



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Agenda

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 9, 2017

BOARDROOM

6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Kelly Smigielski

Vice-chairperson: Maria Castiglione

TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY SUSAN MARIOTTI, (705) 748-4861 ext. 227.
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A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer: Diane
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
4. Excusal from Attendance
R.A. That, _____ be excused from attendance at the March 9, 2017
Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the February 19, 2017 meeting (*A.5 attached*)
6. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson
2. Self Advocacy (*Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Psychologist, and Psych staff*)
3. Strategic Planning Activities (*Michael Nasello, Director of Education*)
4. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
5. BEST Program Student Follow up (*Diane Mather Principal Section 23/System Support Special Education*)

6. Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAaC) on SEAC Video Module 3 Meeting Process (*Diane Mather, Principal Section 23/System Support Special Education*)
7. Special Education Support Pillars (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
8. Renewed Math Strategy Journey (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
9. SEAC Carousel planning – last minute planning/details
10. Report from SEAC members

Kelly Smigielski

Grandview Children's Centre

- Grandview was fortunate to receive \$113,000 donation from Building Industry for Durham Deeds (BIDD) from their November luncheon
- "Spring into Literacy" Conference is being held at Durham District School Board on April 8, 2017. It is open to parents, caregivers and teaching staff.

C. Information Items:

1. Copy of PVNC letter sent to Minister of Education. (*C.1 attached*)

D. Old Business:

E. New Business:

F. Next Meeting:

1. Thursday, April 27, 2017
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items:
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer

Future Meetings

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 SEAC Agencies Carousel
Thursday, April 27, 2017
Thursday, May 25, 2017
Thursday, June 22, 2017

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Diane
2. Adjournment.



PETER L. ROACH
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
CENTRE

February 27, 2017

Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNC) and its Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) we are writing in support of recent letters which you have received from other SEAC committees in the province, regarding overall reduction in the Special Education Funding formula, in particular, reductions to the Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA). These reductions to funding over time have negatively impacted our students with special education needs.

With the introduction of the new funding model in 2014, which replaced the HNA with the Differentiated Special Needs Amount (DSENA), there has been a significant redistribution of funding between boards in the province, and a resulting serious decline in the funding supporting special needs students in PVNC. Incorporating this funding reduction over the past three years has strained the services available for our students at a time when not only our enrolment is increasing, but the incidences of student needs are increasing as well. Faced with implementing the final year of funding reduction for 2017-18, our options and choices will mean loss of teaching and support staff.

In order to maximize our diminished human resources, we provide our teachers with professional learning in differentiated instruction rather than hire more Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTS). We provide our teaching and support staff with professional learning in self-regulation and applied behavioural analysis (ABA) rather than hiring more specialized education assistants, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder Workers (ASDWs). Rather than hire more Educational Assistants (EAs), we have demanding criteria under which EAs are allocated to schools, based on medical and safety needs predominantly. Reductions in central staff, such as psychometrists, speech-language pathologists, social workers and special educational consultants will compromise the much needed support to classroom teachers and school administrators which ensures that student achievement and well-being standards for our special needs students are maintained or enhanced.

While we have been diligent in applying for Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding wherever possible, this funding does not cover the cost of intensive supports for our students. Therefore we, as do many districts in the province, are obliged to use General Student Needs (GSN) grants to supplement the enveloped Special Education funding in an amount which exceeds the per pupil allotment which high needs students would generate in GSN funding.

Further, our geographic circumstances add a level of complexity and cost to servicing our special need students. Not only are the costs to transport special needs students across significant distances in specialized transportation a challenge for us, but we also pay significant mileage costs to our central staff to service the students and support our school staff in their professional capacities.

Lastly, a reduction in funding exposes our board to greater risk of liability under the Ontario Human Rights Legislation, vis a vis our duty to accommodate, but with fewer and fewer resources. All of our OHRC cases have been related to special education. The reality of the increasing prevalence of Human Rights complaints in general, and the accompanying costs incurred by districts to defend against these allegations, is another reason why district budgets cannot be reduced.

We respectfully request that the Ministry review the high needs (DSENA) portion of the Special Education funding calculation in light of the challenges which we have been facing, and thereby waive the requirement to implement the final year of the reductions to our funding allocation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Kelly Smigielski
Chair of the PVNC SEAC Committee



Michelle Griepsma
Chair of the Board

Cc: Hon. Jeff Leal, MPP, Peterborough
Granville Anderson, MPP, Durham
Lou Rinaldi, MPP, Northumberland – Quinte West
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock
Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister of Education
Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning and Curriculum Division
Ontario District School Board SEACs