

# Minutes

---

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on May 21st, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Google Meet.

## PRESENT

Members: Shawna Belcourt, Arlene Godby, Helen McCarthy, Kelly Smigielski, Clare Paterson, Emmanuel Pinto, Sandra Scott, Laura Quibell,  
Guest Presenters: Sandra Connolly and Maureen Potts

Absent (by motion): Melissa Gillespie

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Gerard Winn

Recorder: Alexa Purves

## **A. Call to Order:**

### 1. Opening Prayer

Emmanuel led the group on 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: R.A. That Melissa Gillespie be excused from attendance at the May 21, 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)

Laura Quibell is retiring, we will miss her wisdom, knowledge and guidance over the years. On behalf of SEAC, a donation was made to the Youth Emergency Shelter in Laura's honour.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (Laurie)

First, we congratulate Gerard Winn on his appointment to Superintendent with the Durham Catholic District School Board commencing next school year. We appreciate all the work he has undertaken this year in special education services and in 20 years' service to PVNC.

We also acknowledge Theresa Greavette who will return to HR for the next school year to support a leave there. We welcome Alexa Purves who will take Theresa's place next year as administrative assistant and in support of SEAC.

We say goodbye to Laura Quibell, who has represented CAS at this table for many years. We congratulate her on her retirement and wish her well.

We have hired two new staff in special education. We welcome SLP Alanna Gujarati who will begin her position in August. And we welcome social worker Erin Brown as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Erin's work will focus on supporting students in the early years.

After many years of service, Maureen Potts and Nicole Twohey are retiring as consultants.

3. Update from Trustees:

Emmanuel reported on the Catholic Leadership Awards where one graduating student from each elementary and secondary school are honored.

4. Two Minute Updates from Committee Members - COVID-19

a. Autism Ontario

- Recent changes to adapt to Covid 19 - Help line, home based activities, conference calls, available resource list ect.

b. Community Living Campbellford/Brighton

- Nothing to report

c. Community Living Trent Highlands

- Thanked the Board for donation of face shields. Bio kits at each location if needed. No Active cases of Covid-19, 1 family in crisis, seeing peers seems to be very uplifting for students.

- d. Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough
  - Have stopped face to face support and have started virtual support which they have found to be more interactive. No cases of Covid
  
- e. Grandview Children's Centre
  - All offices are closed, no therapy currently happening. Botox clinics are running, Started Zoom meetings and daily parent check in. Concern about how long term lack of therapy will affect children.
  
- f. Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society
  - All offices are closed but small staff in Peterborough office. Moving to some face to face contact with families, primarily outside. Volume of referrals is low. Supporting foster parents. Educational Liaison position available.
  
- g. Northumberland Child Development Centre
  - Providing virtual service, focus on parent coaching. Providing food for homeless families.
  
- 5. EQAO in Special Education (Maureen Potts and Sandra Connolly) EQAO (since 1997) provides snapshot on student achievement. Focus on primary reading and writing. EQAO has been cancelled this year due to Covid-19. PVNC does relatively well in comparison to the Province.
  
- 6. [Special Education Plan](#) - Checklist (see A1 attached)  
In keeping with the requirement checklist notes and edits will be made. The checklist will be reviewed during the June meeting.

**C. Discussion Items:**

A short discussion of the presentation took place.

**D. Information Items:**

1. SEAC Letter to Minister of Education - Apr 29 2020 (see A3 attached)
  
2. [National Accessibility Awareness Week - PVNC](#)
  
3. Reports from SEAC members:

**Shawna Belcourt Community  
Living Trent Highlands**

• Community Living Trent Highlands is so touched by your donation of the face shields and your kindness in including the beautiful wooden plaque thanking front line workers. We will be using the face shields should we have a positive test in any of our locations as this is part of our PPE. We were able to order some but the donation from you ensures we currently have a good supply of them if we need them. We appreciate your support so much.

**Arlene Godby  
Autism  
Ontario**

• Autism Ontario Peterborough Events (see A4 attached)

**E. Old Business:**

**F. New Business:**

**G. Next Meeting:**

Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020      6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Agenda: Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, Special Education Plan Review  
Opening / closing prayer - Helen

**Future Meetings & Presentation Topic:**

In keeping with school closures.

**G. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Kelly closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment  
Motion:      The meeting be adjourned.

Carried