



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Uber Conference

PRESENT

Members: Arlene Godby, Shawna Belcourt, Helen McCarthy, Kelly Smigielski, Melissa Gillespie, Michelle Griepsma, Emmanuel Pinto, Clare Paterson, Laura Quibell

Absent (by motion): Sandra Scott

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Gerard Winn, Michael Nasello

Recorder: Theresa Greavette

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer

Laurie led the group in prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

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.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: The agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

5. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Sandra Scott be excused from attendance at the April 16, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting.

Motion: The Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Arlene)

Arlene expressed that during these difficult times, if anyone needs to connect with her, she is available by phone or email and will support in any way she can.

Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (Laurie)

Laurie welcomed our Director, Michael Nasello and the Chair of our Board, Michelle Griepsma.

The provincial state of emergency has been extended to May 12 and extension of the school closure past May 4 has been announced.

We await direction from the Ministry about the April 24 PA day, which is scheduled to focus on special education, specifically ASD.

Board meetings and SEAC meetings continue in consideration of legislation that has been amended to include virtual environments.

The PVNC Learn@Home program has been launched and is intended to accommodate student learning based upon Ministry recommendations and the needs of our PVNC families who now learn synchronously or asynchronously, at a time that is convenient to them.

In keeping with the same processes of communication, we ask parents to contact the teacher first, then the principal, and then the Family of Schools superintendent if they have any questions related to their child's learning.

The particular needs of exceptional students remain a priority, one that is contingent on the principles of equity and inclusion at a time when our home, work, and school environments are so very different. Laurie is waiting for response from the Ministry for clarification of a number of processes that are rooted in legislation: IPRC, IEPs, the changing role of our special education staff and the timelines that are connected to this work.

We are actively interviewing for a number of positions that are in keeping with local priorities.

Remarks: Director of Education

Michael acknowledged our IT department, Principals, SERTs and Library specialists who have been instrumental in locating, preparing and distributing devices to families. Michael thanked the committee for continuing to advise the Board in these important areas.

2. Update from Trustees:

Michelle thanks Michael, Laurie and everyone who is working hard to ensure students are all being cared for. There has been positive feedback from secondary students at the FSL committee meeting.

Emanuel pointed out how impressive it is that staff, teachers and students for being so adaptable during this time.

3. Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Corrections (CTCC) Programs (*Gerard Winn*)

Gerard explained the purpose/goal of CTCC programs is to provide support to students with severe mental health concerns who are not able to attend a mainstream classroom because their primary need is treatment. Academic supports/activities are individualized/personalized/tailored to better meet student needs and improve educational outcomes with the primary focus being on treatment plans. Treatment Plans are tailored to each individual student; help clients develop the skills and self-awareness (coping mechanisms) to succeed better in a school environment

Before a student will be considered for a CTCC program, all other supports/interventions must have been exhausted (e.g., social worker, agencies, doctors, mental health nurse referrals).

Examples of CTCC programs partnered with PVNC are Enterphase, Mon Ami and Hand in Hand.

C. Discussion Items:

The committee will review the minutes and bring the key learnings and next steps from the presentation to the next meeting.

D. Information Items:

1. [COVID 19 Community and Mental Health Resources](#)

2. [PVNC Learn @ Home](#)

3. Reports from SEAC members:

Arlene Godby
Autism Ontario - Peterborough Chapter

- Autism support and programs - <https://saaac.org/programs/>

Kelly Smigielski
Grandview Children's Centre

- All sites of Grandview Children's Centre are currently closed. Their Facebook page is frequently updated with ideas and fun projects for the kids; as well as providing any updates and information surrounding Covid19 and Grandview.

Shawna Belcourt
Community Living Trent Highlands

- Resources shared with families coping with COVID 19:
 - At home daily routine (see Appendix A to Agenda)
 - List of COVID 19 Websites (see Appendix B to Agenda)
 - COVID 19 Book (see Appendix C to Agenda)
 - Call for Help – Staff at Community Living Trent Highlands are deemed essential workers and are needing protective equipment to stay safe (e.g. masks). Anything is appreciated.

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

G. Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

TBD

Agenda: EQAO and Accommodations(Sandra Connolly and Maureen Potts)

Opening / closing prayer - Emanuel opening / Kelly closing.

Future Meetings & Presentation Topic:

June 18, 2020 Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, Special Education Plan Review

Tour/PD To be determined

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Laurie closed the meeting with prayer.

2. Adjournment

Motion: The meeting be adjourned.

Carried