

**AGENDA**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

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

*Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.*

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March 11, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

**L. Adjournment**

## **God Will Be There**

God of all eternity  
you always were, always are,  
and always will be.

Your love for us is infinite.

Before we were thought of,  
before we were born,

you smiled on us as your beloved children.

May we always remember that in all things,  
you will be there.

Amen.

**MINUTES**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca Leslie Silvestri	Trustee - Chair Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Peel Region, Vice-Chair - Rep
	Luz del Rosario Myra Del Rosario Janice Hatton Lisette Gaylie Heather Bialowas	Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Rep Easter Seals Ontario - Rep Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Rep
	Caroline Huxtable Laurie-Anne Clark	Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Rep Member At Large - CCCSC
	Anna da Silva Thomas Thomas Nancy Vrbank Dely Farrace Airene Cunanan Rose Casaccia Maria Demata	Alternate Trustee Alternate Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Alt Brampton Caledon Community Living - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alt Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Rep Voice/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children - Alt
	Christine Koczmar Celeste Encila	Community Living Mississauga - Rep Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Alt
	Deborah Finegan-Downey	Superintendent Special Education and Learning Services
	Cairine MacDonald Christiane Kyte	Superintendent Family of Schools General Manager of Clinical Services and Spec Ed
	Caterina Bova Jason Pratt Joanne Dean Blair Patterson Laurie Eschli Cristine Pergotski Frances Campese Sharon Chambers	P/VP Association - Elementary P/VP Association - Secondary Chief Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision DPERWA DPERWA APSSP Secondary Principal/VP Association Elementary Principal/VP Association
Recorder:	Rosie Della-Spina	

**A. Routine Matters**

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Superintendent Deborah Finegan-Downey introduced Bruno Iannicca as the new SEAC Chair and Luz del Rosario as Trustee Representative.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked members if they could be prompt as he would like to start meetings on time. Attendance was passed around, regrets noted and guests welcomed. Member and Staff changes were acknowledged.

2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

3. Opening Prayer

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, led the Opening Prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Leslie Silvestri

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, December 4, 2019

Lissette Gaylie

**THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 2019, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Business

NIL

7. Terms of Reference

Leslie Silvestri

8. Election of Vice-Chair

Nominees were requested. Leslie Silvestri accepted nomination of Vice-Chair for a 2nd term.

## B. Presentations and Staff Reports

### 1. St. Oscar Romero CSS Programming 2019-2020; Jason Boily, Principal

Superintendent, Deborah Finegan-Downey introduced Jason Boily, Principal at St. Oscar Romero to SEAC Members. A PowerPoint presentation was given and a handout of the programs offered with a brief overview of each. Jason Boily explained that the first way students come to St. Oscar Romero is through the Romero Application Review Team. Applications are received from the Administrator of a secondary school through an online process and there are up to 15 seats available per program. A handout with an overview of the programs was shared. The *Alternative Academic Program*, with campuses in both Mississauga and Brampton, gives students the benefit to earn up to 3 credits per semester 3 periods a day. Classes are back to back with no distractions for students to get side-tracked or skip classes. It is a self-contained classroom with 2 teachers having a specialist in Science/Math and Social Science/English. The *P.A.C.E. Program* is for students who are young mothers aged 14 - 21, either pregnant or recently had a baby, with campuses in both Mississauga and Brampton. *Sheridan College Dual Credit Program, School Within A College (SWAC)* gives students an opportunity to earn high school credits and college credits. Our teachers have a classroom in the college with high school aged students and deliver classes 3 days a week while professors from Sheridan College deliver classes 1-2 days a week within the classroom. Teachers are also a support to students for the college classes. Students are considered Sheridan College students with full access to the college and resources at no cost and at the end of the term earn both a high school credit and a college credit. The classroom has a maximum of 22 students and this is set by the college. *Coop* is an option for students where they can earn up to 4 credits, *Safe Schools - Positive Personal Change Program* for students who are suspended 6-20 days. Students are given the opportunity to keep up with their studies and remain registered as part of their home school with their teachers providing the work. There is a Child and Youth Worker and Social Worker provided for support. Elementary students attend a full day of school less 1 hour at a different elementary site. Teachers from their home school provide work and there is a Child and Youth worker available for support. *Safe Schools - New Directions* is a program for students expelled from all schools of the Board. There is a location in Mississauga and Brampton with Child and Youth Worker as well as Social Worker and two teachers at each site. Students must achieve the success criteria in order to earn the opportunity to return to their home school or another school within the school board. *Safe Schools - Jean Vanier* is a program for students 18 - 21 years of age. This program gives students the opportunity to take up to 2 credits in each term and there are 4 terms in a year. This program draws students from both the Catholic and Public Boards. The *Sanctuary Programs* are for students dealing with anxiety or depression. Applications are reviewed by a central committee coordinated by Superintendent Lucy Papaloni, and not staff of St. Oscar Romero. The Team is chaired by our mental health itinerant teacher and includes a Child and Youth Worker, Social Worker, Psychologist and elementary or secondary administrator. Each student is given an Individual Education Program (IEP) and parents must demonstrate that they are engaged in the students well-being. This is not a treatment program but a temporary transitional program to help support students with anxiety or depression, to maintain their studies while receiving treatment from an outside community program or doctor. There are 4 classrooms of 10 students each, having 2 in Mississauga and 2 in Brampton and there is an elementary class in Brampton with school bus transportation provided for all of the students. This program is in high demand and home schools go through a number of approaches before putting forward the application for

Sanctuary. When completing the application students have an opportunity to complete a Student Voice portion where they can speak to why they feel this program would benefit them. If a student is returning to the main stream, the Family of Schools Special Education Consultant assists in facilitating the transition and the Sanctuary Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) schedules the case conference through DP Lite. Questions were taken.

Daniel Ojeda a grade 12 student in the SWAC Program spoke on his positive experience in this program. In grade 10, Daniel was an average student attending a mainstream school and wanted to go into medicine. He was dealing with depression and anxiety and his marks were dropping as well as his attendance was poor. He did not know what the Alternative Education program could offer and through negative suggestions from friends did not want to go to St. Oscar Romero. His guidance counsellor suggested the SWAC program to Daniel and since has achieved good grades as well as good attendance and is hoping that he will be able to pursue his dreams of going into medicine. Daniel thanked SEAC for having him and Principal Jason Boily, the St. Oscar Romero staff and the Sheridan College staff for their support and encouragement. Daniel received a standing ovation.

**C. Budget**

NIL

**D. Reports from Trustees**

1. Trustee, Luz del Rosario shared with members that there will be a Human Trafficking Meeting on April 2, 2020 at Father Michael Goetz CSS beginning at 7:00 p.m. A very informative meeting put on by Peel Police to educate parents. Members are encouraged to attend. Chair Bruno Iannicca attended a meeting on Human Trafficking a few years ago which was very informative but there were no parents in the room and so Trustee Bruno Iannicca requested to have a meeting for parents on the topic and over 450 people attended. There were two topics, Human Trafficking and Child Pornography. Parents were entrenched in the information and the feedback as a Dufferin-Peel community was astronomical. Chair Iannicca asked members to spread the word that this meeting is taking place and to encourage people to attend. Trustee Luz del Rosario will forward the letter of invitation to Rosie Della-Spina to share electronically with members. A question was asked if this meeting will also include our most vulnerable students. Chair Iannicca will confirm this with Peel Police and bring a response back to our next SEAC meeting.

2. Trustees had their retreat on Thursday, January 9, 2020.

3. All labour information is going out to the schools and will be on our website.

4. Chair Iannicca shared that starting this school year, during exams, PIP classes will be going on for 4 days where in previous years they would go 3 of 4 days and the 5th day is a snow day in the event an exam has to be cancelled.

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

Lisette Gaylie of Easter Seals reminded members about the online survey (PACE) and encouraged members to complete the survey. The deadline is January 31, 2020.

Leslie Silvestri of Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region asked to have her association come to SEAC to do a presentation in the next few months. Superintendent Finegan-Downey said she would check to see what is upcoming and will let her know when it would be a good time.

**F. Work Group**

Superintendent Deborah Finegan-Downey shared with members that since teachers are on work-to-rule, Coordinators and Consultants are absent from the meeting and there would be no Work Group but did update members about the January 8, 2020 evening, *Preparing your Child with Differing Abilities for the Sacraments*. Positive feedback was given by parents and they were thrilled to receive the sacramental kits. Lissette Gaylie was the SEAC Liaison and reported it was well-attended and there were over 25 families and their children in attendance. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared by Shannon Pompili Bosco and Jacqui Toste which showed the involvement of SEAC in these evenings.

The information session *Supporting the Transition of Children with Differing Abilities into Dufferin-Peel* that is to be held on January 29, 2020 may have to be postponed to a later date depending on the outcome of the teacher job action on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. A decision will be made on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

**G. Information and Correspondence**

1. Letter to Honourable Stephen Lecce re Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) from Durham District School Board's SEAC was received. Members reviewed the letter and were asked by Chair Iannicca if they wanted to take action or just accept it. SEAC Vice-Chair Leslie Silvestri offered to draft a letter with the help of members and R. Della-Spina will send the letter electronically.

**Moved by** Leslie Silvestri

**SEAC TO DRAFT A LETTER TO HONOURABLE STEPHEN LECCE IN SUPPORT OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT BY DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**CARRIED**

**H. Communication**

NIL

**I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members**

NIL

**J. Questions asked by Public**

NIL

**K. Future Meetings**

February 12, 2020

March 11, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

**L. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Lissette Gaylie

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:07p.m.**

**CARRIED**





Dufferin-Peel  
Catholic District  
School Board

ABILITIES BEYOND BARRIERS

# WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY March 21<sup>st</sup>

Get the world talking about World Down Syndrome Day on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020!  
You can help by wearing LOTS OF SOCKS!

Wear your brightly coloured socks, long socks, printed socks, any socks...  
If you do not normally wear socks, wear them! Wear them at school and  
wherever you will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>!

#LOTSOFSOCKS 2020



Artist Jijo Daş