



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 27th, 2019

Board Office, Kemptville

6:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Dave Conners (Vice Chair), Autism Ontario
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Amanda Banfield, Lanark County Support
Services
Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark
Children and Youth
Deena Shorkey, Children's Mental Health
Ontario
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network
(Alternate)

Board Resource Staff:

Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education

Approved Regrets with notification:

Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

Opening Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in a prayer entitled, "*A Prayer for Lent*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – February 27th, 2019

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on March 7th, 2019.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019 is Autism Awareness Day. Flag raising will take place in Cornwall, Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Ingleside and Upper Canada District School Board, in Iroquois.

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

The 66th AGM and conference will be held on September 18-20, 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON at the Valhalla Inn. Proposals for workshops, presentations and panel discussions are currently being accepted. Deadline for submissions is April 19th, 2019. The theme is *Pathways to Empowerment: Healing, Understanding and Strength*. The focus is on enhancing active participation in community within the fields of housing, employment, social partnerships, family life, education and more. Sessions will be announced in May. Fran is hoping CDSBEO will apply to present.

Other Information:

Winners of the Together We're Better contest were announced in both the video portion and the stories and poems portion.

Community Living North Grenville is proceeding with its affordable housing project. The re-zoning application has been given conditional approval pending viewing of the site plan. Land has been purchased and construction should begin shortly.

The 9th Annual Comedy Night is set for Saturday, April 20th, 2019 at the W. B. George Centre, on the grounds of the former college grounds of the U. of Guelph, Kemptville Campus. Catered food, cash bar, silent and live auctions and comedians from Yuk Yuk's on the bill. Tickets are available from the CLNG office (County Road 43, Kemptville, 613-258-7177) and at Eventbrite.

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- March 27th, 2019 – Family Voice of Lanark County Meeting
- Date TBD – Family Voice of Lanark County Meeting – Financial Planner Guest Speaker

Other Information:

- Family Voice of Lanark County is hosting their 8th meeting today. Families have prioritized financial planning as a topic for discussion. As a result, a financial planner familiar with developmental services will be presenting at their next meeting. Date and location to be determined.
- Please visit our Facebook page for our postings of participant and agency activity throughout our county.
- The Gathering Grounds Café has started selling suspended coffee. A real pay-it forward initiative. See suspendedcoffees.com for the philosophy and more information.

Resources:

- <https://www.planinspiringpossibilities.ca/>
CLA Estate Planning (use the digital version, there's a lot of pages).
- FVLC – Individualized Home Options workbook, digital version will be available from our website soon.

Rural FASD Support Network – Shelley More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- April 13th, 2019 – Rural FASD Support Meeting with OPP

New Initiatives:

- Leeds-Grenville Children's Mental Health made a very generous donation to enable us to get our non-profit designation.
- Very productive meeting with MPP Roberts about the evidence-based and documented CDSBEO model of supporting students with FASD. He is looking at getting a buy in to create similar models in other boards in Eastern Ontario to take to Queen's Park.
- Provincial Website and Support Group Funding has been renewed for another year by Health Nexus.

Other Information:

- FASD Family Day – Saturday, May 18th, 2019 from 1:00-5:00 p.m., boot drive along the road, BBQ lunch being sold.
- LGCMH is taking current respite and assessment numbers of membership to Ministry. Out of 18 families with 28 children in Lanark, Leeds-Grenville, half have assessments, ¼ have respite money, no one has a dependable, professional worker.
- Adults with FASD are being deemed eligible now for DSO services.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Multi Sector Group looking at trauma and adding to the DSM-V.
- Looking at the impact of trauma on brain development – 2-year project.

- All staff will be taking a course on adverse experiences on the brain and what we can do about it. How do we effect positive change?
- Information Night on parenting the teenage brain.
- Youth Engagement Group came back from Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Annual youth and family awards ceremony will be held in May at the Grand Hotel, in Carleton Place.
- Building Bridges (Section) PD training on trauma and trauma informed work.
- Served over 1,400 children and youth this year in Lanark.

Children's Mental Health Ontario – Deena Shorkey

The agency has had an increase in the number of referrals. Staff attended a two-day training on the introduction to developmental trauma. The agency continues to partner with the O.P.P. and the Cornwall Police on supports for students in crisis. There will be a drop in centre for youth as a one stop place to receive information and resources on various issues. The space has been decorated with children's art and seems more welcoming.

Officially transitioned to the Ministry of Health and are waiting for budget information coming out on April 12th, 2019.

IV. Department Update

School teams had an opportunity to look at their Well-Being and Resiliency survey data. They shared positive strategies that have worked in their schools and reflected on what they could add to their SIPSA plan for next year to address Positive Mental Health and Well-Being.

The Special Education Department is preparing for the Exceptional Art Workshops to be held in Smiths Falls and Cornwall in the spring.

Special Education Consultants have been involved in CLN planning. They are working with the Religion and Curriculum Departments to deliver information to schools and facilitate the development of their SIPSA. The "*Welcome to Kindergarten*" bags have been sent out to each elementary school to provide parents and children with information and resources to prepare for entry to school. The Special Education Parent Guide was included in these bags.

The Multi-disciplinary Team presented to the Board and highlighted another case that has seen great success.

V. Presentation: Open Doors – Service Dog Worker – How the Therapy Session Works

Mackenzie has been a unique addition to the Children's Mental Health Centre. Mac came from the National Service Dogs in Cambridge, Ontario. She was fostered for six weeks for training and then at the National Training Centre for two years. Karen then attended the training in Cambridge for five days. It costs \$10,000 to train a facility dog.

Karen explained that children and youth need to create trust with the therapist to be successful, and that Mac becomes a therapeutic intervention or bridge that helps children and youth begin to trust and open-up with the therapist. Mac sometimes provides a barrier between client and therapist, she can act like a weighted blanket to calm the child or be playful at times to model anxious behavior.

Mac welcomes people at the Centre when appropriate, but there are also Mac-free zones for those who are frightened or allergic to dogs. Mac helps parents cope as well by providing comfort when discussing difficult topics about their child. She has an amazing memory for people and their needs.

Karen thinks they are the only Children's Mental Health Centre in the province with a facility dog – there may be others, but they haven't heard of any. Having Mac at the Centre also adds to staff wellness. Mac can work until she is 10-12 years old. Most of her work is at the Centre but she visits one of our Section 23 classes with Karen to support students in the school environment.

Mac will be writing a blog in the near future. She will have an e-mail so people can ask what it is like to be a facility dog and to inquire about mental health issues.

VI. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2019

Packages were shared which included the following sections;

- Section IV – Identification, Placement and Review
- Section VI – Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

VII. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – January 2019 to January 2024

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – January 2019 to January 2024 was emailed to SEAC members. There were no changes recommended.

VIII. New Business

- Letter from the Durham District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee addressed to the Minister of Education re Special Education/SIP Funding

Dr. Hawes is waiting to see the impact of funding before we respond to the Ministry. Table under '*Old Business*' for the April SEAC meeting.

IX. Correspondence Received

No correspondence received.

X. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Rob More, LLG FASD Support Network and Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School Effectiveness.

Moved by: Lorraine Boyer

CARRIED

XI. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 6:00 p.m.

XII. Good News Sharing

Members and guests shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in the Board prayer.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Assoc. for Community Living	Autism Ontario	LLG FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large – LB	CMH Ontario	Open Doors	Total
January	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	8
February	P	P	P	P	P				P	6
March	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	9
April										
May										
June										

New 4-year term of office effective December 1st, 2018.

(5 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)