

Minutes

II

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on September 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members Arlene Godby, Helen McCarthy, Maria Castiglione, Clare Paterson, Ruth Ciraulo, Melissa Gillespie, Shawna Belcourt, Laura Quibell, Anita Arnold, Krista McEwen

Absent (by motion) Kelly Smigielski

Administration Michael Nasello, Anne Marie Duncan, Diane Mather

Recorder: Susan Mariutti

A. Call to Order:

1. Maria called the meeting to order and asked Diane to lead 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 Ruth, seconded by Melissa, that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted

4. Excusal from Attendance

Motion: Moved by Clare, seconded by Arlene, that Kelly Smigielski be excused from attendance at the September 27, 2018 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Moved Ruth, seconded by Arlene, that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:1. Remarks: Chairperson

- In the Chair's absence Vice- Chair, Maria, welcomed members back to the new school year.
- Michael Nasello, Director Education, brought greetings, and shared his opportunity to visit L'Arche in France. L'Arche ("the ark") was founded by Canadian, Jean Vanier, in France in 1964. It is a house/community for men with intellectual disabilities. Jean Vanier's perspective was ability not disability. Today there are 149 L'Arche communities, interfaith and multi-cultural, around the world.
- Michael invited SEAC to attend 'Catholic Parent Engagement Committee' meeting on November 7th, 2018 6:30 pm at the Catholic Education Centre, topics to include mental health strategies. As well, an invitation was extended for the 'Inaugural' Board meeting on December 4th, 2018 4 pm at The Mount, mass will be celebrated by Bishop Miehm. All are welcome

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)

- Welcome back, the special education department has been busy hiring new support staff; 61 new Educational Assistants (EA), began work on September 5th; EA support is allocated for medical or safety concerns, this is the consistent message across the province. A large portion of our special education funding comes from Special Incident Portion (SIP) claims.
- Increased Speech Language Pathologist staff by 2.5, 0.5 Psychometrist, and 2 mental health social workers.
- Special Education Consultants are presently reviewing their school's needs; data shows that some exceptional students have not returned to school and some schools have new intakes with severe needs. Anne Marie will update SEAC in October. The Board's CUPE protected compliment is 200 EAs.
- AM spoke to the letter from Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough (Information Item # 2, attached to agenda); Supply staff continues to be an issue; to help alleviate the low number of supply EAs we have opened up the criteria for EAs to include personal support workers and/or equivalent experience to help with our medically fragile students. Anne Marie assured the committee that all new EAs will be screened properly.
- Continue to deploy our Itinerant EAs; this seems to be a good practice and avoids the need with temporary EAs.
- Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs), Vice Principals, Principals, and EAs have been trained on ABA, we are now training primary teaching staff.
- Susan Hopkins, Merhit Centre, will be doing training on Self-Regulation for secretary, custodians, Library support specialist.
- Principals and their SERTs attended professional development on writing modification, IEPs and safety plan as well as a classroom safety audit, Principals must consult with parents on the IEP and safety plan
- Training SERTs on 'zones of regulation'; 3 zones – green – calm; yellow – indicators; red – dysregulation, the focus is how to get the student back to the green zone. All about the child knowing how to calm himself – student advocate for himself.
- Intellectual Disabilities and Math, Dr. Sarah Taylor will spend a ½ day with our SERTs

- Document 'Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities' has been released; document shows how accommodations need to occur; Link to the document will be emailed to SEAC, as well will be an discussion item on the October agenda
http://www.ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/Policy%20on%20accessible%20education%20for%20students%20with%20disabilities_FINAL_EN.pdf
3. Special Education Funding for 2018-2019 Update (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
 - Previous SIP claims were \$27,000; this amount was increased to \$38,000 by the previous provincial government but the new provincial government has reversed the funding back to \$27,000. This has a significant impact on our budget;
 - Notice of approval of 2017-2018 SIP claims was received
 - SEPPA funding was increased; boards with large number of students will get a increase in funding; boards with small enrolment lost funding
 4. Revision of Letter to Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
 - Anne Marie reviewed changes to the letter which was distributed at meeting
 - Committee made suggestions to the letter as presented, such as the inclusion of a chart to show the projected revenue loss for PVNC.
 - Anne Marie will revise the letter as per SEACs suggestions.
 - SEAC supports sending the newly revised letter to the Minister of Education, Trustees, MPPs and SEAC chairs across the province.
 5. Agency Recommendation Letter Due to Director of Education Before end of October, 2018
 - Reminder that agency recommendation letters for SEAC membership must be submitted to the Director of Education before the end of October, 2018
 6. Reports from SEAC members
Included on Agenda

C. Information Items
Attached to agenda

D. Old Business

E. New Business

F. Next Meeting

1. Thursday, October 18, 2018
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items: Accessible Education for Disabilities students
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer: Diane Mather

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Diane closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Arlene, seconded by Anita, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried