



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 17, 2021

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/wae-eive-nkc

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

Members: Arlene Godby (Chair), Kelly Śmigielski, Shawna Belcourt, Sandra Scott, Helen McCarthy

Guests: Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu, Chantal Bouillon, Jeff Hockett, Lynda Thomas, Steve Williams, Isabel Grace

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

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent (by motion): Emmanuel Pinto, Melissa Gillespie, 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 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: Laura Di Ianni

3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Kelly Śmigielski
Seconded by: Sandra Scott
That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Helen McCarthy
Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt
That Emmanuel Pinto, Melissa Gillespie, Clare Paterson be excused from attendance at the June 17, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

7. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of May 27, 2021 Meeting.

Moved by: Helen McCarthy
Seconded by: Sandra Scott
That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on May 27, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes:

Laura Di Ianni shared with the committee that the AODA has new K-12 standards on accessibility. Review of the AODA Act – identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in all areas of their lives. K-12 Education Standards Development Committee – will focus on addressing accessibility barriers particular to publicly funded K-12 schools. Links will be shared with the committee for feedback.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chair – Arlene Godby

Thanked the members of the Special Education Advisory Committee for an amazing year; a lot of work, reviewing, inputting of opinions of thoughts, wants and hopes for the children we are supporting. Thank you to the committee for drilling down, reading and providing feedback.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services – Laurie Corrigan

A final report to the Minister's Advisory Council on special education including a number of recommendations that have been supported by this table, which include the stabilization of funding, the needs of exceptional learners in online environments, and enough time to determine through process and reorientation learning renewal and learning recovery opportunities our students may need moving forward.

Information was shared regarding summer learning and summer special education learning opportunities including our transitions programs which will run at the end of the summer in preparation for a return to school are found on our website.

<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Summer-Learning-Programs-Spec-Ed.pdf>

Superintendent Corrigan thanked the people around the table, staff, parents and in particular the Special Education Advisory Committee and its chair Arlene Godby for their support of the work we have undertaken in ways that are unprecedented.

Lynda Thomas, former CASA teacher and current consultant, who is retiring this year was acknowledged for her work in supporting the virtual school. Moving forward, approximately 600 students registered.

3. Update from Trustees:

Helen McCarthy

Very impressed by the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee – May 18th hosted a remote presentation that families were able to join virtually, with approximately 200 families attending.

Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) – receiving more funding for a wonderful adventure that Superintendent Tim Moloney and staff are on, providing opportunities to students.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations To Be Determined

1. Role of the Special Education Consultant – Special Education Consultants; Chantal Bouillon, Jeff Hockett, Lynda Thomas, and Steve Williams.

The special education consultants gave an overview of the different ways in which they support students and staff within PVNC schools and virtual school. This is implemented through communication and intervention support, consultation, partnerships, technology and equipment. Consultants supported teachers through

the Special Education Support Hour (SESH), weekly 1 hour with a variety of topics, sessions were recorded so they were available to staff if they were unable to attend.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation, including the enormity of the challenges faced this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Special Education Support Hour (SESH) was a great idea to help staff support students.

2. Budget – Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services and Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Business/Plant and Facilities

Isabel Grace and Laurie Corrigan presented the 2021-2022 Budget, highlighting key differences from this year to next and their subsequent impact on the budget. In 2020-2021 PVNC received COVID-19 specific funding for staffing, resources, ventilation, and tech devices primarily from the Federal Government which will likely not be extended into the 2021-2022 school year. 2021-2022 EDU has provided some Covid-19 support, limited to 50% of allocation for the fall with the remainder in abeyance until a possible decision later in the school year. Distribution of the funds will be determined late August/early September as needs in the system become clearer.

There has been a significant & unexpected enrollment decline. PVNC received \$2.5 million in stabilization funding (one-time support from EDU) to support the decline. For 2021-2022 PVNC estimated enrolment conservatively as no stabilization monies are forthcoming. The enrolment decline required reductions to be made during the draft of the budget, particularly to those departments whose funding is enrolment based. Spring enrollment numbers were used for projection for the fall, so as enrollment is added, funding will increase to support it.

2020-2021 – the staffing structure of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Virtual School was treated incrementally and the PVNC Board of Trustees approved drawing down accumulated surplus (savings in reserve) to maintain staffing support to maintain smaller cohorts for in-person learning and to provide staffing for the virtual school. 2021 – 2022 staffing, including the virtual school is planned as per the normal and regular class size procedures and not 'incrementally.' Approximately 636 students have opted for virtual school in September, staffing is complex and includes combined grades. Budget to be balanced as required to comply with the Education Act regulation.

Administration has brought forward a balanced budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The reserves will be used to backstop in-year issues, which is normal practice.

Special Education will see the restoration of special education support staff to allocations received in September 2020. Special education resource teacher allocations have been reduced by two, one has been redirected to the virtual school. Centrally, PVNC has had a reduction of one special education consultant.

Summer Special Education opportunities are similar to last year with an ample budget. Currently PVNC is hiring SERTs, SESS for summer learning along with Social Work support. The Transitions program will run 2 cohorts in 4 regions of the

board for the final 2 weeks in August. The Summer After Schools Development Program will run once again this summer for 2 weeks in July.

Going forward PVNC continues to provide recommendations to the Minister's advisory council in special education. The Council of Directors of Education and the Ontario Catholic Trustees Association continue to advocate for additional support come September start up. September will represent another opportunity to review school needs, and the possibility of additional last-minute funding. The SEAC letter to the Minister of Education will go to the board meeting June 22, 2021.

3. Special Education Plan Review – Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services

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.

B. Correspondence Items:

1. DDSB – Needs based Funding/Services For Children with a Diagnosis Of Autism – New Pilot Project

Some preliminary information has been released that a pilot project had been undertaken, not by school boards, but by agencies. There was a request from the ministry to support those agencies. Sharon Davenport, ASD Itinerant Teacher has reached out, and we were invited to attend the Ministry of Education SES session. It would begin in the 2022-2023 school year. The question at this time though is, how are families accessing this? More information to follow as it becomes available.

C. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received by the following organizations as per the attachments to the June 17, 2021 Agenda Package:
 - i. Grandview – Update June 2021
 - ii. Autism Ontario Report

D. Old Business:

1. Membership Recruitment and Review of the [Terms of Reference](#) (page 18)
 - a. The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference in regards to membership. Number Section 6 – clarified that although someone may work for an organization within the board, that person must also be able to vote for the trustees within PVNCCDSB in order to sit as a member of SEAC.
 - b. Advertising, Invitations
 - i. Would continuing with virtual meetings be more accessible to new members?
 - ii. Why I joined – SEAC stories of the members – maybe something we could do next year and share with families/invitees – please reach out to Laurie

- Corrigan if you wish to participate.
- iii. Banner on the website & Twitter to the Communications Department to spread the word we're looking for new members.
- iv. At the school level have schools share via Facebook and Newsletters that SEAC is recruiting.
- v. DID YOU KNOW – SEAC is looking for new members

- c. Organizations & Associations to invite
 - i. Canopy Support Services
 - ii. Five Counties
 - iii. Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services
 - iv. Agencies helping children that may be involved with criminal justice system, Elizabeth Fry, John Howard Society
 - v. New Canadians Centre

Moved by: Kelly Śmigielski

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be extended from 8:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Carried

2. Topics for Next Year
 - a. Results of PAAC Survey from the [Agenda](#) of the January 14, 2021 meeting and [Minutes](#) of the March 25, 2021 meeting
 - b. Transitions
 - c. Return to School - September 2021
 - d. Mental Health and Wellbeing Plans

3. Local Support Groups for Parents of Children with Vision Loss was discussed as per below:
 - a. Provincial group [Vision On](#)
 - b. Parent groups on Facebook:
 - i. Parents of Blind and Visually Impaired Children
 - ii. Parents of Blind and Autistic Children
 - iii. CViConnect
 - iv. Cortical Vision Impairment DIY Supports Tools
 - v. CVI Awareness
 - vi. Communities for families affected b CVI

E. New Business:

None noted.

D. Next Meeting:

1. 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, September 16, 2021 - virtual

Thursday, October 21, 2021
Thursday, November 18, 2021
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Thursday, February 17, 2022
Thursday, March 24, 2022
Thursday, April 21, 2022
Thursday, May 19, 2022
Thursday, June 16, 2022
10th Meeting TBD
Location: TBD
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Arlene Godby
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Kelly Śmigielski

Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the meeting held on June 17, 2021 be adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Carried