

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2023
Catholic Education Centre - Boardroom
6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Shawna Belcourt

Vice-Chairperson: Clare Paterson

Members: Clare Paterson, Cheryl Kottelenberg, Kathleen Tanguay

Guests: Sheila Piggott, Sandra Connolly, Erin Bibby

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent: Shawna Belcourt

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 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: Cheryl Kottelenberg

3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Moved by: Cheryl Kottelenberg

Seconded by: Kathleen Tanguay
That the agenda be approved as presented.
Carried

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2023 Meeting.

Moved by: Kathleen Tanguay
Seconded by: Cheryl Kottelenberg
That the Minutes of the Special Education Committee meeting held on February 16, 2023 be approved as amended.
Carried

7. Business arising from the Minutes:

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Vice Chairperson, Clare Paterson

Clare Paterson welcomed the committee and guests, as well she gave a brief overview of her time on the committee since joining in 2010.

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

Superintendent Armstrong thanked Clare Paterson for chairing the meeting. Addendums to the agenda under the category of correspondence, includes a letter to the Ministry regarding Special Incidence Portion funding. The letter from PVNCCDSB's SEAC was requested by and forwarded to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association.

Principal professional development occurred March 22, from our special education team and mental health and well-being teams. Topics presented included The Third Path, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and Special Equipment Amount funding (SEA). Upcoming professional development will include Learning for Living (LFL) and Learning Life Skills (LLS) teachers, vice principals and special education curriculum chairs.

OECTA supports the implementation of diagnostic assessment tools including the Phonological Awareness Screening Tool (PAST) and the Quick Phonics Screener (QPS). These tools will be administered by special education resource teachers to help determine Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading interventions for students.

The department is beginning the planning and budgeting process for next year, although we are still awaiting information from the Ministry in regards to funding. More information will be forthcoming as the budget is determined and will be presented by Superintendent Heuchert and Chief Financial Officer Teri Smith at the May meeting.

3. Remarks: Trustee Kathleen Tanguay

Trustee Tanguay shared that at the last Board meeting there was a lot of discussion in regards to St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School Bowmanville, which is currently sitting at 197% capacity. Finding a solution for the capacity issue has been challenging, with the potential to move some students in higher grades to St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School or possibly a new school being built. If these students were moved to the secondary school, special education considerations for support would need to be determined.

C. Presentations/Discussion Items:

1. Durham Community Transition Evening - Erin Bibby, CASA Teacher, Holy Trinity CSS

Erin Bibby presented on the Durham Community Transition evening that was hosted by the Durham District School Board she attended with Autism Home Base, an organization she volunteers with. The annual event offered information to families on transitions from approximately 50 community organizations. The event was easy to navigate as organizations were identified by function through varying table cloth colours. The event was held at the Durham District School Board office, offering a sensory friendly atmosphere with no music, dim lights, and quiet spaces. DDSB also offers information on the event on their website. The event also offered the opportunity to build personal connections.

It was explained how a similar event may be beneficial for PVNCCSDB families as students age out of school programming; even if offered regionally. It would also be a good opportunity for educators to attend to gather information for transition meetings.

From the Presentation:

The committee discussed the presentation and how this may be a beneficial event for PVNCCSDB to host in the future. There was discussion in collaborating with the public board and Durham to maximize participation from organizations with the possibility of servicing multiple exceptionalities.

2. De-Streaming to Support Special Education Students - Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant and Sheila Piggott, Superintendent of Learning

Superintendent Sheila Piggott gave an overview of the previous secondary pathways and the research supporting destreaming. Previously, pathways were decided for workplace, college or university depending on what was projected for the student. Research has shown that marginalized and special education students were transitioned into the workplace or applied pathways instead of academic streams. Ontario was the only province that transitioned pathways at grade 9, other provinces did so at a higher grade (usually 10 or 11).

The rationale for destreaming is to promote equitable access to curricular pathways. Open courses, which are destreamed courses already exist. These courses include physical education, art, business and religion. Data suggests that in grade 9 math only 8-10% of students in the academic pathway had an IEP, whereas 48% of students in applied courses had an IEP. In grade 10 English, over 50% of the students in applied courses had an IEP, whereas only 10-13% of students in the academic pathway had an IEP.

The classrooms' environment and educators will need to adapt to support destreaming using such tools as universal design for learning, building thinking classrooms, assessment for learning and culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy. PVNCCDSB has also completed a grade 9 destreaming writing project, which involved having schools write lessons individually and then providing sharing and networking opportunities between schools. It is important in this process of destreaming to seek student voice.

From the Presentation:

The committee discussed the presentation and how challenging it is to choose a pathway at such a young age. They liked how this will help support the students with learning challenges and be more equitable for all students. The group discussed the potential for destreaming grade 10, which at this point won't happen for the upcoming school year but could occur in the future. The committee discussed how the timing of modifications for students can also affect pathways.

3. Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PaAC on SEAC) Checklist Review - Clare Paterson

The committee broke out into two groups to review the PaAC on SEAC. Clare, Cheryl and Kathleen worked on updating sections 5.3 SEAC Motions, 3.1 Annual Planning and 3.2 Annual SEAC Goals. Jeannie and Laura worked to update sections 3.3 Special Education Programs & Services Development & Delivery,

3.5 Board Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and 3.7 Public Access and Consultation. Updates were noted in the PaAC on SEAC document.

D. Correspondence Items:

Correspondence Items/updates were received as follows:

1. Near North District School Board - Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

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 - March Break Events Flyer
3. Alternative Community Program Services - March Break Event

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

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: Kathleen Tanguay
 - c. Closing Prayer: Clare Paterson

2. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:

Date (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	Topic
April 27, 2023	Demographic Student Census
May 18, 2023	Budget
June 15, 2023	Special Education Plan

I. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Kathleen Tanguay
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Kathleen Tanguay

Seconded by: Cheryl Kotellenberg

That the meeting held on March 23, 2023 be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Carried