



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Agenda

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 18, 2018

BOARDROOM

6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Kelly Smigielski

Vice-chairperson: Maria Castiglione

TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY SUSAN MARIUTTI, (705) 748-4861 ext. 227.
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A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer: Diane
We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
4. Excusal from Attendance
R.A. That, _____ be excused from attendance at the October 18, 2018 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2018 meeting (*A.5 attached*)
6. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (*Kelly Smigielski*)
2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning*)
3. Family of School Social Work: Statistics and Stories (*Psychologist, Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, and Social Workers, Aimee Yetman, Grace Wildeboer, Kelly Wills, Natasha Gordon, Jonathan Winslow, Lia Jenner, Sandra Shearer & Jane Marner*)
4. EQAO Results (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning*)
5. Discussion: "Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities" document
http://www.ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/Policy%20on%20accessible%20education%20for%20students%20with%20disabilities_FINAL_EN.pdf (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning*)

6. Report from SEAC members

Melissa Gillespie

Community Living Campbellford/Brighton

- “People First Northumberland” conference November 7, 2018. *(information attached)*

Kelly Smigielski

Grandview Children Centre

- Motor City Car Club recently made a \$25,000 donation to Grandview Kids from the August Autofest Event in Oshawa
- There are several job openings at Grandview; full time Speech Language Pathologist, Nurse for Botox Clinic, Peer Mentorship Coach, part time casual YAC Youth Leader, and Campaign Fundraising Officer for the Grandview Children’s Foundation. Please see website for further information
- 4th Annual Accessible Trick or Treat Open House is being held on Sunday October 28th from 4:30 – 7:30 pm at Kids Safety Village of Durham Region, 1129 Athol St., Whitby. Registration is required
- Parent Workshop “It’s a Science ABA 101” is being held on Thursday, October 25th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. at Lakeridge Community Support Services, 900 Hopkins St., Unit 8, Whitby. Registration is required.

Arlene Godby

Autism Ontario – Peterborough Chapter

- Please visit www.aocese.eventbrite.com for event postings, registration and information about programs occurring in our area.
- Parent/Caregiver Support Group will resume meeting in the fall. Please note registration is required to attend each event. You can find more information about each night, payment and registration are required via Eventbrite.
“Paint Night” – Monday, October 29, 2018 and “Cookie Decorating” Thursday, November 29, 2018
- **Peterborough Cooking Club:** chefs and cooking instructors at the Superstore will show us how to make a meal and then we will share it together. This class is for children 9-18 years old with an ASD diagnosis. Registration is required via Eventbrite and there are multiple dates to choose from. (you must register for each date you want to attend) October 12/18, November 9/18, December 14/18, January 11/19, February 8/19, and March 8/19
- **Family Support Plans** program is designed to directly support families of children with ASD through the support of a highly skilled clinical professional. Are you connected to all the programs and services available to your child affected by ASD in the Peterborough Chapter area? Is your family receiving all the support you need? Our Potential Program Family Support Coordinator is available to meet with parent/guardians to develop a support plan for you and your family. This service is free of charge to any individual or family affected by ASD.
Contact the Potential Program Family Support Coordinator when you need help to find community support services, to talk about how to hire an ABA (behavioural) therapist or respite worker for your child. Parents/guardians are always welcome to attend the parent/caregiver support groups hosted by Autism

Ontario Peterborough Chapter but when you need one-on-one support or more detailed information, our Potential Program Family Support Coordinator is available to meet with you. Stefanie Molica – Family Support Coordinator – Central East Region stefanie@autismontario.com or call 905-723-8405.

- **Program Social Learning Opportunity for Children with ASD:** New social learning opportunity by Autism Ontario Potential Program for children with ASD – PAW Patrol Live. Based on the Nickelodeon series of the same name, PAW Patrol Live gives fans the chance to experience a rescue mission in person with characters such as Chase, Rocky etc. Although this show is designed for younger audiences, the whole family can have fun helping to save the citizens of Adventure Bay. Discounted tickets are available for children with ASD and their family through Eventbrite. Tickets are \$15/person (savings of over \$30/person). For more information or to register & purchase tickets visit our Eventbrite page here <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/paw-patrol-live-wednesday-november-28-2018-6pmpaw-patrol-live-la-pat-patrouille-en-spectacle-le-tickets-50649872131>

C. Information Items:

1. Copy of SEAC's letter sent to Honorable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education (C.1 attached)

D. Old Business:

E. New Business:

F. Next Meeting:

1. **Next Meeting:**
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer:

Future Meetings

Thursday, January 17, 2019
Thursday, February 21, 2019
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Thursday, April 25, 2019
Thursday, May 30, 2019
Thursday, June 20, 2019
Tour/PD Session to be determined

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Diane
2. Adjournment.



PEOPLE FIRST NORTHUMBERLAND

are proud to host a conference on
November 7, 2018



Northumberland
Human Services &
Justice Coordinating
Committee
(Sponsor)

Expect an informative conference with guest presenters speaking about Justice, Rights and Responsibilities, Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships, Self Advocacy, Living with Asperger's Syndrome and Self Care through music!

The conference will run from 9:00 am till 5:30 pm
With a dance from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Conference and Dance will be held in the Acorn room at The Campbellford Resource Centre
65 Bridge Street East, Campbellford, ON.

Early Bird Conference ticket sale!!!

*\$70.00 until Oct 15th then the ticket price
will be \$85.00 until the last day of ticket
sales on Nov 1, 2018*

Guest Speakers

- Provincial Constable Nancy Wagner, Mental Health Liaison Officer and Dawn Lee from Northumberland Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee
- Kory Earle, President of People First Canada
- Jane Brown of "Jamming with Jane"
- Kim Hill M.Ed., BCBA Clinical Supervisor at Tri County Community Support Services in the Ontario Autism Program
- Jay Serdula, Lake Ontario Swimmer presenting "Living with Asperger's Syndrome"
- DJ Ray will be providing DJ services at the dance

The conference ticket price includes admission to the conference and dance, lunch, and dinner. For admission to the dance without the conference the price is **\$5.00**

Ticket purchases can be made using credit card please see attached form for registration and email to
jthurston@communitylivingcampbellford.com



PEOPLE FIRST NORTHUMBERLAND

are proud to host a conference on
November 7, 2018



Northumberland
Human Services &
Justice Coordinating
Committee
(Sponsor)

Tickets can be purchased in **cash** from Monday to Friday between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at **65 Bridge Street E. P.O. BOX 1360 Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0**
Receipts will be issued upon purchase.

Tickets can be purchased by **cheque** made out to **People First Northumberland** at the address above, either in person or by mail. For cheques sent by mail please include an email address and a receipt will be sent by email.

Tickets can be purchased by credit card. Please complete the information below and email to jthurston@communitylivingcampbellford.com

Card Holder Name: _____

Type of Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

3 Digit security code: _____

Name of Person attending Conference: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount of tickets purchased: _____

Total dollar amount: _____

Early Bird Conference ticket sale!!!

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sales on Nov 1, 2018*

The conference ticket price includes admission to the conference and dance, lunch, and dinner. For admission to the dance without the conference the price is **\$5.00**



PETER L. ROACH
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
CENTRE

October 4, 2018

Honorable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, On M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson:

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is writing in support of the findings contained in the Auditor General of Ontario's Annual Report, 2017. Specifically, we would like to address the information contained in Chapter 3 - Reports on Value-for-Money Audits, Section 3.08, entitled Ministry of Education: Ministry Funding and Oversight of School Boards. Further, we would like to address the impact of the recent changes in the Special Education funding model on our school district, which were made by the Conservative government, as outlined in the August 24th, 2018 memo received from Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister of Education.

The Auditor General found that benchmarks in the funding formula and the dollar amount assigned to that factor are out-of-date. In 2002, an independent task force reviewed the formula used by the Ministry to determine funding to school boards, and recommended that the Ministry annually review and update the benchmarks, as well as conduct a more comprehensive review of the formula every 5 years. While the Ministry updates the labour costs annually, the other benchmarks have not been updated, and still reflect census data which is more than 10 years old. (p.429). When demographics such as income levels and immigration patterns are not reflected in the benchmarks, this creates a funding inequity between the various regions of the province.

The Auditor General's recommendation to remedy this inequity is as follows:

"To ensure that funds are allocated in a manner that supports school boards in providing a high standard of education to all students, we recommend the Ministry of Education:

- conduct a comprehensive external review of the funding formula, including all grant components and benchmarks, as recommended by the Education Equity Funding Task Force in 2002;
- regularly review the formula and update all benchmarks to reflect the province's changing demographics and socio-economic conditions; and
- use the more current census data available when determining allocations for grants." (p.441)

The Auditor General also found that the Ministry of Education does not allocate funding based on actual needs. The Special Education Grant is intended for students who need special education programs and services. However, half of the special-education funding is allocated based on a school board's average daily enrolment of all its students, instead of the number of students who are receiving special-education programs and

services. But the portion of special-education students in each board is not the same, ranging from 8% - 28% depending on the Board. (p.429)

At the October 31st, 2017 Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNC CDSB) enrolment report to the Ministry, the data indicates that our school board supports 15.7% of our elementary students, and 28.9% of our secondary students, with special education services, for a combined percentage of 19.8%.

The Auditor General's recommendations to remedy this inequity are as follows:
"In order to provide funding in a more equitable manner and ensure the funding meets the actual needs it is intended to address, we recommend the Ministry of Education assess whether the funding of grants intended to serve the needs of a specific group of students or for a specific purpose is achieving that purpose." (p.444)

Further, "in order for the Ministry of Education to provide funding in proportion to a school board's need, we recommend it:

- determine to what extent school boards are spending funds for specific education priorities (such as supports for ESL students and Indigenous students) on those specific purposes, and where it finds significant discrepancies, follow up with school boards to understand the reason for the discrepancies and better align funding with actual needs; and
- design and conduct validation procedures to verify the use of restricted funds." (p.448)

We are aware that our Board staff spend considerable time to complete and submit Special Incident Portion (SIP) claims annually in order to supplement the Special Education Grant to the Board. Without these SIP claims, we would be unable to address the significant student needs throughout our jurisdiction, and we would be spending significantly beyond the Special Education Grant envelope. We are advocating that either these grants continue indefinitely at appropriate levels, or the Special Education Grant itself reflects the actual student needs in the system.

The recent funding changes announced by the government do not reflect the findings or the recommendations which the Auditor General made in 2017. Increasing the Special Education per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) to school districts, which uses outdated benchmarks, as described above, and which does not reflect the actual needs because it is based on average daily enrolment, creates an inequity between those boards with larger enrolments and those with smaller enrolments. Further, by decreasing the maximum amount for Special Incident Portion (SIP) by \$11,000 per claim, the government has put those districts, such as ours, which rely on SIP claims to support our highest needs students, in an untenable position. This decision was made without full consultation as to the impact this would have on equity and inclusion of our students with special needs, and it does not support school districts in implementing the Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities (2018).

Because of our relatively small enrolment of approximately 15,000 students, an increase in the SEPPA does not have the same impact as the SIP claim amounts for which we can apply, so we are actually now facing a reduction in Special Education Support Staff already hired for the 2018-2019 school year to balance the budget. We had already budgeted in the spring with the knowledge that we could expect \$38,000 per pupil rather than \$27,000 (see chart, below). If this was a decision which the government felt

necessary to make, then this should have occurred next spring, when school districts had time to budget appropriately for the following school year.

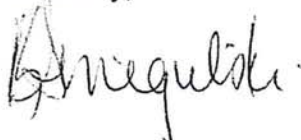
		Potential reduction in SIP revenue	PVNC SEPPA increase	Potential lost revenue
Ministry estimates 2018-2019	Equiv. of 55 full SIP claims*	(661,419.00)	211,453.00	(449,966.00)
PVNC estimates 2018-2019	Equiv. of 128 full SIP claims	(1,293,670.00)	211,453.00	(1,082,217.00)

*This number could be based on the Ministry's estimate that we would submit a minimum of 55 SIP claims for the full amount, but we are unsure as to how the number was derived.

In this era of a renewed focus on workplace violence, specifically student to staff violence, funding is required to ensure that there is sufficient, trained staff in the schools to address the student needs which can manifest in unsafe behaviour. Staff stress levels are at an all-time high, which directly impacts the sick leave costs to all boards. Training for all school staff is an essential step, and this needs funding to occur.

As a SEAC, we support the Auditor General's recommendations, as outlined above. We look forward to a response which will help us to understand the Ministry of Education's rationale for the changes to funding. We also look forward to learning of Ministry follow-up action ensure an ongoing, equitable distribution of funds across boards to serve and support the students who need it the most.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kelly Smigielski, Chair
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

Cc. M. Nasello - Director of Education PVNC CDSB
D. Smith - MPP, Peterborough
L. Park - MPP, Durham
D. Piccini - MPP, Northumberland-Quinte West
L. Scott - MPP, Haliburton –Kawartha Lakes-Brock
M. Griepsma - Chair, PVNC CDSB
- PVNC CDSB Trustees
- PVNC CDSB SEAC Members
- Provincial DSB SEAC Chairs