

Minutes



The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members Ruth Ciraulo, Kelly Smigielski, Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, Laura Quibell, Krista McEwen, Anita Arnold

Absent (by motion) Helen McCarthy, Maria Castiglione, Melissa Gillespie, Arlene Godby

Absent Michelle Montague

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 Ruth, seconded by Clare, that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted

4. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Moved by Clare, seconded by Laura, that Helen McCarthy, Maria Castiglione, Melissa Gillespie, Arlene Godby be excused from attendance at the April 19, 2018 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 22, 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 welcomed committee.
2. Role of the Itinerant Special Education Support Staff (*Anne Parco, Special Education Support Staff Supervisory*)
 - Anne shared the background and role of these new positions; board recognized the need for in-school support of school based special education staff
 - Itinerant staff assist in data collection, development safety and behavior plans, observe and provide strategies to support staff, classroom teachers, special education resource teachers (SERTs) and principals; they support schools for a minimum of 2 weeks at a time. Parental consent is required before the itinerant staff go into the school.
 - Itinerant staff have a background in autism and/or behavior
 - Fifty percent of our schools have accessed the itinerant staff. They have been well received and the feedback has been positive.
3. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
 - Child and Youth Mental Health Summit panel included Father Paul & Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds
 - Mental Health Lead interviews will take place in the next couple weeks.
 - Principal PD will be held on May 2nd, topics include ABA strategies and special education legal issues.
 - May 4 live streaming Dr. Krista McLeod “Building Trauma Informed Schools”
 - SERT PD will be held on May 17th; topics will include Executive Functioning and ABA strategies.
 - 2018-2019 Budget - Board is waiting to received Technical paper from the Ministry of Education
4. Discussion/Input re: SEAC’s Letter to Minister of Education (Kelly & Anne Marie)
 - Anne Marie discussed the changes made to the letter following the ministry funding announcements
 - Committee feels the proposed changes to the letter capture the issues SEAC wants addressed
 - Committee supports sending the letter, with the discussed changes, to the existing Minister of Education and as well, to resend the letter if there is a change in government and/or Minister of Education following the provincial election.
5. Reports from SEAC members
Included on Agenda

C. Information Items

Attached to agenda

D. Old Business

- Members were reminder to send their updated agency information for the SEAC brochure.

E. New Business

1. Down Syndrome Association brought forward a member's concern regarding the lack of supply EAs when the assigned EA is away sick.

Anne Marie responded: EA programs at colleges are undersubscribed; the board is looking at other qualifications such as developmental services, personal support workers, additional training needs to be provided by the employer. As we look at staff for next school year we will look at additional staffing as opposed to less staffing; we hope this will help.

Some strategies presently being used: pulling in teaching staff, doubling up of students, altering student program.

The Board is trying to address the high absenteeism within the board, PVNC has one of the highest absenteeism across the province.

F. Next Meeting

1. Thursday, May 17, 2018
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items:
 - Speech Language Pathologist
 - AP " Supporting Positive Student Behaviour: Safety for All"
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer: Melissa

G. Conclusion:

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

Carried