

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2023
Catholic Education Centre - Boardroom/Virtual
6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Shawna Belcourt

Vice-Chairperson: Clare Paterson

Members: Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson,, Kathleen Tanguay

Guests: Benjamin, Tenesia, Della Stewart-Figueira

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent: Cheryl Kottelenberg

A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Jeannie Armstrong
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 the 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: Kathleen Tanguay
3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.
4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Moved by: Clare Paterson

Seconded by: Kathleen Tanguay
That the agenda be approved as presented.
Carried

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the March 23, 2023 Meeting.

Moved by: Clare Paterson
Seconded by: Kathleen Tanguay
That the Minutes of the Special Education Committee meeting held on March 23, 2023 be approved as presented.
Carried

7. Business arising from the Minutes:

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson, Shawna Belcourt

Thanked everyone for attending and for the committee's work on the PAaC. As well thanked Clare Paterson for chairing the last meeting and her work on the Special Incident Portion and Extension of Learning letters. May is Community Living Month as we celebrate the many successes of developing inclusive communities. Reminded members to please share organizational updates with Vicki Blakley to be included in the agenda under Information Items.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services, Jeannie Armstrong

Superintendent Armstrong gave an update on the departments of Special Education as well as Faith and Equity. Professional Development for staff has included vice principal trauma informed training, the continuation of The Third Path professional development, and meetings for both the School Based Autism Program (SBAP) and Centre for Autism Spectrum Assistance (CASA).

Planning is underway for the 2023-2024 school year for Special Education Services and PVNCCDSB as a whole. Budget information will be brought forward to committee in May and the Special Education Plan will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Data is being gathered from schools to determine special education support staff allocations for next year.

3. Remarks: Trustee Kathleen Tanguay

At a recent policy meeting The Third Path, Universal Design for Learning and Equity were discussed and their importance within PVNCCDSB. PVNCCDSB is looking at the possibility of opening a new school in the Clarington region.

C. Presentations/Discussion Items:

1. Demographic Student Census Update - Benjamin, Tenesia - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor

Benjamin presented on the Demographic Student Census. A review of the purpose of the school census and its major findings were highlighted in regards to race, religious beliefs, gender identity, and sexual orientation. From the demographic data gathered, 10 - 14% of students said they rarely or never see themselves reflected positively in the areas listed in regards to images, learning materials, lessons, staff, issues discussed in the classroom, events and celebrations, and extracurricular activities.

From the data gathered, PVNCCDSB Black Resource Groups have developed as a result. This includes a Black Student Association (BSA), Black Employee Network (BEN) and Allied group, and Black Parents Network (BPN). The purpose is to understand the experiences of black employees, students and parents and leverage these groups to influence and advocate for system-wide responsive approaches to address anti-black racism, identify and bridge gaps to disparities and to provide empowerment to create spaces of cultural safety for all.

From the Director's Meeting feedback survey of principals - the majority of respondents (principals) found the activities and case studies were relevant, comprehensive and easy to understand. The feedback questioned and measured where principals started (rating their own knowledge) before and after Equity Sessions. Increases after attending these sessions were seen in all measured areas; skills, confidence and knowledge showing growth and development. The plan is to survey the principals again at the end of the school year to measure where they are at in their learning journey.

Black Shirt Day was celebrated January 17 at PVNCCDSB as a prelude to Black History Month. Opening Ceremonies kicked off February 1 with staff leaders, community members, and trustees gathered at the Catholic Education Centre. A grade 8 student from St. John Peterborough participated in delivering the Land Acknowledgement for the opening ceremony.

Unpacking anti-black racism practices, policies and attitudes was dissected through a panel discussing the film Hidden Figures. The event was available in-person at the Catholic Education Centre or by joining virtually. The panel included a principal, human resources, the board psychologist and staff member.

Our Hair is Our Crown: Hair Therapy Project 2023 was another event during Black History Month. This included a licenced hair stylist that provided demonstrations to 6 schools with black and non-black students participating with overall attendance at 131 students. Mental Health Toolkits were given out and a Mental Health Lead supported the event. The event was very well attended and positive feedback has been received.

The African Inventors and Icons Exhibition toured 4 of PVNCCDSBs secondary schools with 696 students participating. The mobile museum provided a 10 minute presentation through their facilitator.

May is Asian Heritage month with opening ceremonies taking place May 3, 2023. Learning resources will be shared with secondary and elementary schools as well as the Catholic Education Centre.

Cook. Eat. Love. is a culinary program where students can express themselves through preparation of traditional foods and communal style eating to reinforce ties to their ethnic origins. A certified chef will help students explore the distinct flavour profiles of Asian cuisine whilst offering anecdotal storytelling to reinforce social networks and cultural traditions.

The Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum will be visiting 4 elementary schools. Focusing on International Pan-Asian inventors, the exhibit recognizes the contributions of East Asian and South Asian Communities in North America, Asia, Europe, Caribbean and Oceania to the world of innovation.

Tea Time: The Joy Luck Club - will be a panel discussion about the overarching theme in the film, The Joy Luck Club. Panelists will include Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, a teacher, guest speaker and facilitator: Mandy Hamu.

From the presentation:

The committee discussed the presentation and how they were impressed by the events being provided by the team. They asked what parents need to know and it was explained there has been a lot of parent engagement through the events, with overwhelming positive feedback from parents especially in regards to hair therapy. The families really enjoyed the mental health toolkits received at the event. Parents are hoping to have the opportunity to attend future events. This would be an opportunity for building community in the future. Going forward, the hope is that groups in the schools feel empowered to help host the events.

2. Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PaAC on SEAC)
Checklist Review - Clare Paterson

Table 3 - SEAC Evaluation - Superintendent Jeannie Armstrong to provide a google form for the next meeting.

In discussing how to recruit members, it was suggested to offer daytime meetings that may be more compatible with scheduling for members/organizations.

Section 3.2 - Annual SEAC Goals - Special Education Plan forthcoming at the June meeting which will lend the opportunity to review the plan and set goals/timeline for the Special Education Advisory Committee for the following year. It was agreed goals should reflect PVNCCDSBs goals and strategic plan.

D. Correspondence Items:

Correspondence Items/updates were received as follows:

1. Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board - Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding
2. Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board - Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

E. Information Items:

Information Items/updates were received as follows:

1. PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>
2. Community Living Trent Highlands - Monthly Update

F. Old Business:

1. Motion Tracking:

Motion Date	Subject/Status
February 17, 2022	PPM 172 FASD motion to draft letter
April 21, 2022	PPM 172 FASD draft letter approved as presented
April 21, 2022	PPM 81 Proposed Update Downloading medical procedures onto special education support staff - letter drafted ready for review by SEAC

May 19, 2022	PPM81 draft letter approved as presented.
January 19, 2023	Special Incidence Portion Funding motion to draft letter
January 19, 2023	Extension of Learning motion to draft letter
February 16, 2023	Special Incidence Portion Funding draft letter approved as presented
February 16, 2023	Extension of learning draft letter approved as presented

G. New Business:

1. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting June 15, 2023 suggested meeting time change

Director of Education Retirement celebration is during SEAC
Wondering if the meeting could be moved to daytime.

Moved: Clare Paterson
Seconded: Shawna Belcourt

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for June 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. time will be moved to 1:00 p.m. on June 15, 2023.

H. Next Meeting:

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
 - a. Territorial Recognition: Laura Di Ianni
 - b. Opening Prayer: Shawna Belcourt
 - c. Closing Prayer: Kathleen Tanguay

2. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:

Date (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	Topic
May 18, 2023	Budget
June 15, 2023	Special Education Plan
10th Meeting	CPEC - Kevin Cameron - more details to come

I. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Clare Paterson

2. Adjournment

Moved by: Clare Paterson

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That the meeting held on April 27, 2023 be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Carried