



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 22, 2022
Large Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Acting Chairperson: Shawna Belcourt

Vice-Chairperson: N/A

Members: Shawna Belcourt
Guests: Lisa Gemmiti-Folz, Jennifer Angelo
Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni
Recorder: Vicki Blakely
Absent: Helen McCarthy, Clare Paterson

A. Call to Order:

A quorum was not established which prevented the passing of any motions. The agenda items were deferred to the next meeting.

1. Land Acknowledgment: Shawna Belcourt
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: Shawna Belcourt
3. Additions to the Agenda
 - a. Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) - Communication: Collaborating with the Community October 2022

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None

5. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2022 Meeting.

Deferred to the October 20, 2022 meeting.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Acting Chairperson, Shawna Belcourt

The acting chair welcomed everyone back to the in-person Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. Hoping students are able to transition back into a regular school year.

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

September has been a very busy month at PVNCCDSB, while we welcomed new staff: Sharon Davenport - Special Education Consultant, Evelyn Leslie - Autism Spectrum Disorder Itinerant Teacher, Jill Duncan - Special Education Support Staff Facilitator, Brittany Mongraw - Special Education Services/Special Equipment Amount Secretary. Recently the Desk Audit for accessibility was submitted to the Ministry. Training for new Special Education Resource Teachers and professional development for Principals has already been offered, with the welcome of in-person learning. Tenesia Benjamin, preferred name Benjamin, has begun working at PVNCCDSB in the new role of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor

C. Presentations/Discussion Items:

1. Summer Transitions – Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Leader and Lisa Gemmiti-Folz, Principal

Lisa Gemmiti-Folz presented on the Summer Transitions program that was offered to PVNCCDSB students. This is the third year offering the program, running it in the four regions of the board with 2 classrooms each in Clarington and Peterborough, and 1 classroom each in Northumberland and City of Kawartha Lakes. The classrooms were composed of multidisciplinary teams including the Principal, Special Education Resource Teacher, Autism Spectrum Disorder Worker as well as 2-3 Educational Assistants in each of the areas. Throughout the program 96 students attended the camp style program. The focus was on social skills development and school routine. Positive feedback and collaboration was received from both staff and families.

Jennifer Angelo presented on the transition program offered to students returning from virtual learning to in-person learning. Virtual sessions along with a home school visit were offered to families as well as through referrals from virtual and home schools. In total 4 virtual sessions were offered, K-6 and 7-12 with 34 participants attending virtually.

In-person, 23 families took part in the home school visits. These tours included a social worker, and one school staff member (Special Education Resource Teacher, Vice Principal or Principal).

Feedback from families is that they appreciated the opportunity to visit the school prior to the first day and for some to address concerns with the administration face to face. There was a consistent reporting of a decrease in anxieties of participants about their return to in-person. Good peer and parent connections were also made.

Resources were shared with all families of students returning to in-person learning from virtual including a calendar, conversation starters, and practical solutions.

Jeannie Armstrong presented on the Summer Institute that was offered to all staff August 23 - 25, 20. Topics included math, faith development, technological tools & applications, equity, mental health & well-being, special education, universal design for learning, trauma-informed practices and Indigenous education.

From the presentation: The committee commented on the program and what a great offering it was for students and families. They wondered how many students were returning to in-person learning. Most students were returning to in-person with approximately only 200 remaining K-12 from PVNCCDSB in virtual classrooms.

2. CBIPSAW - Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant

The Catholic Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (CBIPSAW) focuses on where we can improve as a board while we continue the things to implement the things being done well. A variety of departments and roles worked on developing the plan including feedback from principals and vice principals. Through the process the theories of action process was applied (if..., then...), with the intent for everyone to be able to see themselves within the plan. We will engage in instructional and assessment practices to foster communities where everyone thrives. We will value everyone's strengths, stories and voices to build meaningful connections with one another. We will listen to accompany and ensure all voices are heard. PVNCCDSB, through the CBIPSAW plan, will work to ensure our schools reflect the students within.

New this year, the CBIPSAW plan instead of being linear, is available on a n interactive site that includes guiding questions with links, outlining the goals, learning actions and strategic priorities. The link can be seen below:

<https://cbipsaw.pvnccdsb.on.ca/>

At the school level, Catholic School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-Being (CSIPSAW) can be found on the individual school website. Every November and April, learning visits take place with the Superintendent and Principal at the individual schools.

From the presentation:

The committee reflected on the presentation noting that a lot of work has gone into the planning. It was noted how nice, user friendly and interactive the website appears.

3. Special Education Improvement Plan Review - Laura Di Ianni, Vice Principal - Special Education Services

Laura Di Ianni presented on the Special Education Improvement Plan, highlighting how the strategic priorities of Being Creative, Being Well, and Being Community are reflected through special education goals.

The special education goal reflected through the strategic priorities of Being Creative ensures equity and inclusivity in the promotion of responsive pedagogy and assistive technology. This will be implemented through Universal Design of Learning and Deep Learning, and Special Equipment Amount as examples. The implementation of the Right to Read Inquiry recommendations will also be seen here with respect to Tier 2 & 3.

The Being Well strategic priority is reflected through the special education goals in the plan to support and ensure engagement in Tier 1 interventions that include student voice to foster meaningful connections, safe relationships, and to celebrate learning diversity. It also includes celebrating collaborative problem solving providing time and space for student voice and focusing on student strengths and affirming language.

The goals within the special education improvement plan represent the Being Creative strategic priority through providing relevant resources, tools and strategies for school staff to proactively identify and reduce barriers to inclusivity and learning. This goal also focuses on having an organizational culture of belonging through professional development opportunities and alignment of resources.

From the Presentation:

The committee enjoyed the information sharing and especially like the piece on affirming language and thought.

4. Topics for SEAC Meetings 2022-23

Draft Topics for 2022-23 Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings	
October	Mental Health & Well-being
November	Right to Read Inquiry Update
December	No meeting

January	UDL/Deep Learning
February	Destreaming of Grade 9
March	Self-regulation
April	Demographic Student Census
May	Budget
June	Special Education Plan

D. Correspondence Items:

None

E. Information Items:

1. PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>

F. 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
May 19, 2022	PPM81 draft letter approved as presented.

G. New Business:

1. Election of Chairperson
 Deferred until the October 20, 2022 meeting.
2. Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) - Communication:
 Collaborating with the Community October 2022

Shawna Belcourt will collaborate with Clare Paterson to assist in completing the MACSE form.

H. Next Meeting:

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

2. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates:

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

I. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Jeannie Armstrong
2. No motion for adjournment as quorum not met, meeting ended at 7:33 p.m.