

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
REVISED - AGENDA**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 pm**

**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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**C. Budget**

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**G. Information and Correspondence**

1. Letter to Honourable Stephen Lecce re MACSE from Durham District School Board's SEAC

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**K. Future Meetings**

February 12, 2020

March 11, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

**L. Adjournment**

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,  
we thank you for all your gifts to us.

This new year,  
we give you thanks for the good things

You have done for us.

We thank you for all who share in the work  
of our schools this year,

and ask you to bless us all with your love.

We make this prayer in the name of the  
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

**MINUTES**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Voting Attendees:	<p>Luz del Rosario Leslie Silvestri</p> <p>Stefano Pascucci Bruno Iannicca Thomas Thomas Nancy Vrbanek Dely Farrace Janice Hatton Airene Cunanan Lissette Gaylie Rose Casaccia Maria Demata</p> <p>Christine Koczmara Heather Bialowas</p> <p>Celeste Encila Caroline Huxtable</p>	<p>Trustee - Chair Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Peel Region, Vice-Chair - Rep Trustee Trustee Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Alt Brampton Caledon Community Living - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alt Easter Seals Ontario - Rep Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Rep Voice/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children - Alt Community Living Mississauga - Rep Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Rep Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Alt Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Rep</p>
Regrets:	<p>Myra Del Rosario Laurie-Anne Clark</p>	<p>ABC Association for Bright Children - Rep Member At Large - CCCSC</p>
Non-Voting Attendees:	<p>Marianne Mazzorato David Amaral Deborah Finegan-Downey</p> <p>Cairine MacDonald Christiane Kyte</p> <p>Caterina Bova Jason Pratt Joanne Dean Kate Hann Yulanda Julien Irene Rukavina Rosanna Commisso Sabrina Baiana Tammie Cameron</p>	<p>Director of Education Associate Director of Instructional Services Superintendent Special Education and Learning Services Superintendent Family of Schools General Manager of Clinical Services and Spec Ed P/VP Association - Elementary P/VP Association - Secondary Chief Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision Chief CYW Officer Chief Social Worker Acting Chief of Psychology Coordinator Consultant Consultant</p>

Laura Pincente	Consultant
Jacqueline Toste	Consultant
Shannon PompiliBosco	Coordinator
Michael Schaus	OECTA Elementary
Blair Patterson	DPERWA
Laurie Eschli	DPERWA
Kellie Donaher	APSSP
Cristine Pergotski	APSSP
Frances Campese	Secondary Principal/VP Association
Sharon Chambers	Elementary Principal/VP Association
Lori Austin	OECTA Elementary
Kelly MacDougall	OECTA Secondary

#### A. Routine Matters

##### 1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Luz del Rosario, called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. The Chair thanked Monsignor Shiels for doing mass, special thanks to Luc Gaylie for his gift of music and to the families of SEAC members for attending. A reception followed the mass. Regrets were noted.

##### 2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory

Chair of SEAC, Luz del Rosario, acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

##### 3. Opening Prayer

Chair of SEAC, Luz del Rosario, led SEAC with the opening prayer, An Advent Prayer.

##### 4. Approval of Agenda

Christine Koczmar

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

##### 5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, November 13, 2019

Dely Farrace

**THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2019, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Business

NIL

**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

1. Part 1: Transitions to Secondary for Diverse Learners; Rosanna Commisso and Laura Pincente

The second part of this presentation will be done at SEAC's January meeting, which will include more detail on parts of this presentation.

The presentation outlines the overall process to support students with diverse learning needs as they transition into secondary school in our Dufferin-Peel Catholic District community. The practices are in alignment with the Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023 (MYSP), and as students transition, we continue to infuse, promote and foster the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) practices are in alignment with the Ministry of Education direction, as outlined in *Special Education in Ontario (2017) K-12*. The Special Education Plan which can be found on our website, guides our transition practices. Special Education and Learning Services practice is rooted in the home school community through the Principal and school team in consultation with the parent/guardian. In elementary, Elementary Guidance Experiential Learning Teacher (EGLT) assists with course selection and career/life planning; in secondary, Chaplaincy and the Student Success Teacher (SST) may also be part of the team support for the student. The Ministry and DPCDSB continue to support the regular class as the first option and as a second option, a secondary special education class or program that meets the unique needs of a student. Through IPRC, the most inclusive option for students is always available and offered; however, a small number of students would require a fully self-contained special education class.

Parents are encouraged to attend their home Secondary School Open House, which occurs in late October to mid-November. Specialized programs may have their own open house at later dates which will give more specific information related to the class or program. Before entering secondary, students choose course type for compulsory courses and one elective course using myBlueprint. Students may defer a Gr. 9 course to take the Learning Strategies course (GLE). Parents always confirm course selection or changes as required. We encourage parents to explore their child's myBlueprint for course selection and other career/life planning resources. *Ontario Schools (2016)* outlines the course types in Grade 9 and 10: Academic, more theoretical in nature and students learn concepts that are more abstract and explore related concepts, Applied, more practical and students learn from hands on experience or concrete examples that relate to everyday situations, Open courses are open to all students and are designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society; Locally Developed, there are 8 courses created locally by each Board, grade 9 - English, Math, Science and FSL and grade 10 - English, Math, Science and Canadian History, aiming to accommodate students with education or career preparation needs approved by the Ministry of Education however, no more than 7 locally developed courses can be counted towards compulsory credits; Alternative, individualized courses documented in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) known as K-courses have alternative expectations not found in the Ontario curriculum, prepare students for daily living and employment or community living. The Grade 8 IPRC is an essential supportive part of the student's transition to secondary and may not be waived. Parts of the transition plan include an IEP as well as Student Success transition meetings sharing relevant information between the elementary and secondary schools. For some students, a

transition case conference is arranged and facilitated by the Family of Schools Special Education Consultant with the team around the student and the family at both elementary and secondary.

For a successful transition, information sharing of relevant transitional information is necessary from the elementary school with the receiving school, for example: most current IEP and Report Card, Professional reports, inventories/survey of Learning Style Preferences, SEA or Equipment. The receiving school prepares information to share with the student and parents to help their transition into secondary. Each secondary school may invite students to participate in various transitional activities and events to foster a sense of belonging and familiarity with the school. The more students visit and connect with the secondary school culture, faith community, building, staff and students, the smoother the transition. Sample activities include Shadow Day, Girls/Boys Night In, Secondary Orientation Day, Get Ready Camp, Invitation to secondary school performances and events. Members received a copy of *Navig8-2-9*, a document prepared by the board and given to grade 8 students, containing important transition information including information on the Academic Resource Department as well as other supports available in the secondary school setting. Questions were taken. An electronic copy of this presentation will be sent to Members.

**C. Budget**

NIL

**D. Reports from Trustees**

1. Trustee Stefano Pascucci thanked members who brought their children to the Mass.
2. Organizational meeting of the Board took place last night, December 3, 2019, and Sharon Hobin is Chair and Thomas Thomas as Vice-Chair. Chairs and Vice-Chairs were also chosen for Faith & Program, Bylaw Committee
3. Students will be taking a cafeteria survey rating their services.
4. November 19, 2019 we held our 50th Anniversary Gala. There were 650 people in attendance and included members from SEAC as well as school councils and CCCSC.
5. PRO Grant funding is still not confirmed. No funding has been received this year, but we did hear that this year we will receive \$46,000, which is half of what we have received in the past. It is left up to the Board how they wish to distribute the funds among School Councils, CCCSC and SEAC committees. SEAC hopes to receive \$15,000 from this money. There was an error in the letter which was drafted by CCCSC stating that SEAC received \$13,000 last year when in fact we received \$10,000. Chair del Rosario said that the money handed out must follow guidelines as to how the funds must be spent. Members reviewed the letter drafted by CCCSC with SEAC's input.

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

Leslie Silvestri Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region encouraged members to participate in the PAAC survey sent to them through Special Education and Learning Services department. Although you don't have to fill it in, it will provide helpful information to organizations. The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete, and the deadline is January 31, 2020.

**F. Work Group**

Shannon Pompili Bosco updated members of the Parent Engagement evenings on January 8, 2020 "Preparing Students with Diverse Learning Needs for the Sacraments" and January 30, 2020

information session "Supporting the Transition of Children with Differing Abilities into Dufferin-Peel" both being held at the Catholic Education Centre. Flyers are being sent out to schools and for the Information Session to parishes and daycares. Lissette Gaylie is the SEAC Liaison for Preparing for the Sacraments and there will be a number of SEAC members as well as support staff in attendance for this session. Members were invited to attend these sessions and asked to let Rosie Della-Spina know if they plan to do so. Flyers will be sent to members electronically as well as being posted to the website. Questions were taken.

**G. Information and Correspondence**

1. CCCSC letter to the Minister of Education regarding Parent Reaching Out Grant funding.

This was addressed under item D5.

**H. Communication**

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

Leslie Silvestri of the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region asked if we have the opportunity for other agencies to be involved in SEAC. Superintendent Deb Finegan-Downey responded that according to the By-Laws, we are allowed to 12 representatives sit at SEAC. As people leave, we invite the same association to send nominees. If we do not receive a response in a reasonable amount of time we reach out to other organizations. A new member from Epilepsy South Central Ontario was approved at the October Board Meeting.

**J. Questions asked by Public**

NIL

**K. Future Meetings**

January 15, 2020

February 12, 2020

March 11, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

**L. Adjournment**

Before adjourning SEAC Chair Luz del Rosario wished members and their families Joy and Peace at Christmas. Superintendent, Deb Finegan-Downey also thanked members for attending the Advent Mass and bringing their families.

**Moved by Leslie Silvestri**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.**

**CARRIED**

### Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)

<b>CHAIR:</b>	B. Iannicca
<b>VICE-CHAIR:</b>	TBD
<b>RESOURCE STAFF:</b>	<b>PRIMARY:</b> Superintendent of Special Education and Learning Services D. Finegan-Downey
	<b>ADDITIONAL:</b> Superintendent of Schools C. MacDonald
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The Committee shall be made up of one (1) representative of the local (Ont. Reg. 464/97) associations, not to exceed twelve (12), in the area of jurisdiction of the Board, as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board. One alternative for each representative appointed from the local associations as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board.</i></li><li><i>Two members from among the Board's own members as appointed by the Board.</i></li><li><i>One alternate for each of the Board's members as appointed by the Board;</i></li><li><i>One or more additional members as appointed by the Board who are neither representatives of a local association nor members of the Board or another committee of the Board.</i></li></ol>
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	B. Iannicca, L. del Rosario, Anna da Silva (Alternate), T. Thomas (Alternate)
<b>OTHERS:</b>	<i>Special Education Administration, Chiefs of Service, Chief Support Officer, Child &amp; Youth Worker, Consultants, one representative from each of: Principal/Vice Principal Associations, Elementary &amp; Secondary, OECTA Elementary, OECTA Secondary, Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Worker Association, APSSP (Association of Professional Student Services Personnel).</i>
<b>MONITORING:</b>	Associate Director, Instructional Services D. Amaral

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Ont. Reg. 464/97, from *The Education Act*)

The committee will:

- (1) make recommendations to the Board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the Board;
- (2) participate in the Board's annual review, under Ont. Reg. 306/90 of the Special Education Plan;
- (3) participate in the Board's annual budget process under Section 231 of the Act, as that process relates to special education; and
- (4) review the financial statements of the Board, prepared under Section 252 of the Act, as those statements relate to special education.

<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	<b>The Board</b>
<b>MEETINGS:</b>	<b>Usually once a month on the first Wednesday following Faith and Program Committee Meeting, September to June – 7:00 p.m.</b>