



Minutes



The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members Ruth Ciraulo, Maria Castiglione, Kelly Smigielski, Michelle Montague, Shawna Belcourt, Helen McCarthy, Arlene Godby, Melissa Gillespie, Clare Paterson

Absent (by motion) Anita Arnold

Absent Laura Quibell

Administration Anne Marie Duncan, Diane Mather

Recorder: Susan Mariutti

A. Call to Order:

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

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Clare, seconded by Helen, that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted

4. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Moved by Ruth, seconded by Clare, that Anita Arnold be excused from attendance at the March 22, 2018 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Moved by Ruth, seconded by Shawna, that the Minutes be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson
 - Kelly acknowledged and highlighted the letter, from Grand Erie DSB, she received regarding support for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) Bill 191.
2. Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students *(Eric Hansen, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing)*
 - Eric gave an informative presentation on the supports provided to our students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing.
 - Project to outfield all classrooms across PVNC, with sound field system should be completed within the next 2 years.
3. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education *(Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education)*
 - Our Board Chair and the Director of Education have drafted a letter to the Minister of Education regarding Bill 191, and adequate funding to support children with FASD. A copy of the letter will be shared with SEAC in April;
 - So far, schools have raised \$7769 in support of Special Olympics; secondary students will be attending the events
 - SEAC members will be receiving a VIP invitation for the Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies
 - The Administrative Procedure (AP) "Supporting Positive Student Behaviour: Safety for All"; continues to be reviewed and updated. This AP will be brought to SEAC once the revisions have been completed. The final version of the AP is taking longer than we had anticipated due to new directives from the Ministry of Education. "Workplace Violence in School Boards: a Guide to the Law" <https://www.ontario.ca/document/workplace-violence-school-boards-guide-law>
 - We need to continue focusing on training our staff and keep our focus on our students; preventative measures, what were the antecedents; we need to give our students another way of communication.
 - The next Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) professional development session will be held in May. Topic will include Executive Functioning.
 - Mental Health Lead position has been posted.
 - Association of Chief Psychologist have written a letter to the Ministry of Education regarding in consisted services. *(copy attached to agenda)*
 - Grants for Student Needs Funding (GSN) - Special Education Funding is Incremental & Responsive to Student Need. *(copy attached)*
4. Ministry of Education Auditor General Report
 - Disconnect between boards, there does not seem to be a consistent benchmark between boards to ensure school boards are adequately funded (social, economic and demographic factors), we need current data
 - Issue of census data is critical, "data is 15 years old"
 - Kelly and Anne Marie will draft and send a letter to the Minister of Education addressing SEAC's concerns regarding the Auditor General Report.
5. "Special Education: A Parent Guide" Review
 - Copy of draft guide reviewed.
 - SEAC suggested linking the "Special Needs Roadmap" and "Check List" (good for some, good for all) to the Board's website. These documents can assist parents with information to support their children.
 - Anne Marie will update the check list prior to posting.

6. SEAC Brochure
 - Copy of draft brochure reviewed
 - Members were asked to review the draft and to have input/suggestions/revisions to Susan by Thursday, March 30th.
7. Reports from SEAC members
Included on Agenda

C. Information Items

Attached to agenda

D. Old Business

E. New Business

F. Next Meeting

1. Thursday, April 19, 2018
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items:
 - AP “ Supporting Positive Student Behaviour: Safety for All”
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer: Melissa

G. Conclusion:

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

Carried