



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2021

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/hjf-wbpy-jtd

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

Members: Arlene Godby (Chair), Melissa Gillespie, Shawna Belcourt, Kelly Smigielski, Helen McCarthy, Clare Paterson

Guests: Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu, Sharon Davenport, Jamie Read

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent (by motion): Emmanuel Pinto, Sandra Scott, David Bernier

A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Shawna Belcourt

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: Shawna Belcourt

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Kelly Smigielski

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Helen McCarthy

Seconded by: Kelly Smigielski

That Emmanuel Pinto and Sandra Scott be excused from attendance at the February 18, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of January 14, 2021 Meeting.

Moved by: Melissa Gillespie

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on January 14, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

Reminder of the upcoming final event [Lessons on Groundbreaking Leadership from Black Women](#) on Saturday, March 6, 2021, as a result of the SEAC request in motion in place of the 10th meeting.

Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAaC) Survey reminder. Please review the PAaC Survey results from the January 14, 2021 Agenda Package for the upcoming discussion at the March 25, 2021 SEAC meeting keeping in mind the following questions:

What surprised you in the survey results?

What promising practices are suggested?

How are they reflected at PVNCCDSB and what could be considered?

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson, Arlene Godby

Really appreciate everyone submitting the reports from the organizations; it was really nice to see the updates.

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

Since the last SEAC meeting all of our schools in all four regions of PVNCCDSB have reopened and entered into quadmester 3. St. Thomas Aquinas Virtual School still

has approximately 2500 students enrolled in on-line learning. There were shifts between in-person and virtual learning at the transition date, but not much of a change in overall enrollment.

PVNCCDSB has been invited to work with a team of researchers at the University of Ottawa as part of the Ministry of Education's work through the Student Support and Field Services Division in developing a Remote Learning Guide for Students with Special Education. The guide and collection of longstanding effective practices is intended to assist with ongoing and future support of students with special education needs that may require remote learning. The guide should be available in late March.

The Accessibility for All Committee met recently, chaired by Vice Principal of Special Education Services Laura Di Ianni, Chair of the Board David Bernier, Trustee Braydon Leal and SEAC representative Kelly Smigielski along with the other committee members. The committee made the recommendation to bring forward five administrative policies that will go to the Policy Committee for review in April.

A resolution motioned by Chair of the Board David Bernier has been sent to the Ontario Catholic Trustee Association in regards to advancing necessary funding to ensure that future renovations in the school board's buildings to needed to provide accessibility would be received in the next four years in keeping with the requirements of the AODA. Updates received will be brought back to SEAC.

Joan Carragher, Director of Education at PVNCCDSB, has requested to attend the March SEAC meeting. The visit is part of a comprehensive consultation process for the renewal of the strategic priorities which will include SEAC and the renewal of our Be Well Strategy.

3. Update from Trustees:

Helen McCarthy

No updates at this time.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations

1. School and Community Collaboration – Sharon Davenport, Itinerant Teacher – Autism Spectrum Disorders and Jamie Read, Service Navigator Team Lead, East Region at Autism Ontario

The presentation gave an overview of the mission and role of Autism Ontario to assist families across the province and the ASD Collaborative. The presentation highlighted the service navigation provided to families and the variety of virtual services and supports that are currently available to them ([Learning Resources](#), [Webinars](#), [Events](#)) as well as [Community Connect](#), an Autism service listing. Autism Ontario has also been supporting families through service navigation with the [Ontario Autism](#)

[Supports](#), including [Interim One-Time Funding Information Sessions](#) and [How to Complete the OAP Expense Forms' Sessions](#). The Autism Spectrum Disorder Collaborative Committee was created consisting of ASD service providers meeting bi-monthly providing updates, presentations and new information in regards to service delivery, models, supports and upcoming events. The collaboration has been very beneficial to both service providers and school boards, in better accessing and conveying services to the families of students with ASD.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation. The ASD Collaborative has a great process in place and networking providing very helpful information. Modelling from the ASD Collaborative and the benefits of networking the available service providers for students with exceptionalities not on the spectrum was discussed, asking the question of whether a collaborative like this also exists. PVNCCDSB has the [Community Resources for All PVNC Families](#) available on the website, and connects families with service navigators to help students in need of support not on the spectrum.

B. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received by the following organizations as per the attachments to the February 18, 2021 Agenda Package:
 - i. Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
 - ii. Durham District School Board
 - iii. Autism Ontario Peterborough E-News February 2021
 - iv. Grandview Kids
 - v. Community Living Trent Highlands
 - vi. Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough

C. Old Business:

1. SEAC Notes from Presentation November 19, 2020
 - i. SEAC received a presentation by Donna Goheen, Religious Education and Family Life Consultant and Superintendent of Schools, Stephen O'Sullivan on Building Capacity for Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogies, learning which is part of the board's Equity and Inclusive Education Plan. CRRP consist of a framework of Cultural Competence, Critical Consciousness, and High Academic Expectations. The framework also includes 7 tenets: Classroom Climate and Instruction, School Climate, Student Voice and Space, Family/Caregiver-School Relations, School Leadership, Community Connections, Culture of Professional Development.

D. New Business:

None noted.

D. Next Meeting:

1. 2020-2021 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 25, 2021 – Mental Health Strategies and Support for Students

Thursday, April 29, 2021 – Role of EA Facilitator

Thursday, May 27, 2021 – Teacher of the Blind

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – Role of the Special Education Consultant

Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, and Special Education Plan Review

10th Meeting PD/TBD

Location: Virtually

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

2. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers:

a. Territorial Recognition and Opening Prayer: Kelly Smigielski

b. Closing Prayer: Melissa Gillespie

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Helen McCarthy

2. Adjournment

Moved by: Helen McCarthy

Seconded by: Kelly Smigielski

That the meeting held on February 18, 2021 be adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Carried