



Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on October 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm In person and via Google Meet.

Present

Members: Arlene Godby (Chair) Shawna Belcourt, Melissa Gillespie
Helen McCarthy, Clare Paterson, Kelly Smigielski
Guest: Sharon Davenport, Della Stewart-Giguera, Annie Johnston

Absent (by motion): Emmanuel Pinto, Sandra Scott

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Laura Dilanni, Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds

Recorder: Theresa Greavette

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer:
Clare led the group on prayer

2. Land Acknowledgment:
As we continue to learn together in these exceptional circumstances, we would like to acknowledge, as we do at school, that this land on which we live and learn daily, is the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig (Mississauga) Anishnaabe. All of PVNC Catholic District School Board lies within the Williams Treaty territory and we are all Treaty people. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples of this land who continue to care for, and share their teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda
Motion: The agenda be approved as presented.
Carried

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
None noted.

5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance
Motion: R.A. That, Emmanuel Pinto and Sandra Scott be excused from attendance at the October 15, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes of the September 17, 2020 Meeting.
Motion: The minutes be approved as presented
Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:
None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Arlene)
Opening prayer will do land acknowledgement also.
2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning (Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Learning/ Special Education)

A survey regarding virtual school/in-person transitions went out to families and is posted on website. Families choosing to move their children from in-person learning to Virtual School or vice-versa have until October 22 to complete the survey. The transition dates for the year, which coincide with the end of instructional periods, are November 12, February 2 and April 22. In preparation for the November transition, we are anticipating a reorganization of many of the in-person classes, while maintaining compliance with the provincial class size requirements. This means that students may have a different teacher and different classmates after the transition. For school specific concerns, families are asked to contact their child's school. For all other inquiries, families are asked to complete the [School Board Contact Form](#) found on the Board website.

The virtual school currently has approximately 2400 students; 350 are identified as exceptional and approximately 600 IEPs are being prepared. The virtual school teachers have access to their student's IEPs from last year and are working with the Special Education Resource Teachers from the student's school of origin.

The COVID assessment tool has been updated by the Ministry and is also found on the board website. To date one of our schools has had a confirmed and resolved COVID Case, please continue to check the [Board Website](#) for updates.

A report has been submitted to the Ministers Advisory Council on Special Education identifying successful practices to support students in all schools, virtual and face-to-face.

3. Update from Trustees:
The [New HVAC Ventilation Update](#) found on the Board website provides a summary of the measures the Board has undertaken to improve air quality in our schools.
4. Special Education Department Plan Review – Laura Dilanni
The 2020-2021 Special Education Department plan aligns with the Board's strategic priorities: Learn, Lead, Serve. This includes PD and resources for consultants and itinerant teachers, collaborative multidisciplinary work to ensure a holistic approach in supporting students, and enhancing students' understanding of their own strengths and needs to promote self-awareness, advocacy and mental health and well-being.
5. Special Education Department Plan and Third Party Provider – Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds
[PPM 149](#) provides direction regarding protocol for partnerships with external agencies for the provision of services in schools by regulated health professionals, regulated social

service professionals, and paraprofessionals. Partnerships with third party providers are intended to foster continuous improvement in delivery of programs and services for students. Partnership agreements may be short or long term, must align with collective agreements and must be consistent with Board provisions and policies.

C. Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation and what parents/families need to be aware of. Several suggestions were made regarding how SEAC should communicate the findings. More discussion to come as decisions are made by SEAC on how to share findings. Some ideas were to use of the website banner, increase knowledge of website navigation and accessibility and also provide news updates for school newsletters' "Did you know". The Superintendent of Special Education will consult with the Manager of Communications to see what is possible.

D. Information Items:

1. Reports from SEAC Members:

Arlene has encouraged ALL SEAC members to submit reports before each meeting as we all would like to hear what is taking place in the agencies/organization's members are a part of.

**Kelly Smigielski
Grandview Children's Centre**

- With respect to the new build of Grandview in Ajax, they are in the process of collecting and evaluating RFP's to determine the top three by Feb. 2021
- Construction will set to begin in Nov 2021 with a two year completion target
- Parent workshops for various topics continue to be held virtually
- Current employment opportunities include Occupational Therapist and System Support Specialist

**Shawna Belcourt
Community Living Trent Highlands**

- CLTH Family Support Program updates; we are still deployed in our residential programs (talk of re-entry plan not confirmed yet)
- We continue to connect with families for check ins, completing forms, making referrals, short term planning, problem solving, virtual meetings, outside meetings if face to face is critical, applying and managing respite funds, assisting with transition to school, advocacy, crisis support, transition planning for O.D.S.P. and D.S.O. Many intakes and although the application for intake can be completed, we are not currently able to bring them into service at this time.
- A survey was completed and shared with families regarding challenges they are currently facing.
- Biking program - [Peterborough moves](#) - we have linked one student to this program.
- Also, information for families that the one-time gov't payment of \$600.00 is supposed to start Oct 30, 2020 for individuals who qualify for the DTC (Disability Tax Credit).

**Arlene Godby
Autism Ontario**

- [Link to Autism Ontario October 2020 Report](#)

2. Final Recruitment Phase for SEAC/Superintendent Participants in Study on Vision for School-Based Rehabilitation Therapy Services- Queens University
3. Durham District School Board Correspondence: Request for Fall 2020 Process Exemption: Special Incidence Portion Submission Requirements ([Durham Letter](#))
The Committee was asked to review and provide recommendations to Laurie by email.
4. [Ontario Autism Program: Foundational Family Services](#) – New needs based program includes broad range of services/supports to meet individual needs of family or child/youth. One time funding up to \$5k for children up to 18. First piece of implementation based on recommendations that were compiled by government last year. Family focused supports e.g. cooking classes, sibling workshops etc, social and life skills. Will explore more in depth with Autism Ontario presentation.

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

1. 2020/2021 Impact of SEAC members – Be Well Strategy

SEAC will be asked to provide input for the renewal of the Be Well Strategy, and time will be devoted to this at the next SEAC.

The Board has hired an additional Mental Health Lead – Amanda (Mandy) Hamu, with the goal of helping families access circles of supports they need during the pandemic.

SEAC has been asked to take part online and give feedback regarding the Final Recruitment Phase for SEAC/Superintendent Participants in a Study on Vision for School Based Rehabilitation Therapy Services – Queens University.

G. Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 19th, 2020, 6:30-8:00pm

Topic: Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Discrimination – Steve O’Sullivan and Donna Goheen

Location: Catholic Education Center

Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgment: Arlene

Closing Prayer: Melissa

H. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Laura closed the meeting with prayer

2. Adjournment.

Motion:	The meeting be adjourned
	Carried