
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/jsc-iwpy-nmh

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY VICKI BLAKELY (705) 748-4861 EXT. 1213
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A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Emmanuel Pinto
As we continue to learn together in these exceptional circumstances, I (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.
2. Opening Prayer: Emmanuel Pinto
3. Motion to Approve Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance
R.A. That, _____ be excused from attendance at the April 29, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2021 Meeting.
7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson, Arlene Godby

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services, Laurie Corrigan
3. Update from Trustees

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations:

1. Role of EA Facilitator – Leeann Gifford, SESS Facilitator and Laura Di Ianni, Vice Principal of Special Education Services

From Presentations:

- i. What are the key learnings from the presentation?
- ii. What do parents need to know?
- iii. What options exist to get this information to parents?
- iv. How can SEAC support parents in this process?
- v. What can your associations/organizations add specifically to the learning today if any?

B. Correspondence Items:

1. DDSB – Proposed Transit Mall, Town of Whitby Accessibility Concerns for Students of Durham District School Board

C. Information Items:

1. Holy Trinity CSS CASA – Autism Awareness Day (April 6) video
2. Ontario College of Teachers – Thoughtexchange
 - a. Additional Qualification Course Guideline: Inclusive Classroom - https://www.oct.ca/-/media/PDF/Additional%20Qualifications/EN/Schedule%20D/Part%20I/i_inclusive_classroom_e.pdf
 - b. How to Participate - <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#937568738/hub>
3. Autism Ontario – Update
4. Community Living Trent Highlands – Letter to Friends and Families
5. Community Living Trent Highlands – Spring Break with CLTH 2021 Flyer
6. Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough – Update
7. Grandview Kids – Update
8. Northumberland Child Development Centre - Update

D. Old Business:

E. New Business:

D. Next Meeting:

1. **2020-2021 Meeting Dates:**
Thursday, May 27, 2021 – Teacher of the Blind

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – Role of the Special Education Consultant
Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, and Special Education Plan Review
10th Meeting PD/TBD

Location: Virtually

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

2. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Emmanuel Pinto
2. Adjournment



Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6
Ph: 905-666-5500
1-800-265-3968
ddsb.ca

March 25, 2021

Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON. M5J 1E6

Attention: Phil Verster, President and CEO
(ceo@metrolinx.com)

Karla Avis Birch, Chief Planning Officer
(Karla.Avis-Birch@metrolinx.com)

Heather Platt, Chief Legal Officer
(Heather.Platt@metrolinx.com)

Mayor and Members of Council
Town of Whitby
575 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 2M8

Attention: Chris Harris, Town Clerk
(harrisc@whitby.ca)

Ministry of Transportation
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON. M4A 1Z8

Attention: Honourable Caroline Mulroney
(minister.mto@ontario.ca)

Michael Beaton, Chief of Staff
(Michael.Beaton@ontario.ca)

Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Attention: Honourable Raymond Cho
c/o Emma Lim, Executive Assistant to the
Minister (Emma.Lim@ontario.ca)

To whom it may concern:

Re: Proposed Transit Mall, Town of Whitby
Accessibility Concerns for Students of the Durham District School Board

I write on behalf of the Durham District School Board's ("DDSB") Special Education Advisory Committee ("SEAC"). The SEAC at the DDSB is made up of representatives from several local advocacy groups supporting families whose children are identified with a broad-range of disabilities. Many children with disabilities rely on door-to-door pick up and drop off transportation service from the Durham Student Transportation Services ("DSTS"). It is important to note that DSTS provides school bus transportation services to both DDSB and Durham Catholics District School Board students. These children receive this service when their disability prevents them from being reasonably expected to travel from home to a congregate bus stop as other children would. This service is deemed to be a necessary accommodation for these students and failure to provide this service would be a violation of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* ("AODA").

It is our understanding that there was a virtual question and answer event hosted by Metrolinx on January 7, 2021, which was attended by DDSB Planning Staff. At that Q & A, it was confirmed that school buses would **NOT** be allowed to travel along this section of Highway #2. This restriction would also apply to school buses serving students with special education needs, including students using wheelchairs and other mobility devices. If this policy stands, students with special needs who live along this section of Highway #2, would no longer be able to receive the necessary door-to-door pick that they currently receive and would then be required to travel outside of this section of Highway #2 to access their bussing. This scenario creates an accessibility barrier for these students in accessing the education that they have a right to in a fair and equitable way, especially in inclement weather.

We note that in regard to accessibility, the Metrolinx webpage states as follows:

“Metrolinx aims to provide the same level of service for all people in an integrated environment, to the greatest degree possible. See how we’re complying with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.”

We would assert that the position to not allow DSTS School busses catering to students with special needs requiring door-to-door pick up and drop off to travel this corridor on Highway #2 is contradictory to that accessibility statement on the Metrolinx webpage. We further question whether Metrolinx’s position to disallow school busses providing door-to-door service for children with special education needs to travel through this corridor would meet the threshold of undo hardship required to in order be in compliance with AODA.

We ask that you reconsider this position and allow access through this section of Highway #2 to school busses providing door-to-door service to students with special education needs.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kyratids", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Special Education Advisory Committee
Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

43977393.1

Autism Ontario – Raise the Flag & World Autism Day during Covid-19

World Autism Day was April 2nd but due to it landing on Good Friday it was celebrated Tuesday April 6th this year.

Every year through the simple act of raising a flag, families, schools, communities, government and professionals unite in recognizing World Autism Day, and celebrates autistic people while bringing to light the systemic barriers that must be removed to create a more supportive and inclusive Ontario for them. Through this initiative, we are building stronger, more inclusive

Autism Ontario - Research We Support

Autism Ontario engages with research in a number of different ways. The broader research efforts we choose to support, and the research we conduct as an organization, align with the mission of Autism Ontario – creating a supportive and inclusive Ontario for autism.

We support external research by hosting a list of [Research Participation Postings](#) to connect members of the autism community to actively recruiting research studies. For a study to be eligible, researchers wanting to post a participation opportunity must demonstrate the research meets ethical standards and is consistent with our vision (see [Guidelines for Researchers](#)). Additionally, Autism Ontario achieves its mission through research through several action-oriented collaborations with key research partners, and by conducting its own Provincial Surveys used to shape priorities and inform advocacy efforts.

Research Partners

Autism Ontario supports autism research via collaboration with academic centres, hospitals, service providers and non-profit organizations. This includes active partnerships, expertise sharing and consultation, financial support, community engagement and knowledge translation.

A few examples of current projects and partnerships:

- [POND Network](#)
- [Ontario Brain Institute \(OBI\)](#)
- [James Lind Alliance](#)
- [CAMH](#)
- [Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital](#)

Autism Ontario - Webinars

Autism Ontario webinars are designed to be an interactive, easy-to-understand, resource for parents, professionals and educators. Webinars are presented in either English or French, by subject matter experts, in a discussion-based format.

Webinars are a convenient way for viewers to:

- Stay on top of current research findings,
- Learn about educational advocacy,
- Build resources to support a child on the autism spectrum at school,
- Gain tools to keep children and youth safe,
- Learn strategies to navigate the lifespan of people on the spectrum and their families.

Click Here To See Upcoming or Recently Recorded Webinars

https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=All&event_type_id=17

Click Here to See On Demand Webinars

https://www.autismontario.com/search?search_api_fulltext=webinar&f%5B0%5D=type%3Alearning_resource

April 7th, 2021

To CLTH Families and Community,

We are now entering another very restricted time in Ontario with our Ministry compelling us to use Enhanced Safety measures and the Stay-at-Home order that will begin Thursday, April 8 and continue to May 6, we must make decisions that keep everyone safe from the harm of the virus.

Staff, people supported, families and friends have done a tremendous and admirable job navigating all the changing restrictions and keeping each other safe. It is clear from the numbers in Ontario, that we must remain vigilant for a while longer as more vaccines roll out and things start to get better. It is my steadfast hope that we will emerge to a time where we can once again gather and be in community together.

As we work to be both responsive to guidance and restrictions, we are also endeavouring to be proactive and review all activities carefully. We, like all Ontarians will be staying in place as much as possible. Our homes, which we designed as launching places to a rich community life, must, for a while longer, remain the sole environments for people we support to pass their days. Our outreach supports must be by phone or video conference and our community participation group activities have once again closed. All administrative employees able to work from home will be doing so.

Huge thanks to the staff and community partners that are working diligently, creatively and through this pandemic to make great days, some lasting memories, and engaging activities. We wait, with the rest of the province for better days ahead. Thanks to all corners of our three communities for ongoing encouragement and support during this time.

This has been a very long period of time filled with fear, doubt, boredom, and heartache in all that has been missed out on. It has also been a time of great moments of learning, spontaneous imagination, support and humour. Thank you again to all as we head together to the brighter future.

Teresa Jordan
Executive Director

SPRING BREAK 2021

Join us virtually in an online session. Ages 13-17yr olds.



Monday April 12

9:30am-12noon

For the Guy's Healthy Relationships and Dating info

- learn how to be safe when dating (what makes a good boyfriend or girlfriend)
- learn about boundaries and what consent means

Tuesday April 13

1:00pm-3:30pm

Guy's social group.

- how to be a good friend
- social media/cellphone safety
- how to connect with friends

Tuesday April 13

9:30am-12Noon

OR

Thursday April 15

9:30am-12noon

For the Girl's Healthy Relationships and Dating info

- learn how to be safe when dating
- how to be a good friend
- social media/cellphone safety
- Boundaries and relationships

(Please pick one session on either Tuesday or Thursday)

Wednesday April 14 Everyone cooking and having fun.

9:30am-12noon

OR

1:00pm-3:30pm

- learn a simple recipe with your toaster at home
- Celebration of spring desert
- Games, Games and more Games
- Meet socially with other teens

(Please pick one session, either morning or afternoon)



Please register with your Family Support Coordinator.

Materials can be delivered or picked up before the session. Emails with the Microsoft TEAMS video link will be provided before the session. Supervision required during the cooking session for safety.

Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough - Update

I would share with them that although we look forward to a return to in-person programming, at present we are only running virtually. Despite this, we continue to represent our membership in all ways we can, including advocacy for access to vaccinations, through our partnership with DSAO. We are pleased to see this advocacy having some impact, as those with Down syndrome and their caregivers have been made eligible for vaccination in the second phases of the vaccine rollout. Many of our families are also very appreciative that their children have been given additional consideration in the provision of in-person education, since online learning lacks the ability to properly provide for our children.

Cindy Wilson

Grandview News

- Elexicon Energy has just signed a multi-year commitment to support Grandview Kids. Their support will assist the youth in Durham Region with services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, behavioural supports and paediatrics.
- There are several job postings available for full and part time positions, see the Careers Page for all the details.
- Grandview has partnered with Ajax Public Library to develop a customized online Grandview Kids collection. There will be resources for parents, caregivers, children and youth.

Northumberland Child Development Centre SEAC Update: April, 2021

Service Update re Covid-19 Restrictions:

The Centre is considered to be an essential service within the provincial Covid-19 Response framework. Services are available within our ability to keep children, families, staff and our community safe.

Infant and Child Development Program

- Home visit sessions have been replaced with phone, email and virtual sessions since March, 2020.
- Intake visits for Developmental Screening and Assessment may take place in person, in-Centre, where necessary.
- Transition to School Process discussions and meetings may take place virtually. Documentation regarding Infant and Child Development Assessment and Progress is forwarded to the schools beginning in March.

Speech and Language Program

- Assessment and Therapy sessions remain virtual with the exception of in person sessions, in Centre, accommodating children with higher needs for whom virtual service is unsuccessful.

Community Action Program for Children and Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program

- Peer support groups have been replaced with the delivery of food and necessities to families in need, which also provides an opportunity to check-in with families and provide additional support where possible.
- Developmental Screening and follow-up regarding children whose families are enrolled in the program continues by phone, email and virtual sessions.

Play Therapy Program

- Sessions continue virtually and in person, in Centre.
- Program is almost at full capacity.

AutPlay Program

- Sessions continue in person, in Centre.

Sensory Integration Assessment and Therapy

- Assessment and Therapy continue virtually and in person, in Centre.

For more information: info@ncdc.ca

www.ncdc.ca

[northumberlandchilddevelopmentcentre \(fb\)](#)

[@nldchilddevelopmentcentre \(Instagram\)](#)