



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 18, 2021

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: [meet.google.com/atc-uxqv-aaw](https://meet.google.com/atc-uxqv-aaw)

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

**Chairperson: Arlene Godby**

**Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie**

**Members:** Arlene Godby (Chair), Sandra Scott, Helen McCarthy, Emmanuel Pinto, David Bernier

**Guests:** Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu, Chantal Bouillon, Jeff Hockett

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

**Recorder:** Vicki Blakely

**Absent (by motion):** Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, Melissa Gillespie

### A. Call to Order:

#### 1. Land Acknowledgment: Sandra Scott

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: Sandra Scott

#### 3. Additions to the Agenda

SEAC legislation was reviewed to confirm a quorum was established.

#### 4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Sandra Scott  
Seconded by: Emmanuel Pinto  
That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Sandra Scott  
Seconded by: Emmanuel Pinto  
That Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, and Melissa Gillespie be excused from attendance at the November 18, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

7. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of October 21, 2021 Meeting.

Moved by: Helen McCarthy  
Seconded by: Sandra Scott  
That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on October 21, 2021 be approved as amended to include the full written statement given verbally by Chairperson Bernier at the meeting.

Carried

Moved by: Arlene Godby  
Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the link to the Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meetings be included in the SEAC Agendas.

Carried

<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Remarks: Chair – Arlene Godby

Welcomed tonight's presenters Chantal Bouillon and Jeff Hockett. This will be the last meeting before the New Year, as there is no December meeting. Hopeful that the committee can all meet in-person for the January meeting to discuss the PAaC document.

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

The month of Remembrance has been marked throughout PVNC in November through National Aboriginal Veterans Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies. PVNCCDSB Mass for the Deceased took place November 16 at Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Chains.

The Ministry of Education informed the board Monday that for the third year, the Special Incidence Portion process would not be required to be completed. Funding is expected to be based on previous and new claims with a 5% increase. This was welcomed news due to the professional learning and time commitment to complete these forms in the context of the global pandemic and the staffing pressures as a result.

Central staff has been deployed, including Special Education Consultants, on Mondays and Fridays to help with unfilled vacancies due to the pandemic. This issue is province wide throughout all school boards.

All staff will be offered learning on the PA Day, November 26, in regards to equity, anti-sex trafficking and bullying. All CASA team members will receive training in Behaviour Management Systems and Applied Behavioural Analysis.

A report to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education was submitted on behalf of the Board by Superintendent Corrigan advising that approximately 1900 students returned to in-person learning this fall from virtual school. The challenges in the area of mental health and well-being that students and family are experiencing were conveyed including in particular early years students, who have marked almost half of their lives in isolation due to the pandemic. Funding for student and family support was requested.

Superintendent Corrigan has requested that an inquiry or commission into learning be executed, due to the increasingly complete nature of school needs. The last one, For the Love of Learning, took place in 1994 and thus it seemed appropriate timing to begin the process given the needs and challenges being faced.

The Feast of Christ the King and the approach of advent is quickly approaching.

3. Update from Trustees:

Updates from both Trustees were heard, including the appointment of the interim Trustee Loretta Durst. September 30<sup>th</sup> marked National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The New Strategic Priorities has been approved by the board. Updates in regards to immunization and mandatory vaccination were given. Trustee Pinto gave his resignation from the committee effective the end of November citing personal reasons and scheduling conflict (full statement attached). Trustee Pinto thanked the committee for their hard work and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the members.

## C. Discussion Items:

### A. SEAC Meeting Presentation(s)

#### 1. Successes of Students Through Technology – Special Education Consultants Chantal Bouillon and Jeff Hockett

Special Education Consultants Chantal Bouillon and Jeff Hockett presented on the successes of students through technology. Technology for all is providing a creative, inclusive and equitable education for all students. Assistive technology allows students to transition from exclusion, to inclusion and ideally belonging. Looking at learners from a lens that there is no such thing as a typical student or learner. Previously students were 'othered' or centred out by assistive technology, but Universal Design for Learning focuses on all students benefiting from different ways of learning and delivering curriculum. This means that learning/activities are designed for everyone and not accommodated or adjusted after the fact for different learning styles, fostering a sense of belonging for all students.

SEA (Special Equipment Amount) has supported students to make learning more equitable by providing technology and equipment to students through professional clinician recommendations from third parties. Technology/equipment is embedded in the child's learning and access to learning and must be in their IEP (Individual Education Plan). The process for students is for a referral to clinicians/third parties to make recommendations for students, that then will come back to the board for purchase. Often trials are used to see what technology piece will work with the students' diverse learning.

The pandemic has given opportunity to explore a more universal approach to learning with students accessing technology to learn during school closures.

#### Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation. The process for SEA equipment, how it is accessed and how parents are informed. Conversations with parents are happening sooner due to the frequency/normalcy of assistive technology and all students accessing more technology. The committee was curious as to how vulnerable students are protected using technology and the Google Suite. Superintendent Corrigan shared that students are educated about safety and protection by staff throughout their schooling, third party consents must be signed by parents and that Google is a signatory of the "Student Privacy Pledge" (link below).

<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/programs-services/information-technology-services/google-apps/>

The committee asked what the biggest challenges have been during the pandemic with all the technology?

WIFI was a challenge for both student and teacher. If there were outages, this created new challenges in delivering lesson plans. Helping both parents and teachers adapt to the virtual classroom was challenging. Often students were helping their parents to use the technology.

The committee asked if there is any policy or legislation in regards to curriculum and UDL (Universal Design for Learning) guidelines or could it be if it does not exist yet? The Human Rights Commission really advocates for UDL especially in regards to reading and the Right to Read Inquiry.

How can the committee help support you, in supporting those students?  
It's crucial that a level of understanding is developed in regards to the variety of ways students learn; awareness in neurodiversity and diversity in learning. Using different technology and equipment and providing different methodologies and deliveries in learning to meet the needs of every student. It's crucial that the stigma parents feel is broken so learning can move forward and focus on what the classroom looks like now and that things have changed.

B. Correspondence Items:

1. Trillium Lakelands District School Board – RE: Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
  - a. Deferred to the January 20, 2022 SEAC meeting for further discussion.

C. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received by the following organizations as per the attachments to the November 18, 2021 Agenda Package:
  - i. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association – Joint Letter with Trustee Associations, Ontario Council of Universities RE: AODA Compliance Reporting
    1. It was mentioned that PVNCCDSB's website is AODA compliant, but that PVNC does not have authority over compliance for third party websites linked through our site to be AODA compliant.
  - ii. Community Living Trent Highlands Updates

D. Old Business:

1. None

E. New Business:

1. The committee discussed having an in-person meeting to discuss the PAaC results.

Moved by: Helen McCarthy

Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the January 20, 2022 SEAC meeting take place through a hybrid model, both virtually and in-person at the Catholic Education Centre.

Carried

**D. Next Meeting:**

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
  - a. Territorial Recognition & Opening Prayer: Arlene Godby
  - b. Closing prayer: Laurie Corrigan

**2. 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:**

<b>6:30-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Virtually</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
January 20	PAAC on SEAC – no presentation, group review and set action <b>Hybrid Model – Virtual and In-person at the Catholic Education Centre</b>
February 17	Transitions from Grade School to High School, High School and Beyond, and ECPP – Mandy Hamu, Sharon Davenport, and Laura Di Ianni
March 24	Equity Census Update – Superintendent of Learning Jeannie Armstrong
April 21	Update from Social Workers regarding support of Mental Health Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds
May 19	Budget Review – Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services Laurie Corrigan and Superintendent of Business Finance/Plant Isabel Grace
June 16	Special Education Plan Review
10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	TBD

**E. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Emmanuel Pinto
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Helen McCarthy

That the meeting held on November 18, 2021 be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Carried

### Resignation Statement of Trustee Pinto

My third and final topic is a bit difficult for me. After much discernment and thought, I am resigning from this SEAC effective at the end of this month.

My mental health has been at an all-time low for the past few months and I feel the need to step back from some of my duties. I appreciate all of your input from the past two meetings as I strive to continue my personal mission of sharing God's love with all. I plan to take what I have learned from you all, reflect on it, and apply it as I discern God's will for my life.

Another factor is my course timetable next semester, which will make attending these meetings and attending my classes a difficulty.

I did not take this decision lightly. I have learned so much from being on this committee, and I really enjoy and benefit from participating in our discussions and listening to the presentations.

I am so grateful and appreciative of the good work that this committee does and all of the work that you do in your own agencies. You truly are God's hands on Earth.

I will pray for all of you, and I humbly request that you all pray for me.

We are only required to have one trustee present at SEAC. Trustee McCarthy will remain on this committee until November of 2022, and I trust that she will continue to work diligently as trustee representative at this table.

Thank you!

Emmanuel Pinto