



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2022

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/yaz-efhj-iph

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson:

Members: Arlene Godby, Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, Sandra Scott, Helen McCarthy

Guests: Isabel Grace

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent:

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 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. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Helen McCarthy

Seconded by: Clare Paterson

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of May 19, 2022 Meeting.

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt

Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on April 21, 2022 be approved as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chair – Arlene Godby

Thanked Shawna Belcourt for stepping in as acting chairperson and thanked the committee for the gift. The autism world saw a huge loss this past weekend, Draven Graham, a child living with autism went missing and was found deceased. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and community. From tragedy comes opportunity for change, calling for a public warning system similar to the Amber Alert system, to ensure the alert is sent out and that first responders are properly trained to assist autistic people. Encouraged everyone to sign the petition to support this movement.

After years on the Special Education Advisory Committee it was time to move on, thanked everyone, and is very proud of the work that SEAC has done.

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

The Superintendent thanked the committee members for their dedication and support as we head to the end of the school year. Chair Arlene Godby was recognized for her years of dedication to the committee and wished well upon her departure from SEAC.

Central Staff are engaging in system planning for the upcoming school year, planning by department then coming together as a whole system to provide student engagement, professional development, collaboration and renewed partnerships.

School visits continue across the board, beginning with CASA and SBAP classrooms. Recently presented to 13 principals partaking in the Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualification course in regards to intersection of identity

and special education, the focus by the Ministry of Education on destreaming K-12, and the impact of destreaming on racialized students, Indigenous students, students living in poverty and students with special education needs. Guest speakers for two of these sessions included April Smoke, Education Officer for Alderville First Nation and Asante Haughton, Mental Health Advocate.

Central staffing for the upcoming school year is almost complete, with the addition of a Special Education Services Consultant. Sharon Davenport, formerly the ASD Itinerant Teacher, has accepted the role and staffing is currently underway to fill her former vacancy. The position of Special Education Services/Special Equipment Amount Secretary is also being staffed for the fall.

A grant application has been submitted to support special education students/students living with disabilities through Universal Design for Learning, we are awaiting Ministry approval. The Ministry has announced funding to support Math for Special Education students, we await further details.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful summer, looking forward to collaborating in 2022-23.

3. Remarks: Trustee Helen McCarthy

Echoed sentiments about Arlene Godby's commitment and gifts within SEAC - including her addition of Key Learnings after presentation to the agenda.

The Committee of the Whole is reviewing the budget and by laws. Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Business gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation of the draft budget, highlighting grant applications, labour negotiations and priorities of the board.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentation:

1. Budget - Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Finance

Superintendent Isabel Grace presented the 2022-2023 Draft Budget which will move forward for final approval at the June Board meeting. The budget will be presented with a deficit, although usually boards present break even, they are allowed to present with a deficit.

Enrolment is fairly static, so grants and allocations based on enrollment should remain the same. Enrollment did experience some losses at the beginning of the pandemic, but has since recovered close to pre-pandemic levels. Potential salary increases were factored into grant applications at 1%, but that could be higher due to inflation. The

funding changes related to required E-Learning courses will be phased in over the next three years.

Many challenges continue, including staffing absenteeism pressures for short and long term absences, supply staff shortages and pressures from inflation. Facility accessibility continues to be a challenge, as funding is carved out for schools with needed accessibility upgrades as well as program pressures.

PVNCCDSB has seen significant funding changes from prior years, with some funds expiring and the loss of COVID funding. Some new investments were created. Other Board investments with the creation of new positions have created the position are funding at a deficit. These positions include 7.0 FTE literacy coaches (partially funded by grant), cyber security administrator, and equity advisor. Enveloped funds from previous years will be used to hire a Deep Inquiry Learning Coach for intermediate grades and additional Indigenous Education consultant.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation.

Asked about the role of literacy coach - the coach is there as a two-fold role, individual tutoring with students while in the classroom, but also assisting teachers in teaching methodology to expand teacher knowledge in improving literacy for students. The committee was glad the literacy coaches are being extended the full year instead of cutting off in December.

The committee asked if the Equity Advisor would sit on SEAC, currently this role is not included in the Terms of Reference. Happy to see the board is being proactive with the literacy coaching.

Inquired if staffing levels remained the same for the upcoming year, it will not, as additional Education Assistants were placed in classrooms previously with COVID funding that is now ending. Staffing ranges are similar to pre-pandemic levels. Observation will occur in the fall addressing needs as they arise.

2. Special Education Plan Review - Laura Di Ianni, Vice Principal of Special Education Services & Jeannie Armstrong

Vice Principal, Laura Di Ianni reviewed the Special Education Plan. Updates have been made to the Special Education Plan, but not in regards to compliance, more reflective of changes in our system, strategic priorities and universal design for learning.

Similar to last year, the Special Education Plan Review was that of a checklist to be sent to the Ministry of Education in consultations with the SEAC. There were minor updates to be made to the plan to ensure it is compliant with the Ministry's requirements. These updates will be made and the checklist will be submitted to the Ministry this summer.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation and thanked Laura Di Ianni for her review of the plan and the updates made. It was asked if integration into the regular classroom was still a priority and how PVNCCDSB was accommodating that. PVNC has inclusive classrooms. The School Based Autism Program students are integrated in inclusive classrooms, the model in itself are in inclusive settings including the integration of CASA & SBAP classes. So many students are transitioning back to the classroom setting. Seeing student students transitioning back to regular classroom when they have the skill set and self regulation skills to return. Ultimate goal is inclusive and transitioning back to the classroom.

A. Correspondence Items:

The following correspondence items were received for information:

1. Conseil Écoles catholiques Centre-Est - Note Politique/Programmes no 81 (NPP 81), Services auxiliaires de santé (attached)

B. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received as follows:

- a. PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>
- b. Community Living Trent Highlands - June 2022 Report (attached)
- c. Autism Ontario
 - i. Autism Ontario Newsletter
<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=1182>
 - ii. LGBTQ2S+ Toolkit
<https://aidecanada.ca/learn/education/lgbtq-toolkit>
- d. PAaC on SEAC
 - i. [Funding Resource Guide](#)
 - ii. [Effective Practices for Recruitment of Local Association Members for SEAC](#)

C. Old Business:

1. Checklist – from PAac on SEAC Discussion
2. 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
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D. New Business:

Please reach out to Jeannie Armstrong if you're interested in being chair, interim chair.

D. Next Meeting:

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
 - a. Territorial Recognition: Shawna Belcourt
 - b. Opening Prayer: Shawna Belcourt
 - c. Closing prayer: Jeannie Armstrong

2. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:

6:30-8:30 pm	Thursdays
September 22, 2022	March 23, 2023
October 20, 2022	April 27, 2023
November 17, 2022	May 18, 2023
January 19, 2023	June 15, 2023
February 16, 2023	10th Meeting

Plan for in-person for September

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Sandra Scott
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Helen McCarthy

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That the meeting held on May 19, 2022 be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Carried