

**AGENDA**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

***Mission:** Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.*

***Vision:** Changing the world through Catholic education.*

**Pages**

**A. Routine Matters**

- 1. Call to Order and Attendance
- 2. Opening Prayer 2
- 3. Acknowledgment of the First Nations' Sacred Territory
- 4. Approval of Agenda
- 5. Approval of Committee Minutes 3
- 6. Previous Business

**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

- 1. Introductions: Superintendent Papaloni
- 2. Summer Updates: L. Pincente, S. Baiana, C. Kyte, P. Callender
- 3. Uplifting Special Events: S. Baiana
- 4. PRO Grants and Other Updates: E. Moniz-Baptista, T. Cameron

**C. Budget**

**D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

**E. Information/Reports from Community Associations**

**F. Information and Correspondence**

**G. Communication**

**H. Questions Asked by Committee Members**

**I. Questions asked by the Public**

**J. Future Meetings**

- October 18, 2023
- November 15, 2023
- December 13, 2023
- January 17, 2023
- February 21, 2023
- March 20, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- May 15, 2024
- June 12, 2024

**K. Adjournment**



***SEAC Prayer:***

***God of compassion,  
You created us for community.  
Gather us together in Your embrace  
And give us the grace to support one another  
and to go always in peace.  
Guide us in our discernment.  
Help us to separate true faith from illusion  
And grant us wisdom and understanding.  
Amen***

**MINUTES**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**CEC - Boardroom**

Attendees: Bruno Iannicca Trustee - Chair  
 Luz del Rosario Alternate Chair  
 Heather Bialowas Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative  
 Myra Del Rosario ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative  
 Liza Dowson Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative  
 Lissette Gaylie Easter Seals Ontario - Representative  
 Janice Hatton Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative  
 Caroline Huxtable Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative  
 Lisa Papaloni Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative  
 Gian Luca Ferrari Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils  
 Debbie Hammond Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative  
 Kevin Hickey VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children - Representative  
 Andrea Isaac OECTA Elementary - Alternative

Regrets: Dely Farrace Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative  
 Thomas Thomas Alternate Trustee  
 Airene Cunanan Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative  
 Christine Koczmarz Community Living Mississauga - Representative  
 Herman Vilorio Alternate Trustee  
 Shanna Walsh Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Alternative  
 Pam Boniferro Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative

Staff: Sabrina Baiana Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs  
 Tammie Cameron Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs  
 Rosanna Comisso Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs  
 Joanne Dean Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision  
 Clementine D'Souza Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners  
 Pina Grosso Chief of Social Work  
 Christiane Kyte General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education  
 Cristine Pergotski Association of Professional Student Services Personnel  
 Laura Pincente Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners  
 Jacqueline Toste Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs  
 Kathy Russell-Kwan Researcher

Recorder: Katherine Magee Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services - Recorder

**A. Routine Matters**

1. Call to Order and Attendance  
Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer - Year-End Liturgy: Deacon Ray Frendo
3. Land Acknowledgment – S. Baiana
4. Approval of Agenda

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, May 17th, 2023

**THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, MAY 17TH, 2023 BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Business - Nil

**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

1. Student Voice - Coding and Robotics: R. Commisso, Students from Philip Pocock CSS, St. Joan of Arc CSS

Superintendent Papaloni introduced R. Commisso, Coordinator, Students with Diverse Learning Needs. R. Commisso described the coding platform used by the students called Cubetto at the Skills Competition this year. Cubetto involves coding and problem-solving skills to allow the operation of the robotics. R. Commisso showed a short video on the students' performance. Afterwards, the students of Philip Pocock CSS and St. Joan of Arc CSS led a demonstration in front of the SEAC members.

L. Dowson asked which students have access to the Cubetto and if a child with an exception in a regular classroom would have access to it. Superintendent Papaloni answered that the communication classes, Needs Moderate and Needs Severe Classes have Cubetto. Also, coding is now part of the curriculum, and all classes participate, with access to other robotics as well, such as B-Bot and Sphero.

2. Census Data: K. Russell-Kwan

Superintendent Papaloni introduced K. Russell-Kwan, Researcher, to explain the results of the Student Census data. K. Russell-Kwan highlighted the key components of the census, through slides. The census was developed to promote equity and eliminate disparity. She presented Secondary data, submitted by students, or if required, parents or guardians of the students.

L. Gaylie asked regarding exclusion in the census, why only 2% of students stated that they felt very excluded. K. Russell-Kwan answered that the question surveyed how often they felt excluded. The scale went from never to daily, and also asked reasons for feeling excluded. The percentage was low because only 2% felt very excluded. L. Gaylie mentioned that she believes this is probably higher than what the census shows.

L. Dowson asked what is done with the information when a student scores very highly on exclusion. K. Russell-Kwan answered that the schools receive this data to help the Administrators identify where there are challenges in their schools for future planning for better serving students.

Lisa Papaloni asked if they are able to provide this data to the school where the student attends if there is a problem. K. Russell-Kwan answered that yes, they can share the data on a school level.

3. PRO Grant Update - Employment Supports Fair: C. D'Souza, L. Pincente

Superintendent Papaloni introduced L. Pincente and C. D'Souza, Consultants, Students with Diverse Learning Needs, to present on the Employment Supports Fair. This fair encourages students with exceptionalities to prepare for employment. Agencies were present to help provide their services.

L. Gaylie asked if many students attended. C. D'Souza replied that there was a constant flow of students and parents for the entire two and a half hours.

**C. Budget - Nil**

**D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

Trustee Luz del Rosario reported on the last Board of Trustees meeting, they received an update on the long-term facilities plan. There are strategies for investments to ensure proper maintenance and repairs on these facilities. On May 1, the Peel Regional Police, in collaboration with DPCDSB, launched an Autism Strategy . The Board of Trustees invited schools to submit a video rendition of the National Anthem to play at Regular Board Meetings. Trustee Luz del Rosario announced that the first day of the 2023-2024 school year will be September 5, 2023. Finally, Bill 98 has received the Royal Assent.

L. Dowson asked if the Autism Strategy involves having a special alert for a child with Autism? Trustee Luz del Rosario answered that it should be included in the documentation and their website will have more information.

**E. Information/Reports from Community Associations - Nil**

**F. Work Group**

1. Input into Board Budget Update: R. Commisso

Superintendent Papaloni introduced R. Commisso, Coordinator, Students with Differing Abilities. R. Commisso announced that the Input into the board budget has been received and forwarded to the Finance Department.

**G. Information and Correspondence**

1. Letter from S. Strong, Superintendent, Human Resources and Employee Relations

Superintendent Papaloni presented the letter drafted by Superintendent Strong to the Minister of Education, regarding Educational Resource Workers.

2. L. Gaylie Edits to Letter from S. Strong to the Minister

Superintendent Papaloni presented the letter edited by L. Gaylie to the Minister of Education, regarding Educational Resource Workers.

The committee voted to send the letter which included edits by L. Gaylie.

**H. Communication - Nil**

**I. Questions Asked by Committee Members**

L. Gaylie asked if parental involvement can be used during shortages in Educational Resource Workers. Trustee Bruno Iannicca answered that he will take it back to the Board of Trustees in September.

L. Dowson mentioned that PLASP has a waitlist for children with special needs, whereas there is no waitlist for children without special needs. Also, bussing for special needs does not allow courtesy seating, whereas regular bussing does. She would like better access. Trustee Bruno Iannicca answered that he will take this back to the Board of Trustees also.

**J. Questions asked by Public - Nil**

**K. Future Meetings**

September 13, 2023

October 18, 2023

November 15, 2023

December 13, 2023

January 17, 2024

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 17, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 12, 2024

**L. Adjournment**

**Moved by K. Hickey**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.**

**CARRIED**