



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Virtually - <https://meet.google.com/wkh-hxtt-nbw>

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

**Chairperson: Shawna Belcourt**

**Vice-Chairperson: Clare Paterson**

**Members:** Shawna Belcourt, Cheryl Kottelenberg, Kathleen Tanguay

**Guests:** Dr. David Tranter

**Administration:** Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

**Recorder:** Vicki Blakely

**Absent:** Clare Paterson

**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 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: Jeannie Armstrong

3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Moved by: Cheryl Kottelenberg

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

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 January 19, 2023 Meeting.

Moved by: Kathleen Tanguay

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That the Minutes of the Special Education Committee meeting held on January 19, 2023 be approved as amended.

Carried

7. Business arising from the Minutes:

None noted.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Remarks: Chairperson, Shawna Belcourt

Shawna Belcourt gave a brief overview of her career background through multiple roles with Trent Highlands Community Care and history of membership on the Special Education Advisory Committee; joining January 28, 2011.

The Chairperson invited new member Cheryl Kottelenberg to introduce herself. Cheryl gave a brief overview of her role at Catulpa Community Support Services. She has been with Catulpa for two years, supporting children and youth up to age 18 with complex needs. Previously, Cheryl worked for PVNCCDSB as an educational assistant. She is excited to work with the committee and gain perspective from the committee side.

The Chairperson reminded the committee that February is Inclusive Education Month. As well, asked the committee to keep Syria and Turkey in our prayers after the devastating earthquake.

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

Superintendent Armstrong gave an update on the department. At the most recent Special Education Services department meeting staff reviewed goals and progress.

Black History Month kicked off February 1 at the Catholic Education Centre with a ceremony that included staff, students, trustees, community members, principals and senior administration. On February 15 a panel discussion was held providing commentary on the film Hidden Figures was provided discussing barriers by



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which was moderated by Vice Principal Laura Di  
n Human Resources, racialized staff, a  
principal, the Equity Advisor, and the Board Psychologist.

Professional development was offered February 3 to support staff which included Behaviour Management Systems Recertification, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder training and training on Social Communication.

Special Education Resource Teacher regional meetings were held recently which included topics on Individualized Education Plan writing, assessments, affirmative language, applied behaviour analysis and transition planning.

### 3. Remarks: Trustee Kathleen Tanguay

At the last board meeting Trustee Tanguay shared with the Board that support letters in regards to Special Education Funding and Extension of Learning will be forthcoming from the Special Education Advisory Committee.

## C. Presentations/Discussion Items:

1. A Relational Approach to Support All Students: The Third Path - Dr. David Tranter

Superintendent Jeannie Armstrong introduced Dr. David Tranter.

Dr. Tranter presented The Third Path framework embedding Well-Being in Education. The framework focuses on safety, regulation, belonging, positivity, engagement, identity, mastery and meaning. The framework moves away from trends and leans in to embedding intentional mindful practice.

Education has traditionally focused on the path 1, achievement being the responsibility of the school with Path 2, well-being, focusing on the social-emotional side apart from education. The education system traditionally prescribes curriculum and not well-being. The shift towards integrating well-being into education was introduced around 2010, falling as a subject matter (health) within the curriculum.

The Third Path framework is a more holistic approach combining path 1 and 2 into a relationship-based approach to student well-being and achievement. Research shows that students who have relationships that are deeper, more meaningful and connected to adults, peers, and teachers, the more they will excel. Human relationships are the essential ingredient that catalyzes development and learning.

What do the relationships look like? The inclusion of mental health, well-being, equity, inclusivity, trauma sensitivity, reconciliation, and other



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sn't merely an add-on. It requires the system to  
to schools, not just as an add on, as time  
allows within the curriculum.

The Third Path about how things are done, clarifying the purpose of education, what is taught (curriculum), how it is taught (relationships and the 8 conditions), and why it is taught (human development). It's not what is done but how it is done. The example was given that math can be taught in a way that undermines self-esteem, or it can be taught in a way that bolsters self-esteem, and therefore success.

The Third Path is unique because of the 'how,' it looks at what the needs of the students are in order to develop academically. The eight conditions are as follows; safety, regulation, belonging, positivity, engagement, identity, mastery and meaning). The eight conditions apply to all learning styles or needs. The goal is to create these conditions in a classroom/school setting in order to give students the best opportunity for success. This really isn't "new"-educators have always done this and students have always needed this framework in order to learn and develop.

Dr. Tranter compared schools to an ecosystem, if the soil is bad or the conditions are poor, a good program planted in bad soil won't grow. The more we cultivate these conditions with students the more likely they are to grow.

Dr. Tranter discussed the 8 conditions in finer detail:

Safety - a student needs to feel emotionally and physically safe. Safe from malice, bullying harm. Safe to be themselves, be vulnerable, be seen. Emotional safety is trust.

Regulation - this is affected by stressors and helping students learn to regulate their emotions through coregulation, recognition and naming of emotions. Students who are distressed will have difficulty connecting and concentrating.

Belonging - every child/human needs the sense of belonging. When students feel they belong, they are motivated to learn and develop.

Positivity - this condition focuses on the student's potential. Positive emotions create an upward spiral of success and optimal functioning. This emphasizes the educator's mindset and needs to feel genuine.

Engagement - lends for the opportunity to be open to learning, and gain a deeper satisfaction and confidence from the learners.



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nts to a variety of differences and helps  
now who they are while appreciating similarities  
and differences.

Mastery - every child needs to feel successful. This is about creating and celebrating moments of success ensuring every student experiences it as well as self efficacy. This doesn't necessarily root in academics, but will spread into academic areas/

Meaning - this focuses on the intrinsic value of learning. It ensures that every student knows they matter and makes education fulfilling. Giving them meaning not just in the work but what they mean to the school environment.

Dr. Tranter summarized by stating that you are the strategy - but it's not about you. Meaning that it's not about you, it's about meeting the students' needs in order to create a successful environment.

From the Presentation:

The committee discussed the presentation and how much they appreciated Dr. Tranter presenting and the content he provided. The committee discussed how they hope some teachers already see themselves in this framework and more will work towards achieving it. They further discussed how important co-regulation is and how our stress responses affect the regulation of students.

2. Professional Development Day Learning for Support Staff: An Overview -  
Laura Di Ianni

Vice Principal of Special Education Services Laura Di Ianni presented on the learning provided to support staff on the February 3 professional development day. There were close to 50 participants in either full day certification or half day recertification of the Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training. Those not participating in the Behaviour Management Systems training were offered learning on Social Thinking offered by PVNCCDSB's Speech Language Pathologists in the morning with a course and certificate thereafter. Social Thinking - helps students living with autism to break down perspective taking, complex social concepts and break them down into manageable pieces. In the afternoon Level I Foundations in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder was offered online through CanFASD.

3. PAaC on SEAC Review/Discussion

The Committee deferred this item to the next meeting which will be in-person and better able to accommodate break out groups and discussion.



**D. Correspondence Items:**

There were none.

**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. Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education - Annual Report
  - a. Superintendent Armstrong highlighted the priorities at the minister's table - of note are pages 2/4- the activities the MACSE has taken on for goals the last year or so is presented at SEAC. Being current and strategic with the presentations coming forward.

**F. Old Business:**

1. Review of Draft Letter to the Ministry - Special Incidence Portion

R.A. That the Special Education Advisory Committee recommends to the board that the board recognizes and supports for distribution, the Special Education Advisory Committee's letter to the Minister of Education in regards to Special Incidence Portion.

Motion: Kathleen Tanguay

Second: Cheryl Kottelenberg

That the recommended action be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Review of Draft Letter to the Ministry - Extension of Learning

R.A. R.A. That the Special Education Advisory Committee recommends to the board that the board recognizes and supports for distribution, the Special Education Advisory Committee's letter to the Minister of Education in regards to the Extension of Learning.

Motion: Shawna Belcourt

Second: Kathleen Tanguay

That the recommended action be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Motion Tracking:



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:**

There was none.

**H. Next Meeting:**

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
  - a. Territorial Recognition: Jeannie Armstrong
  - b. Opening Prayer: Cheryl Kottelenberg
  - c. Closing Prayer: Kathleen Tanguay
2. Shawna Belcourt

**3. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:**

Date (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	Topic
March 23, 2023	Destreaming of Grade 9
April 27, 2023	Demographic Student Census
May 18, 2023	Budget
June 15, 2023	Special Education Plan

**I. Conclusion:**



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Motion: Kathleen Tanguay

Seconded by: Cheryl Kottelenberg

That the meeting held on February 16, 2023 be adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Carried