



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 27, 2021

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/fmd-odza-esb

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

Members: Arlene Godby (Chair), Shawna Belcourt, Sandra Scott, Helen McCarthy, Emmanuel Pinto

Guests: Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu, Theresa Godin

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

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent (by motion): Clare Paterson, Kelly Smigielski, Melissa Gillespie

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. Additions to the Agenda

a. Information Items: Community Living Trent Highlands - Update

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Emmanuel Pinto

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That Kelly Smigielski, Melissa Gillespie and Clare Paterson be excused from attendance at the May 27, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

7. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of April 29, 2021 Meeting.

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on April 29, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes:

The 5 AODA policies were approved at the Policy Committee meeting held April 20, 2021. The policies approved are as follows:

[818 – Accessibility and Barrier Free Learning and Work Environment – Employment](#)

[819 – Accessibility and Barrier Free Learning and Work Environment – Information and Communication](#)

[820 – Accessibility and Barrier Free Learning and Work Environment – Transportation](#)

[821 – Accessibility and Barrier Free Learning and Work Environment – Design of Public Spaces](#)

[822 – Accessibility and Barrier Free Learning and Work Environment – Customer Service](#)

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chair – Arlene Godby

As we are coming to the end of school year be mindful of the planning as we transition to next. In correspondence we will discuss a letter related to gaps in funding, it is important that the committee come together and decide if this is a letter they would like to support. If the letter is supported it would proceed to the next board meeting in June.

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

Virtual learning from home continues across PVNCCDSB for staff and students, we commend them for their adaptability and dedication during the school shutdowns.

Nurturing Hope was the theme for 2021 Catholic Education Week, having Student Leaders honoured from each school. Children's Mental Health Week coincided with Catholic Education Week dates.

Postings have gone out for the summer programs similar to last year. PVNCCDSB will be offering Special Education Support for Summer Learning, Continuity of Well Being, After School Skills Development Program, and Transitions Program.

Work continues on the budget, which will be brought to the next meeting along with Superintendent of Business Isabel Grace. As well, a letter is being brought forward at this meeting, for endorsement from the committee in regards to moving available funding forward earlier than last year, including stabilization funding and Covid-19 funding that we will not be receiving this year.

Anti-racist training continues to move forward, with Monte Molepo presenting to secondary principals and teachers on the recent secondary PA Day. De-streaming of grade 9 math continues.

The Catholic Parent Engagement Committee (CPEC) meeting was well attended with approximately 200 parents for the presentation from Dr. Joti Samra speaking on support of strategies helping our students during the pandemic.

Asymptomatic testing in schools continues as well as vaccinations, with the hopes that staff can receive their second doses by September. Work is underway with the local health units in regards to students 12 – 17 being vaccinated, at this time use of schools is not required for these purposes.

The consultation for the Strategic Priorities has wrapped up, and now is tasked to the senior team to plan and recommend for September aligning with CSIPSAWB.

National Accessibility Awareness Week (NAAW) commences next week which Laura Di Ianni will speak to further later in the meeting.

Prayers were asked for a student of St. Elizabeth CES with medical complexities that passed away recently. Prayers for her, her family and school staff at this difficult time.

3. Update from Trustees:

Emmanuel Pinto

Asked for prayers as we come towards the end of this school year and planning for the upcoming one.

Helen McCarthy

The 'What is Autism' video from Holy Trinity CSS was presented at the Board meeting and was thoroughly appreciated by the board.

4. [Special Education Plan](#) Review and Ministry Checklist – June SEAC Meeting

Members were asked to review the Special Education Plan in preparation for the June meeting. This year's checklist has not been received from the Ministry yet, but the hope is to have it before the next SEAC meeting to be reviewed with the committee.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations

1. Teacher of the Blind – Theresa Godin, Itinerant Teacher, Blind Education

Theresa Godin gave a general overview of the role of the itinerant teacher of the visually impaired and examples of the spectrum of vision needs within the board. Blind/low vision children are a small population of students, but are impacted profoundly by the impairment in regards to education. Students are supported in multiple ways, including direct support, indirect support through staff and functional vision assessments.

Direct support to students is given through developing alternative IEP goals and teach lessons. Indirect service is provided by providing professional development, putting accommodations in place, training with assistive technology and equipment as well as ongoing collaboration. Assessments assess the functional vision for the student within their educational setting. IEP recommendations and accommodations for learning material and equipment, applications and print size are made at this time.

The itinerant teacher services a variety of visual impairments within our board. Categories of service include braille users (both dependent upon now, or with a degenerative disorder that will be in the future), low vision, cortical vision impairment (most common at PVNC) and visual perceptual disorders.

Vision very important in communication and self regulation skills.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation, including the importance of the early detection and communicating with families about support available. Secondary students mentoring elementary and connecting families with local support groups and/or hosting an event for families of students with visual impairment was discussed. The group also requested a Did You Know go out to families during National Accessibility Awareness Week in regards to visual impairment.

2. National Accessibility Awareness Week (NAAW)

Laura Di Ianni spoke on the plans for NAAW and provided an update. The theme this year is creating and maintaining inclusive communities and runs from May 30 – June 5. Resources have been offered to challenge attitudinal barriers. The themes addressed throughout the week are as follows; social accessibility, environmental accessibility, red shirt day (in recognition of Easter Seals), communication accessibility, and finally academic accessibility. The board and schools will be promoting this throughout the week. Resources for all schools and grade levels have been sent out to schools.

B. Correspondence Items:

1. PVNCCDSB Draft Letter to the Minister of Education

The draft letter was read to the committee, discussed and revised.

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Shawna Belcourt

That Special Education Advisory Committee support the Letter to the Minister of Education as amended.

Carried

C. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received by the following organizations as per the attachments to the May 27, 2021 Agenda Package:

- i. Autism Ontario – Update
- ii. Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough – Update
- iii. Grandview Kids – Update
- iv. Community Living Trent Highlands – Update

D. Old Business:

1. PAAC Survey Recommendations from previous [Minutes of March 25, 2021](#)

The committee discussed suggestions from the previous survey recommendations. Ideas were reviewed to encourage membership including website/social media blasts, sending local organizations and agencies invitations with the terms of reference, and parent members. The group decided to review the Terms of Reference in regards to membership and bring back some ideas to the June meeting.

Moved by: Shawna Belcourt

Seconded by: Emmanuel Pinto

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be extended from 8:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Carried

2. DID YOU KNOW – Transitions Update: went out on the School News Letters, and was tweeted by the Board.

E. New Business:

None noted.

D. Next Meeting:

1. **2020-2021 Meeting Dates:**

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: Laura Di Ianni
- b. Closing Prayer: Arlene Godby

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Laurie Corrigan
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the meeting held on May 27, 2021 be adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Carried