

# Minutes

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The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

## PRESENT

Members: Anita Arnold, Shawna Belcourt, Arlene Godby, Michelle Griepsma, Helen McCarthy, James Mellon, Clare Paterson, Emmanuel Pinto, Kelly Smigielski

Absent (by motion): Melissa Gillespie, Laura Quibell

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Gerard Winn

Recorder: Theresa Greavette

## **A. Call to Order:**

1. Laurie Corrigan led the group in prayer.

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Clare, seconded by Kelly that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

4. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Moved by Helen, seconded by Shawna, that Melissa Gillespie and Laura Quibell be excused from attendance at the October 17, 2019 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Moved by Kelly, seconded by Emmanuel that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

## **B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Remarks: Chairperson

Welcome Nicole Twohey, Special Education Consultant who will be presenting at this meeting and Michelle Griepsma, Chair of the Board.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education

A CUPE tentative agreement has been reached. The agreement is confidential. Laurie will continue to bring relevant updated staffing information once the agreement is ratified.

The 2019 United Way Campaign launched this week and will run until December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last year we raised a total of \$65000.

The Secondary Professional Development day on October 25<sup>th</sup> will focus on student Injury Prevention and Intervention (SIPI).

Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) will be hosting a dinner and information night at Fleming (Sutherland Campus) on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Families/caregivers and students are invited to the information part of the evening at 7pm. See attached flyer for details.

We received funding in late August for an After School Skill Development Program (ASSDP). There will be three sessions taking place at Holy Family Catholic Elementary School Bowmanville. Each session will run from 5:00-6:15 p.m for 10 weeks. This program will be delivered by a SERT, teacher with autism/ABA qualifications, a Speech-Language Pathologist, and an educational assistant.

The program is for students, grades 1-4, living with ASD who can participate in a group setting, have adequate oral language skills to understand and use language in group settings and have challenges with perspective taking and self-awareness. The focus is on social learning development and its relationship to self-regulation. This program promotes and develops Social Thinking competencies which are “the ability to consider your own and other’s thoughts, emotions, beliefs, intentions, knowledge, etc. to help interpret and respond to the information in your mind and possibly through your own social behavioural interactions.” Principals and SERTs in Clarington will be invited to bring forward candidates for the program. The maximum number of students per session is six. Parents must provide all transportation to and from location.

The plan is to offer the program in Peterborough in early 2020, City of Kawartha Lakes in fall 2020 and then in Northumberland. The committee would like an update after each session.

3. Update from Trustees

Emmanuel reported that the Faith and Equity committee met and discussed Catholic Social Teachings, which ties in with the work of this committee.

4. IPRC Process/IEP & Updates *(Nicole Twohey, Special Education Consultant and Gerard Winn, Principal of Special Education)*

Nicole and Gerard presented on the IPRC Process/IEP; the presentation is attached to the Minutes.

The Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) meets and decides if student

should be identified as exceptional and, if so, the placement that will best meet student's needs. There are two types of IPRC – the initial and the annual review (must happen every year).

The committee is comprised of 3 members – one must be Principal or SO, typically includes SERT and classroom teacher.

There are five categories of exceptionalities: Behaviour, Communication, Intellectual, Physical and Multiple.

There are five different placement options: regular class with indirect support, regular class with resource assistance, regular class with withdrawal assistance, a special education class with partial integration, and a special education class full time.

Parents are notified of and invited to the IPRC meeting. Parents can also request an IPRC meeting.

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is required for every student who has been identified as exceptional by an IPRC within 30 days of the student's placement in a special education program. IEPs can also be put in place for students who requires special programming or accommodations (e.g. SEA equipment) but has not had an IPRC. The IEP is created collaboratively with SERT and classroom teacher and in consultation with the parent.

[Link to Ministry of Education Parent Resource - IEP](#)

[Link to the Board's Parent Guide - IPRC](#)

### **C. Discussion Items:**

Next Steps from presentation:

1. What are the key learnings from the presentation?
  - The IEP is a work in progress.
  - Parent input into the IEP and IPRC is encouraged, however, some parents may choose not to provide any suggestions and that is not necessarily a bad thing.
  - Some parents are more comfortable with the EA but many students have an IEP but do not have EA involvement. There's no consistent process of whether EAs are invited to IEP.
  - Sometimes parents don't want their child to receive an IEP because they don't see the value of having it in writing.
2. What do parents need to know?
  - Parents need to be made aware that can provide input into the IEP and IPRC.
  - Parents should be encouraged to develop relationship with and communicate frequently with their child's teacher.
  - There is a difference between elementary and secondary process for IEPs, parents should connect with the Curriculum Chair of Special Education at the secondary school.
  - The IEP is a binding document, therefore if a teacher records that a specific accommodation is being provided, the teacher must provide that accommodation.
3. What options exist to get this information to parents?
  - Grade 8 information nights/secondary orientations.
  - Gerard will communicate with Curriculum Chairs of Special Education at their next meeting regarding speaking to parents about the different process for IEPs at

secondary.

4. How can SEAC support parents in this process?
  - The committee will review the documents provided by Gerard explaining what an IPRC is and bring any questions to the next meeting.

**D. Information Items:**

1. Respite Now (see D1 attached)
2. Community Integration through Co-operative Education (see D2 attached)
3. Argos Autism Awareness Day 2019 (see D3 attached) Tickets can be purchased directly through Ticketmaster at the link below using the code AUTISM.  
Link: [www.argonauts.ca/ticketpass](http://www.argonauts.ca/ticketpass)  
Code: AUTISM
4. Lindsay OAP Information Session:  
<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=1847>
5. Teen Pottery (PA Day) Hosted by the Art School of Peterborough:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2916954941709513/>
6. Trikes 4 All: <http://www.trikes4all.com/index.htm>

**Reports from SEAC members:**

**Kelly Smigielski**

**Grandview Children's Centre**

- The new satellite office is now open at 590 Rossland Road West in Oshawa, located at Msgr. Paul Dwyer Catholic Secondary.
- Grandview currently has open job postings for a Speech Language Pathologist and Speech Language Therapy Assistants
- Youth Advisory Committee is hosting an accessible Hallowe'en event at the Safety Village in Whitby, 1129 Athol St. The event takes place on Sunday, Oct 27 beginning at 5pm. You must register to attend

**Shawna Belcourt**

**Community Living Trent Highlands**

- Recently held a Pooran Law Presentation for families, and facilitated a Camp Mediba Respite Weekend for families.

**E. Old Business:** None.

**F. New Business:** None.

**G. Next Meeting:**

Thursday, November 21, 2019

- Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- Agenda – School Based Autism Support Program Model of Delivery – Steve O’Sullivan and Lisa Virtue.
- Opening / closing prayer - Helen

**Future Meetings & Presentation Topic:**

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
Thursday, March 26, 2020  
Thursday, April 16, 2020  
Thursday, May 21, 2020  
Thursday, June 18, 2020  
Tour/PD To be determined

**G. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Laurie closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment  
Motion: Moved by Kelly, seconded by Anita, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried