

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 15, 2023
Catholic Education Centre - Boardroom/Virtual
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson: Shawna Belcourt

Vice-Chairperson: Clare Paterson

Members: Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, Cheryl Kottelenberg, Kathleen Tanguay

Guests: Bart Scollard, Christine Haffie, Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

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: Kathleen Tanguay

3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Moved by: Kathleen Tanguay

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

Carried

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Approval of the Summary of the May 18, 2023 Meeting.

Moved by: Kathleen Tanguay
Seconded by: Cheryl Kottelenberg
That the Summary of the Special Education Committee meeting held on May 18, 2023 be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business arising from the Summary:

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson, Shawna Belcourt

Welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the school year and thanked everyone for the opportunity of chairing the Special Education Advisory Committee for PVNCCDSB. Together we have advocated for the students in our communities. Hoping to see some new members join in September.

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

Superintendent Armstrong gave an update on the departments of Special Education and Faith and Equity.

The Ministry Grant for Supporting Special Education Math allowed for over 150 staff, including 70 classrooms to participate in coding professional development, with participating classes receiving robotics resources, including CASA and SBAP classes.

National Accessibility Awareness Week was observed May 29 - June 2 with a number of activities which included Red Shirt Day on May 31.

Elementary Special Education Support Staff came together on the June 9th professional development day to participate in The Third Path training with guest speaker Dr. David Tranter. There were approximately 210 staff members gathered at the Peterborough

Curling Club for this exciting opportunity to focus on building community.

The Catholic Parent Engagement Committee hosted guest speaker Pat Rivard at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School presenting on the impact of the pandemic on students, staff and families.

PVNCCDSB has advocated to the Ministry regarding hiring Special Education Allotment trainers internally. Traditionally PVNCCDSB has been supported in these roles through a contract, costing upwards of \$18,000/month. Permission was sought from the ministry and granted, with the hope to hire 2.0 FTE to support technology in the system. PVNCCDSB is hopeful to apply for a third classroom for the Education and Community Partnership Program. If successful a classroom could be set up in the City of Kawartha Lakes or Northumberland regions, we are awaiting the Ministry's decision.

Planning is well underway, with Special Education Services Staff planning for 2023-2024, in consultation with Dr. Lee Ann Jung. Planning for next year should be finalized by the end of June. Superintendent Armstrong shared the Ministries Advisory Council on Special Education report.

Staffing updates were given. Special Education has been reduced by a Mental Health Lead and Autism Spectrum Disorder Itinerant Teacher due to budget pressures, but maintained the consultant dedicated to autism spectrum disorder students. An itinerant educational assistant has been added, meaning there will be 3 in this role supporting special education support staff. The role of Special Education Support Staff Supervisor, promoting positive student behaviour has been added as well. Vice Principal of Special Education Services/ECPP, Laura Di Ianni will be moving to support Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School as Vice Principal. Karen Spenceley, Special Education Curriculum Chair at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School will be moving into the role of Vice Principal of Special Education Services/ECPP and will support the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds attended to discuss questions that arose at the May Special Education Advisory Committee meeting regarding assessments and individual education plans. 1086 elementary students have IEP accounting for 18% of the elementary school population. 1273 secondary students have IEP, accounting for 27% of the secondary school population. Dr. Chan Reynolds reviewed identification categories; Communication Learning Disabled, Autism, Language Impairment, Multiple Identifications, Developmentally Delayed and Mild Intellectual Disability, including the number of students identified in those groupings. Placement was discussed, listing the number of students and their placements of regular class with resource assistance, regular class with indirect support, regular class with direct support, regular class with partial integration and contained classroom (CASA).

Regarding assessments, 125 psychological education assessments were completed by the Psychometrists as of the meeting date. Speech Language Pathologists focus on both language development and speech assessments. Speech assessments decide whether the student will need to be directed to more intensive therapeutic sessions. Those students that do not meet the threshold to be directed to more intensive therapeutic services have Speech Language Pathologist work with the families on the pieces they can support the student with. 110 speech assessments have been completed to date.

The bulk of SLP work is completed with primary students, but they do support some junior and intermediate students. Older students continuing to struggle, would likely have a psychological education assessment. There is an ongoing waitlist, since there is constant consultation of who needs an assessment and when. There are currently 163 students on the waitlist, with the Clarington region's waitlist being larger due to population growth in the area. The speech language pathology waitlist is extensive, partially to do with need, but mainly to do with staffing challenges. PVNCCDSB currently has 2 full-time speech language pathologists and 3 on leave that were not able to be backfilled. Speech assessments sit at 49 on the waitlist and language assessments at 45.

3. Remarks: Trustee Kathleen Tanguay

Spoke to the discussion from the previous meeting regarding budget, confirmed that 15 special education support staff positions that were funded through COVID response will be cut. The Ministry is focusing funding on math and early literacy coaches. There will be a shift in superintendent portfolios, as one will need to shift into Math as per the Ministry requirements. Recently attended their provincial meeting (Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association), but not many resolutions were brought forward. This could possibly be the focus of the Special Education Advisory Committee to bring suggestions forward to the board level to propose resolutions at the provincial meeting. Superintendent Heuchert's presentation regarding the budget should be shared with the board.

C. Presentations/Discussion Items:

1. Special Education Plan - Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Special Education Services/Faith & Equity/Learning & Laura Di Ianni, Vice-Principal of Special Education Services

Laura Di Ianni presented PVNCCDSB's Special Education Plan. The process for special education support staff allocation, including the ministry required medical 47100and/or behavioural pillars. Throughout COVID extra funding had been given by the Ministry due to the large dysregulation of students. Professional development will be offered to Special Education Resource Teachers, Principals, Vice Principals and teachers will engage in professional development with Laura Faith to address executive functioning looking to emotional regulation and validation.

Through PVNCCDSB's Special Education Plan the board will action to build equitable and inclusive environments through relationship-based approaches. New Special Education Resource Teachers will engage in training reviewing the goals, roles/responsibilities, and the special education processes. They will also receive TAPS/Weschler training. EMPOWER training will continue for new Special Education Resource Teachers and refresher training for existing Special Education Resource Teachers. Classroom for Autism Spectrum Assistance (CASA) team professional development will continue.

Administrative Procedure 912: Supporting Positive Student Behaviour training will continue, along with debriefs and safety support plan training for all new Principals and Vice Principals.

A Special Education Support Staff audit is likely forthcoming in the next few years, as other boards are currently going through the process. This ensures that students being supported by special education support staff are meeting the pillars in accordance with Ministry standards.

The Ministry only requires a checklist be completed regarding the Special Education Plan and submitted by July 31, 2023. There were only minor updates to the plan, including changes in Special Education Advisory Committee members and updates to professional development for the upcoming school year. The Special Education Plan is changing and will continue towards the goal of redefining accessibility outside of just the physical/environmental space. It will include removing attitudinal barriers and social accessibility. Administrative Procedures regarding accessibility have expanded from 1 to 5 in the last 2 years and will be reflected in the Special Education Plan where applicable.

From the presentation:

The committee discussed the presentation. Trustee Tanguay requested that the 5 administrative procedures be shared with her. The committee asked where PVNCCDSB may be seeing gaps in schools. Superintendent Armstrong explained that consistent with data from other boards in the province mental health and behaviour have increased dramatically post-Covid and may be supported by trauma-informed approaches. It would be beneficial to have more funding for mental health and behaviour, possibly with mental health workers in schools that have a trauma lens. The hope is to have the Supervisor of Special Education Support Staff hired with BCBA qualifications.

2. Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee ([PAaC](#) on SEAC) Review of Results from Member Evaluation Survey -Presented by Jeannie Armstrong

Superintendent Armstrong thanked the committee for participating in the survey. It is important to continue to evaluate to ensure obligations are being met. The survey revealed some gaps, which will guide the committee where to focus.

Goal setting should be discussed at the first meeting of the year with a plan of what that will look like going forward and how to evaluate. The goal could be set/planned for 3 years with learning actions shifting as needed.

Further suggestions for implementation included effective practices, annual planning, annual calendar, orientation session (will be worked on this summer) and orientation booklet that can be included on the website. This will hopefully help

with the recruitment of more members and diversifying membership. Self-evaluation should be completed annually by the committee to guide next steps for the upcoming year.

From the survey results, the importance of bringing the special education plan with any updates/changes, having a presentation on the Catholic Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (CBIPSAW) presented in the fall, member contributions, recognition, appreciation (meeting with a meal), training, and orientation were all the strategies discussed.

The survey also suggested that a change of meeting time to the daytime may allow the meeting to be more accessible to more membership/organizations, and possibly including some options for virtual dates (winter weather).

Motion that the Special Education Advisory Committee meetings change from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Motion: Cheryl Kottelenberg
Second: Clare Paterson

Carried

Motion to extend the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting 20 minutes.

Motion: Cheryl Kottelenberg
Second: Kathleen Tanguay

Carried

3. Setting of topics for Board Presentations 2023-2024.

Date	Topic
September 28, 2023	Special Education Board Improvement Plan SEAC Orientation Booklet
October 19, 2023	Catholic Board Improvement Planning for Student Achievement & Well-being (CBIPSAW) Staff Census
November 16, 2023	Special Education & Overall Budget Social Work
January 18, 2024	Virtual 1:00 p.m. The Third Path, UDL Executive Functioning
February 15, 2024	Virtual 1:00 p.m. Equity & Inclusive Education

March 21, 2024	Funding for Families - Community Agencies
April 25, 2024	Beyond the IPRC & IEP - What information parents need to know
May 16, 2024	Budget
June 13, 2024	Special Education Plan PAaC on SEAC

D. Correspondence Items:

Correspondence Items/updates were received as follows:

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. 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
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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: Karen Spenceley
 - c. Closing Prayer: Kathleen Tanguay

I. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Shawna Belcourt
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Cheryl Kottelenberg

Seconded by: Clare Paterson

That the meeting held on June 15, 2023, be adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Carried