



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 21, 2022

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/pbg-scoh-nrij

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson:

Members: Arlene Godby (Chair), Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson
Guests: Sandra Connolly, Peter Bagnall, Cynthia Chan Reynolds
Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni
Recorder: Vicki Blakely
Absent: Sandra Scott, Helen McCarthy

A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Laura Di Ianni
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: Laura Di Ianni
3. Additions to the Agenda
PPM 81 Draft Update
4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt
Seconded by: Clare Paterson
That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Clare Paterson

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That Sandra Scott and Helen McCarthy be excused from attendance at the April 21, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

7. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2022 and March 24, 2022 Meeting.

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt

Seconded by: Clare Paterson

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on February 17, 2022 and March 24, 2022 be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chair – Arlene Godby

Disappointed that the previous SEAC meeting did not meet quorum and wasn't able to proceed. Vice Chairperson Melissa Gillespie has resigned from the committee. As well, Arlene announced her last SEAC meeting will be June, as she is resigning as both chair and member. Looking forward to the presentation on the Equity Census and welcomed Learning Consultants Peter Bagnall and Sandra Connolly.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services – Laurie Corrigan

Superintendent Armstrong thanked Chairperson Godby for her commitment and contribution to SEAC.

A summary of Superintendent Armstrong's experience in regards to education and specifically special education was given including her experience as a Special Education Resource Teacher for 7 years, working as a principal with system classes and inclusionary (no system) classes. She gave her word to work as a collaborative partner, trusted advocate and servant leader with Special Education Services and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

The Special Education department partook in Fireside Chats throughout March to hear their voices on what is working and where we can improve.

Principal Learning Teams ran from November - April at Director's Meetings focusing on Special Education in schools, specific to Tier 1, 2 and 3 practices and supports for mental health and well-being. Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) certification and recertification is ongoing for Principals, Vice Principals, Special Education Resource Teachers and Special Education Support Staff. Administrative Procedure 912: Supporting Positive Student Behaviour: Safety for All was reviewed in March and will be updated by the end of the school year.

The Right to Read Inquiry was launched in February by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, with much of the department participating in training. Jana Leggett will be facilitating system wide training on Advanced Literacy Certification in late August.

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) training continues through Sonderly (Geneva Centre for Autism) by many of our special education resource teachers and support staff as well as principals and vice principals. CASA and SBAP classroom visits are underway. The central team presented to principals the CASA classrooms and candidate selection process recently.

Consultants are working through educational assistant (EA) allocations through the tiered intervention approach. Additional EAs were supported through COVID funding, but this funding will not be available going forward.

Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualification is currently running at PVNC with twelve principals and vice principals participating.

Catholic Education Week will be celebrated alongside Children's Mental Health Week May 2 - 6. Workshops are being offered to support mental health and well-being to both central and system staff.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentation:

1. Equity Census Update – Sandra Connolly & Peter Bagnall – Learning Consultants (Faith/Equity/MiSA)

Learning Consultants Peter Bagnall and Sandra Connolly presented the Demographic Data from Student Census and Synodal Focus Groups. Surveys were sent in Fall 2021 to parents to fill out on behalf of students grades 1-8 with participation of 1473. Grade 9-12 students (with parental permission) were invited, with 2154 participants, totalling 3627. Participation in the survey was voluntary, anonymous and confidential. PVNCCDSB participated in the survey voluntarily, in the future the Ministry is making it required. Questions in the survey were provided by the Ministry, with additional questions added by our Equity Advisor, Mante Molepo. Questions from the survey were reviewed along with

the results from the Equity Census. The Demographic Data and Student Census provides a qualitative view of PVNCCDSB.

The Synodal Focus Groups gave student voice through a qualitative lens. The 6 secondary schools, 3 classes from each, participated in the Synodal Discussion. A synthesis of Diocesan Questions was reviewed highlighting key themes that came out of the discussion with students. This process was very successful and well received by students with conversations spilling over into the classroom. On Faith Day, April 8 Professional Development Day, staff in all schools and at the Catholic Education Centre participated in Synodal Discussions and key-note speaker Bishop Paul-André Durocher, summarizing key themes.

The next steps include communicating results to stakeholders by creating a report, using the data and student consultations to inform the Equity Action Plan, identifying areas for improvement and allocating resources. The next data collection will occur in October 2022, occurring annually, being voluntary but no longer anonymous.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation with the hope that student focus groups will be expanded and offered at all schools moving forward, not just in Secondary Schools. Planning is in place to continue the exercise into next year and possibly expanding to junior and intermediate students at elementary schools. Students wrote the Student Responsibility section under the draft Equity Policy. The committee asked if there were any big surprises from both the quantitative and qualitative collection. The hope was for more participation in the survey. From the Synodal discussion, the level of engagement and depth of student discussion was surprising and welcomed.

A. Correspondence Items:

All were received for information, if upon review a member feels action should be taken, it can be discussed at the May meeting under Old Business.

1. Resignation from SEAC – Melissa Gillespie
 - a. Received for information.
2. Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board – Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
 - a. Received for information.
3. Waterloo Region District School Board – Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
 - a. Received for information.
4. Durham District School Board – Change to definition of “Disability” and supporting Bill 172
 - a. Received for information.
5. Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board – COVID-19 Regulations
 - a. Received for information.

6. Renfrew County Catholic District School Board – Nursing Shortage
 - a. Received for information.
7. Renfrew County Catholic District School Board – Online Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning
 - a. Received for information.
8. Halton Catholic District School Board – PPM 81 Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings in 2021-2022: New Expectations
 - a. Received for information.
9. York Catholic District School Board - Nursing Shortage
 - a. Received for information.
10. York Catholic District School Board - Special Incident Portion Claim Funding
 - a. Received for information.

B. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received as follows:
 - a. PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>
 - b. Down Syndrome Association April Newsletter
<https://downsyndromepeterborough.ca/2022/04/09/april-newsletter/>
 - c. Autism Ontario
 - i. Families in Flux: Findings from the 2021 Ontario Autism Caregiver Survey on education, service access and well-being in the context of Covid-19
 - ii. <https://www.wlu.ca/news/news-releases/2022/march/laurier-researchers-find-long-wait-times-for-services-and-school-disruptions-weighing-on-ontario-families-of-autistic-children-during-covid-19.html>
 - d. Community Living Trent Highlands March Newsletter

C. Old Business:

1. Checklist – from PAac on SEAC Discussion
 - a. Reviewed Section 3.4 - Special Education Plan, Table 3: SEAC Evaluation and Section 5.3 - SEAC Motions from the checklist.
 - b. Members were asked to set aside time on the May agenda to review each section of Regulation 486/97 and Regulation 306, the School Boards Education Plans (2000).
2. Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome – Letter from SEAC to review

Motion: Shawna Belcourt

Second: Clare Paterson

That the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Letter from SEAC in regards to Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as presented.

Carried

D. New Business:

1. Tenth Meeting Decision – May 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Kevin Chief, Dr. Jean Clinton or Dr. Robin Hanley-Dafoe
Committee members were interested if they could attend virtually.

2. [Possible Calendar of Presentations](#) – Discussion

3. PPM81 Draft Update

https://pressprogress.ca/ontario-planning-to-download-health-support-services-for-students-with-disabilities-to-unqualified-school-staff-leaked-draft-suggests/?fbclid=IwAR1S15ORDTvNZXVbtu_ZvfJ-Qlj_-ypntByeD23XQwf8nIP7SBrhPngLwZE

The Committee discussed the article (linked above) that the Ministry has created a draft update of Memorandum 81 downloading medical procedures onto special education support staff and the implications that would have on students and staff.

Many school boards have voiced concerns in regards to lack of updates and consultations with the Ministry.

Draft Update of the memorandum created, Ministry document, but clear that the Ministry of Education did not do the consultations required in regards to being a Ministry of Education document. Many school boards have spoken out to the Ministry about the draft update. No updated information as to further steps in regards to updates or consultations have been made to the Director of Education.

Members discussed writing a letter to express the concern and speak for parents with implications of medical procedures being downloaded to education support staff, framing it around the things that are rumoured.

Motion: Shawna Belcourt

Second: Clare Paterson

That the Special Education Advisory Committee draft a letter to come back to the May meeting for review in regards to the implications and concerns for families in regards to the rumoured draft update of PPM No. 81.

Carried

D. Next Meeting:

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
 - a. Territorial Recognition & Opening Prayer: Clare Paterson
 - b. Closing prayer: Arlene Godby

2. 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

6:30-8:30 pm	Virtually
Date	Topic
May 19	Budget Review – Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services Jeannie Armstrong and Superintendent of Business Finance/Plant Isabel Grace
June 16	Special Education Plan Review
10 th Meeting	TBD

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Jeannie Armstrong

2. Adjournment

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt

Seconded by: Clare Paterson

That the meeting held on April 21, 2022 be adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Carried