



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2021

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/ivo-vxxq-dbi

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, Sandra Scott, Emmanuel Pinto, Helen McCarthy

Guests: Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu, Sharon Davenport

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

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent (by motion): Clare Paterson

A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Laurie Corrigan

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: Laurie Corrigan

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Kelly Smigielski

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

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 Clare Paterson be excused from attendance at the January 14, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2020 Meeting.

Moved by: Emmanuel Pinto

Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on November 19, 2020 be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Arlene Godby)

The results from the PAAC survey is attached to the agenda package under information items. Members are requested to review and reflect on the information in this report in terms of how it may impact the Special Education Advisory Committee for discussion at a future meeting.

Reminder to please send in monthly reports on agencies giving organizational updates to keep everyone informed.

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

Schools have once again been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with students returning virtually to the classroom after the Christmas break. PVNCCDSB has developed a [Parent Guide to Blended Learning](#) to support families remotely. The document includes the requirements in regards to synchronous learning but also information supporting children's mental health and special education.

[Family Resources for All Families of PVNCCDSB](#) has been developed by the department and board under the leadership of Mandy Hamu. The document is

inclusive of all four regions that we serve. The resource contains information for emergency housing, domestic violence, legal aid, families experiencing poverty, and resources specific to our Indigenous families.

In regards to Special Education, the Ministry asked school boards to accommodate in-person instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be served through remote learning. To date, 137 students are attending in 27 of our 36 schools. PVNCCDSB has 164 staff members including special education resource teachers, educational assistants, autism spectrum disorder workers in schools supporting students in addition to our administrators. COVID-19 assessments and reporting continue with students in our buildings.

The Ministry also announced the expectation of the return to in-person learning January 25 in both elementary and secondary schools. In addition, it was announced that the Chief Medical Officer of Health will advise the Ministry of Education by January 20 which Public Health Units, including the 3 units that serve PVNCCDSB, will be permitted to resume in-person learning. If given permission to reopen, before and after school programs would resume in these public health units at that time. Schools in Northern Ontario public health units remain open at this time.

Protective eyewear has been made mandatory at PVNCCDSB in addition to the already mandatory masks. Additional PPE was delivered yesterday to schools.

The Ministry announced that once in-person learning resumes, masking for grades 1-3 will be required and mask wearing outdoors will be required for grades 1-12. There will be enhanced screening protocols and expanded targeted testing. When more information on these new measures becomes available it will be shared it with families.

Childcare centres for non-school age children remain open, emergency child-care for school age children will continue for eligible families.

These and other updates are available on the board website, or by contacting the school, teacher, and principal.

3. Update from Trustees:

Helen McCarthy

The numbers for exceptional students being accommodated at schools has seen an increase in the past week.

Help Desk for parents/students is available and has been very helpful for families, it is accessible through our Board website in the [Parent Guide to Blended Learning](#).

Emmanuel Pinto

Praying that everyone had a restful and relaxing Christmas and a blessed New Year.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations

1. Transitions Elementary to Secondary and Post-Secondary – Sharon Davenport Autism Itinerant Teacher and Laura Di Ianni, Vice Principal of Special Education Services

The presentation reviewed the transition planning process for both elementary and secondary students and how these plans are very customized to each individual student. The planning highlighted the importance of outside agencies collaborating with the school/board community in transition meetings. The planning process for students is not static. Planning for students transitioning begins at different times for different students. The *Services and Supports for Secondary Transition* is a document to support schools, families and students as they transition out of secondary. Transition meetings are being facilitated virtually throughout the pandemic.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation and what parents/families need to be aware of. Some ideas were to ask parents of their expectations and hopes for their child and how important it is to include community partners in the transition meetings. It was discussed about the importance of the regulatory requirements of the IEP and how this is a living document which should document the parents' comments to become part of the record as the document evolves throughout the child's education. The information in the presentation for transitioning secondary students into different paths was seen as important. Information on RDSPs, estate planning and preparing both the parent and student as they become transition to an adult, meaning access for parents is no longer there as the guardian were thought of as important discussion pieces for parents.

B. Information Items:

1. Update from Autism Ontario (attached)
2. PAAC Survey Results (attached)

C. Old Business:

1. SEAC 10th Meeting Possibilities:
 - a. [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)
 - b. [Lessons on Groundbreaking Leadership from Black Women](#)

The committee found that this satisfied the requirement for the SEAC 10th meeting. Both events are free and require pre-registering for the event. Sandra Scott, Kelly Smigielski and Shawna Belcourt will be attending the Lessons on Groundbreaking Leadership from Black Women, Arlene Godby will be attending International Holocaust Remembrance Day and Laurie Corrigan will be attending both.

D. New Business:

None noted.

D. Next Meeting:

1. 2020-2021 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 – School and Community Collaboration

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

Thursday, April 29, 2021 – Role of EA Facilitator and Itinerant EA's

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: Shawna Belcourt

b. Closing Prayer: Helen McCarthy

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Laura Di Ianni

2. Adjournment

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Kelly Smigielski

That the meeting held on January 14, 2021 be adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Carried