



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019

Board Office, Kemptville

6:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Dave Conners (Vice Chair), Autism Ontario
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Amanda Banfield, Lanark County Support
Services
Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark
Children and Youth
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community
Hospital
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network
(Alternate)

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education

Approved Regrets with notification:

Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education
Michael Fenn, Student Trustee

Guests:

Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
Megan Jarzyna, Parent, St. John Bosco

Regrets without notification:

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

Opening Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Prayer to Mary, Mother of Hope*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – April 17th, 2019

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on April 30th, 2019.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

- A Social Justice event was held by the board and well received.
- The café is working well.
- The renovations on their building in Carleton Place are underway.
- Hosting an event called “Family Voice of Lanark County”, which will be shared as a parent support group for families. All are welcome, it is going to be a big event!

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

- Support Group meeting June 15th, 2019.
- Non-profit designation conversations continue with attorney.
- Additional support groups established across Eastern Ontario.
- CDSBEO FASD Model Presentation in final drafts for MPP Roberts.
- Funding confirmed for 2019-2020 by Province: Capacity is being built across the province. Funding is a bit less this year but manageable. Core activities will continue. There will be cutbacks on the extras. However, in theory, there is more money now as the same funds are not servicing two agencies, but they are keeping the lines of communication open between both agencies.
- Continuing with non-profit designation thanks to a generous donation. Draft by-law is almost done. Attorney has started the name search. When complete they will be eligible for some funding going forward.
- During the May 18th, 2019 meeting, a 40-year old man with FASD joined their meeting with his support worker. The comment he made at the end of the meeting was that this is the first time in his life where he felt he was in a place where he belonged. He is an Algonquin College dual credit graduate.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Hosted their yearly awards ceremony where some children, youth, and families received awards for the hard work they have done in achieving their goals. Award recipients received both an award and gift card. There were some very proud families to celebrate with.
- Staff DDP training on attachment therapy. This is an 18-module brain lab training looking at what impact it has on developmental trauma.
- Walk-ins are getting popular in Smiths Falls, Perth and Carleton Place.
- Introduction of a new school program which is a walk-in model for students 12 and over and where parents can attend as well.
- Focus on an increase in training on parenting the pre-teen brain, the teenage brain and anxiety.
- 1,300 children were seen during the last year-end (fiscal year-end is March 2019).

Children’s Mental Health Ontario – Deena Shorkey

- 1,350 children were seen in SD&G last year-end.
- Focus on attachment based and trauma informed training.
- Continued focus on infant and toddler mental health.
- Adding interagency table to ensure that young moms with babies can have wrap around care.
- They are 1 of 6 pilot sites to work on primary care as there is an increase in referrals for primary care. A staff member will work at a physician’s office for 5 hours each week. They will be guiding what questions to ask and when to refer families for their services. It is the hope that those doctors will talk to other doctors and champion the program.

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

- The date for the AGM in Cornwall is May 30th, 2019 at the Cornwall Public Library at 6:30 pm. They are going to continue to plan for the rest of the year.

Member-at-Large – Lorraine Boyer

- Reported on the Catholic Education Coalition Event that took place during Catholic Education Week, which included a collection of food brought to the food bank. It was amazing to see elementary students seeing their future high school. “This is my future high school as my mommy wants to send me to the place with the best education”, commented one grade 5 student. Very powerful.

IV. Department Update

- Exceptional Art Workshops took place in Smiths Falls on May 16th, 2019 and will take place in Cornwall on May 23rd, 2019.
- We have been working hard on Educational Assistant staffing to ensure support is in place for our students with special needs.
- Catholic Education Week Mass was celebrated at Holy Cross Parish. His Excellency, Archbishop Prendergast, presided over the mass. Many parish Priests from across our system celebrated with us as well. It was a beautiful mass with representation from all of

the schools across the system. It was a powerful example of Catholic Education and of coming together as a community of faith. It was an amazing way to kickoff Catholic Education week and many other events took place throughout the board that week including three Catholic Coalition events.

- Equity Day took place at the North Grenville Centre. There was representation from several schools as well as system leaders. The day was led by Dr. Nicole West-Burns.

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

The following documents were presented:

Section VIII – Special Education Staff: Dr. Hawes shared the proposed staffing and the completed Ministry template with SEAC.

Section X – Equipment: SEA equipment and total amounts for 2018-2019 were shared.

Section XII – Transportation: Amounts for Special Needs students were provided for this year and also the revised amounts for the two previous years based on the transportation arbitration settlement.

Section XV – Special Education Advisory Committee: SEAC goals, priorities and completion, which were established for this year, were reviewed.

Section VI – Special Education Placements: The programs and placements provided and proposed by the board were shared.

Section IV – Identification, Placement and Review: The current figures were updated and presented.

Section II – Programs and Services Model/Special Education Funding: Dr. Hawes reviewed the funding model and explained the graphs and charts provided and the proposed reductions in funding and possible cuts in staffing were discussed. Concerns were raised by SEAC members.

Topics for Future SEAC meetings:

- Panel presentation on Dual Credits (August)
- PJP Partners program (September)
- Panel presentation on transportation: What are the strategies that can be put in place when students are struggling? (October)
- Guidelines for Safe School Interventions. Legislation, range of suspensions and expulsions and the impact on special needs students. (November – double meeting)

Other potentialities are:

- Innovative Mental Health Curriculum ideas such as the Harry Potter presentation
- Addition of the ABA/ASD classroom and the impact of funding cuts.

SEAC Goals and Priorities:

- Opportunity for SEAC members to attend Training and PD
- Participate in the Resiliency Days and sharing of Data
- Presence of a school or board rep at different association meetings
- Make Parish Councils more aware of what the board is doing
- Inviting more associations to the SEAC table
- Try to get the word out about SEAC with more of a public voice
- Explore providing training opportunities for staff on the use of Assistive Technology to benefit Special Needs Students
- Create a document/video highlighting what SEAC is and what it has done over the past few years
- Explore hosting a Special Education Symposium

VI. New Business

• **Notification of Regrets**

SEAC Chair, Sue Wilson has asked that members who are not able to make a meeting send regrets by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meeting, members should let Sue Wilson and Donaleen Hawes know in order to establish quorum. If quorum is not possible, the meeting will not proceed.

VII. Old Business

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

SEAC members were given a draft copy of the letter to Minister Thompson on funding. Feedback will be brought to the next SEAC meeting.

VIII. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received will go out with the minutes. The first is a letter from the Toronto District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re Students with Disabilities – Exclusion from School. The second is a letter from Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re Support of Bill 64.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has changed their policy on expulsions from schools. Donaleen mentioned that SEAC may want to have a presentation on this topic.

IX. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special Education and Michael Fenn, Student Trustee.

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

X. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, June 3rd, 2019 at the Board Office, Kemptville, starting at 6:00 p.m.

XI. Good News Sharing

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

XII. Closing Prayer

Sue Wilson led the group in the Board prayer.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Assoc. for Community Living	Autism Ontario	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large – LB	Cornwall Community Hospital	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	P		P	P	P			P		5
May	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	8
June										

*New 4-year term of office effective December 1st, 2018.
 (5 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*