided to all schools with suggestions and ideas for promoting positive mental health in schools and classrooms, and links to online resources.

**Item k.2 Superintendent's Report - J. Bowyer**

This week is Catholic Education Week with the theme for Catholic Education Week determined by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association. The theme for this year is Renewing the Promise. Each day has an individual theme and we have system activities planned most of the days of this week.

After school tonight we honoured the Distinguished Catholic Educators and our Distinguished Catholic Leader for this year. The Distinguished Catholic Educator for Student Services was Nicola Dunning – one of our Speech Language Pathologists. The Distinguished Catholic Leader was Jim Wilson, the principal of Archbishop Anthony Meagher Con Ed.

Yesterday we celebrated our annual system wide Mass for Catholic Education week. We were very fortunate to have Bishop Nyguen celebrating the mass for us.

We had our distinguished Catholic Alumni celebrations last week. Very pleased to announce that Catherine Partlow, a graduate of Father Leo J Austin was honoured as a distinguished alumnus for her continued success in the Special Olympics and for her volunteer work in our Board. Last Tuesday, we gathered together with all of our grade 12 graduates from all of our secondary schools to celebrate Make Your Mark Day. It was the second year for this event and we look forward to it becoming a long-standing tradition.

Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Board and we will be celebrating in many ways next year. The Children's Foundation Gala is going to be even bigger next year, so hopefully we will be able to have a table of SEAC members.

Last Friday, some schools across our system celebrated Dress Loud Day in support of students with hearing impairments.

Today we held our last official Program Support Meeting for this year. I am so impressed with the work that our program support teachers do each and every day and the dedication that they have for their important role in the school. Their participation and engagement in every program support teacher meeting speaks to this dedication. Elementary Program Support teachers are currently preparing for EQAO. Elementary Program Support Teachers are working with the secondary Program Support teams to support the transition of our students from grade 8 to 9. They have been asked to be very intentional in terms of setting up team meetings for the purpose of transitions. For example, there is a mandatory transition team meeting for any grade 8 student transitioning to high school who has a safety plan.

We are still working on the increased allocations as the result of our increases in this year's budget. At the next meeting I will be able to give you a full accounting of the increases to our department. We do know that we will be increasing the compliment of DCART and DCBRT so that they will have the opportunity to support more students. We also know that the Mental Health Workers in the schools money will allow us to pay for an additional 3 Social Workers.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

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

Spirale is a new resource designed to help parents find professional services for their children on the spectrum. Professionals can self-list for anything from hairdressers to dentists to specialized doctors.

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/spirale.nsf/web/Home?OpenDocument>

Building Friendships through Playdates Workshop on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the RA Centre in Oshawa. Leslie Cohen will focus on positive steps you can take to help your child enjoy successful play interactions with peers. Learn a variety of techniques for managing and structuring playdates and getting your child ready to have fun with other kids. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-workshop-building-friendships-through-playdates-tickets-43890187733>

Autism Ontario and the Ontario Autism Coalition partnered together for an Autism Supports Discussion with all four political parties on May 3rd. The goal of the event was to find out where each party stands for autism services and supports for those on the spectrum and their families. A recording of the event can be viewed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V39wkusCb9Y>

One-to-one summer support worker reimbursement fund will continue to accept applications until June 1st. This reimbursement fund will determine eligibility by random draw for a maximum of \$600 per child to subsidize services purchased between June 25 and September 2.

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/campfunding?OpenDocument>

Autism Ontario's Provincially Speaking Survey is gathering information about the status of autism services in Ontario in 2018 and is available for participation until June 5<sup>th</sup>. All information will be shared with relevant stakeholders for informational and academic purposes.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProvinciallySpeaking2018>

### **Grandview Children's Centre – C. Nosseir**

Literacy Conference update and thank you:

The 7th Annual Durham Spring into Literacy Conference took place on Saturday April 21 at the DDSB office. 130 participants attended the event. Participants enjoyed a keynote address by Jill Javelosa-Alvarez, Early Literacy Specialist and chose two from among five offered break-out sessions. Participants also had an opportunity to explore a number of vendors and displays from community partners during breaks. The conference is a partnership between Grandview Children's Centre, DCDSB, DDSB, EarlyON and Carea Community Health.

Special Olympics – L. Cook

Today is variety village fundraising day at Pizza Nova chains. \$4.29 medium pepperoni Pizza – all proceeds to go to Variety Village

Special Olympics – Greater Durham invitation Youth Games May 14-17/18  
Toronto, ON – Inaugural event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Special Olympics

Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Durham Chapter – M. LePage

May is CF awareness month.

Wednesday, May 9 – CF meet and greet at Buffalo Wild Wing – Ajax

Thursday, June 7 – Strokes for Life at Oshawa Golf Club

Sunday, May 27 – Walk to Make CF history – Canada's Wonderland

DDSA – A. Shiels

2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring formal dance was held on Saturday April 28 for ages 16+ and was a big success.

Our annual summer picnic will be held on Sunday June 24 at Nova's Ark in Brooklin, we will forward a digital poster soon.

VOICE – V. Adamo

Great Wolf Lodge Weekend June 1-3

Voice Camp Aug 10-12 again this year. Thanks to the Elks, kids will attend for free

Will be working with families to re-examine the disability tax credit rejections and determine how we can respond/advocate for this to be re-instated.

Very successful Voice conference held professionals day on May 4 with 50 attendees and others on May 5 with approx. 125 attendees. Thanks to Melissa Fregonese who partnered with Cindy from the public board on the professional Ecu progress and program.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- m.1 Correspondence from Peel District School Board dated March 19, 2018
- m.2 Correspondence from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board dated April 19, 2018
- m.3 2018: SB10 Memorandum from the Ministry of Education re: Special Education Funding in 2018-2019 dated April 27, 2018

**INQUIRIES AND MISCELLANEOUS**

- n.1 Guide to Special Education Grant 2018-2019
- n.2 PAAC on SEAC Funding Resource Guide 2018
- n.3 Well-Being – Full Report
- n.4 Review of Assessment and Reporting
- n.5 LDAO Comments on draft ‘Special Education in Ontario’

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

**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