

Minutes



The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on April 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members Kelly Smigielski, Krista McEwen, Arlene Godby, Maria Castiglione, Clare Paterson, Shawna Belcourt, Laura Quibell

Absent (by motion) Michelle Montague, Helen McCarthy, Melissa Gillespie, Ruth Ciraulo

Absent: Debra Beauchamp

Administration Anne Marie Duncan

Recorder: Susan Mariutti

A. Call to Order:

1. Kelly called the meeting to order and asked Arlene to lead the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Arlene, seconded by Maria, that the agenda be approved.
Carried

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
None noted

4. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Moved by Laura, seconded by Clare, that Helen McCarthy, Ruth Ciraulo, Melissa Gillespie, Michelle Montague, be excused from attendance at the April 27, 2017 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting

Motion: Moved by Arlene, seconded by Shawna, that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
None noted

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson

- Thank you to all members who participated in the SEAC carousel of agencies. It was well received and I received positive feedback.

2. Supporting Blind & Low Vision Students (*Ann Lanz, Teacher of Blind/Low Vision*)
 - Ann gave an informative presentation on the support she provides our blind and low vision students including direct instruction and working closely with the Braillist.
 - Ophthalmologist report and Functional Visual Assessment report from the Ministry of Education are some of the pieces of information required before putting a program together for a student.
 - Ann depends on the Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTS) to inform her if a blind/visually impaired student registers at their school and if something is not working with the program/supports.
 - Ann teaches concepts and social skills; students need to be taught how to function in a sighted world.
 - Ann helps schools find alternative ways to communicate with our blind/visually impaired students.

3. Sound Field System (*Anne Marie Duncan in Eric Hansen absence*)
 - Anne Marie reported in Eric's absence
 - All elementary schools, except Notre Dame in Cobourg, have been outfitted with a sound field system in every classroom
 - We are presently working on outfitting our secondary schools. Holy Cross and Holy Trinity secondary schools are almost complete; and St. Mary secondary in Cobourg will be done this year.
 - Eric will meet with Anne Marie to determine which secondary school will be next.
 - Special thanks to Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Business/Finance & Plant for providing the funds to see this project come to fruition.

4. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
 - Exclusion AP was on hold; Trustees have given the go ahead to complete this AP. We are looking to change the wording to reflect 'a different location' as opposed to 'an exclusion'. Ombudsman has requested that Boards write one. Once this AP has been written and approved by the Policy committee, I will bring it to SEAC for review.
 - As a result of the OECTA and CUPE contract 2 year extensions renewal funding is being provided to school boards. We will be putting more SERTs into schools. This will be based on school population, identification, present SERT and vice-principal allocation. (3.5 at elementary and 1.3 at secondary); As well we will hire an English as a Second language teacher (ESL), 4 Itinerant Educational Assistants (EA) for capacity building and 4 EA Rovers who will be on permanent supply work to support in ensuring the safety needs of students. This additional funding has been promised for the next 2 school years. The ESL teacher will be assigned to three secondary schools, St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Stephen.
 - ABA and self-regulation training has been provided for EAs; Geneva Centre will be providing profession development for all EAs on June 9, 2017;
 - BMS training for SERTs will take place tomorrow
 - 2017-2018 will be the 4th year of equalization of special education funding; PVNC is being reduced by \$500,000; to accomplish this we will be reducing 1 EA, 2 SERTs, special education IPRC/SRT release days, temporary hours for EAs;

SERTs & EAs are being added back in to schools as a result of the renewal money and the temporary EA hours will be replaced by the Itinerant EAs.

- \$550,000 over special education envelope for next year.

5. Renewing The Promise (Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education)

- All stakeholders of Catholic Education in Ontario have been invited to participate in face-to-face and electronic means in consultation which will culminate in the writing of the future pastoral letter entitled “Renewing the Promise”
- SEAC has been invited to participate electronically.
- More information can be found at <http://iceont.ca/news-and-updates/renewing-the-promise/>

6. Special Education Support Recommendation Advisory Group Update (Anne Marie Duncan)

- Advisory group consisted of 2 secondary principals, 5 elementary principals, 1 CUPE representative, 1 OECTA representative, 4 special education consultants and Principal of Section 23.
- Special education consultants reviewed the needs with their schools and then presented the school needs to the committee; schools requested 265 EAs our EA budget was 200 EAs; hard decisions were made to ensure support for our most vulnerable students.
- In order to ensure confidentiality each school was given a synonym and each student was assigned a number.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Worker (ASDW) allocation was rolled in to the EA compliment for some schools based on the needs of the school; ASDWs will work directly with students and not so much of a floater as in the past.
- EAs will no longer be allocated for academic support; academic support is the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Judiciously sharing of EAs occurs where possible
- Beginning September 2017, to receive EA support students must fall under the following pillars:
- Pillars of Support:
 - Medical/physical
 - Safety
 - Adaptive living
- Medical/Physical – lifts, transfers, life threatening risks, catheterization support, dependent for toileting, feeding, dressing.
- Safety – unaware of danger, sexual acting out, daily injurious physical aggression towards others, self-injurious, other concerns.
- Adaptive Living – communication (verbal/non-verbal), social/leisure skills, self-regulation (severe anxiety, emotional control, transitions), self-care skills (toileting, dressing, eating)
- Data collection – frequency, intensity, duration
 - How was data tracked?
 - What strategies to build independence have been attempted?
 - Have SERT & EA schedule available?
- This process will continue throughout the school year; advisory group will meet twice per year.
- Intervention Checklist – conversation tool amongst professionals to ensure all interventions have been tried at each level was shared with SEAC.

7. Report From SEAC Members
Included in agenda.

C. Information Items

D. Old Business

E. New Business

F. Next Meeting

1. Thursday, May 25, 2017
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

- a. Well-being strategy renewal input
- b. Budget
- c. Exclusion AP

Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer: Krista

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Krista closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment
Motion: Moved by Laura, seconded by Maria, that the meeting be adjourned.
Carried