

Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members: Shawna Belcourt, Helen McCarthy, Kelly Smigielski, Melissa Gillespie, Emmanuel Pinto, Sandra Scott

Absent (by motion): Arlene Godby, Clare Paterson, Laura Quibell

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Gerard Winn

Recorder: Theresa Greavette

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer

Melissa led the group in prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Melissa acknowledged that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe First Nations and that we live and work in the 1923 Williams Treaty area. Melissa also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.

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: Arlene Godby, Clare Paterson and Laura Quibell be excused from attendance at the February 20, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting.

Motion: The Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Vice-Chairperson (Melissa)
Melissa led the meeting in Arlene's absence.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education
Laurie provided an update regarding labour action and asked the committee members to continue to monitor the board website for the most up to date information. Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) sent a request, which Laurie responded to regarding the strengths/successful practices, as well as challenges that we have in the area of special education.

In addition to the recommendations of the OA Panel, and the provision of information to the Minister's Council, Bill 160, a private members bill regarding the use of seclusion rooms and restraint has had first reading in the legislature.

Laurie provided an update regarding Special Education Services staffing, which had been reduced the previous spring, but was pleased to report that these positions were being increased and a number of positions were being restored.

Three potential options for the 10th SEAC meeting were put to the committee for consideration, members were asked to vote via the Google survey:

- Bocce Ball Tournament in Selwyn on March 27;
- Craig Keilburger guest speaking for Catholic Parent Engagement Committee on May 20 at Holy Trinity;
- Cradle for Special Olympics - Dates and Availability to be Determined.

3. Update from Trustees:
Helen shared the OCSTA recommendations to the Ministry of Education regarding Special Education and Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder submitted (January 31, 2020):
 - That the Ministry of Education establish a Special Education Working group, including OCSTA, with a stakeholder advisory board to review the adequacy of special education funding, including the structure of the DSENA;
 - That the Ministry of Education review "needs based" funding models for high needs special education students to supplement the overall Special Education Grant structure;
 - That the Ministry of Education continue to survey and monitor the situation with boards and provide program/financial support as required to ensure students with ASD can be assessed in a timely manner so boards can make the necessary accommodations.

4. Accessibility, Contingencies, Inclusion, Integration 2025 (Gerard Winn)
There was a presentation regarding the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the board's requirement to achieve accessibility for people with disabilities

by 2025. Gerard provided an update and next steps with respect to the board's progress and compliance with this requirement.

C. Discussion Items:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation and how parents are made aware of this information. The committee was made aware of the next Accessibility for All Committee meeting date and the opportunity for a SEAC representative to participate on this committee.

D. Information Items:

1. Reports from SEAC members:

**Arlene Godby
Autism Ontario - Peterborough Chapter**

- Live Webinar regarding Family Rights and Obligations When Purchasing Supports on March 5 (See A1 attached).
- Family Night for families with children with ASD on February 25 (See A2 attached).

**Kelly Smigielski
Grandview Children's Centre**

- February 27 is Celebrity Server night at Boston Pizza at 951 Taunton Road E Oshawa. All proceeds to Grandview Kids.
- Tulip, the therapy pony is back at Grandview Oshawa, helping kids cope during difficult times.
- Grandview is seeking a Systems Support Specialist, see employment section for more details.
- Other employment opportunities include Summer Camp Staff, Physiotherapist and OT.

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

G. Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre

Agenda: Program Updates (Special Education & LSS) & Section 23 (Gerard Winn)

Opening / closing prayer - Laurie

Future Meetings & Presentation Topic:

April 16, 2020 Math, Math & DLD, EQAO

May 21, 2020 Transition Elementary to Secondary; Secondary to Community

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

Tour/PD To be determined

G. Conclusion:

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

2. Adjournment

Motion: The meeting be adjourned.

Carried