

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 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.

Pages

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory
3. Opening Prayer - Second Week of Lent 2
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, February 12, 2020 3
6. Previous Business

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Early Intervention By Support Services: Social Emotional Learning and Communication; Joanne Dean, Chief of Speech, Language, Vision, Hearing and Kate Hann, Chief Supporting Officer of Child and Youth Work

C. Budget

D. Reports from Trustees

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations 7

1. Easter Seals Ontario: March is Easter Seals Month - March 1 - 31, 2020 - Brochure
2. Epilepsy Awareness Month - March 1 - 31, 2020 - Brochure
3. Autism Ontario - Raise the Flag for Autism April 2, 2020 - Brochure

F. Work Group

G. Information and Correspondence

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

J. Questions asked by Public

K. Future Meetings

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

L. Adjournment

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Lord, keep us humble so that we may not fall into the temptation to judge others.

Bless us with humility so that we may never place ourselves above others.

We pray to be less occupied with our own desires and more passionate about the needs of others.

Amen.



MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Attendees:	<p>Bruno Iannicca Leslie Silvestri</p> <p>Thomas Thomas Myra Del Rosario Nancy Vrbanek Janice Hatton Airene Cunanan Lisette Gaylie Rose Casaccia Maria Demata Celeste Encila Caroline Huxtable Laurie-Anne Clark</p> <p>Anna da Silva Tim Smith</p>	<p>Trustee - Chair Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Peel Region, Vice-Chair - Rep Alternate Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Rep ABC Association for Bright Children - Alt Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alt Easter Seals Ontario - Rep Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Alt Voice/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children - Alt Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Alt Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Rep Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Alternate Trustee Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Rep</p>
Regrets:	<p>Luz del Rosario Dely Farrace Heather Bialowas Christine Koczmarra</p>	<p>Trustee Brampton Caledon Community Living - Rep Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Rep Community Living Mississauga</p>
Staff:	<p>Deborah Finegan-Downey</p> <p>Cairine MacDonald Christiane Kyte Caterina Bova Jason Pratt Joanne Dean Yulanda Julien Irene Rukavina Blair Patterson</p> <p>Cristine Pergotski Frances Campese Sharon Chambers Lori Austin</p>	<p>Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services Superintendent, Family of Schools General Manager, Clinical Services and Spec Education Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision Chief, Social Work Acting Chief, Psychology Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association Association of Professional Student Services Personnel Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary OECTA Elementary</p>

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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, *God Will Be There*.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Lissette Gaylie

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, January 15, 2020

Moved by Leslie Silvestri

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, JANUARY 15, 2020, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

NIL

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Psychology Month; Irene Rukavina, Acting Chief of Psychology

Christiane Kyte, General Manager of Clinical Services, introduced Irene Rukavina, Acting Chief of Psychology, who presented on Psychology month. Dufferin-Peel has celebrated Psychology Month for the past 12 years and provided a variety of topics to staff, students and parents. Resources can be found on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board website. The first goal of the presentation was to show members how to find the articles on the website, and the second goal was to highlight a topic or theme. The first post that will go out to the system is on Stress and Techniques to manage stress. The *Psych 5 to Thrive* explained techniques: Recognize the Symptoms;

Communicate; Teach Healthy Coping Mechanisms; Create a Safe Harbour; and Model Healthy Behaviours. This information will be posted on the website for all those interested. Questions were taken, and responses were given. Rosie Della-Spina to send out presentation electronically to all members.

2. Attendance Matters; Yulanda Julien, Chief Social Worker

Christiane Kyte introduced Yulanda Julien, Chief of Social Work, who did a presentation on Attendance Matters, Presence Matters (AMPM). This pilot started in 2015 (Phase I) at one of our elementary schools (Corpus Christi), based on the work of American Researcher and Attendanceworks.org founder, Hedy Chang. The pilot looked at the impact of Tier 1 attendance work on student, parent and staff attitudes and overall student attendance at the school. The success of Phase I led to an additional 7 elementary schools for Phase II. These schools were provided with support from the Board Researcher, Brad Kipfer and the Senior Social Worker, Natasha Budzarov, as well as the resources available from attendanceworks.org. This year was the launch of Phase III, with 18 more elementary schools for a total of 25 currently participating. This spring, our research department hopes to conduct surveys again with the students, parents and teachers in the participating schools. The goal would be to use this data to help inform overall Tier 1 attendance practices across the entire system. Questions were taken, and responses were given.

C. Budget

NIL

D. Reports from Trustees

Chair, Bruno Iannicca, addressed the question raised at our previous meeting regarding the presentation on Human Trafficking on April 2, 2020. Chair Iannicca did speak to Constable Horner and Constable Wells and if the presentation included a slide for children who learn differently. Constable Horner said the presentation does include a specific slide, but they will insert a specific slide into the presentation, so parents understand. Children who learn differently are spoken to by their parents in a specific manner, so they understand what dangers exist.

Trustees have been working on challenges the entire Board is facing, such as budget and everyday matters.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

Vice-Chair Leslie Silvestri of Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (Ldapr) requested that her association can present in May or June. The month of May was confirmed.

Janice Hatton, representative for Autism Ontario, shared that Raise the Flag for Autism campaign will be Thursday, April 2, 2020. Events will take place to raise awareness through events, fundraising and formal acknowledgement of this special day. All across Ontario there will be participation from Municipalities, Schools, Businesses and Places of Worship. Flyers will be sent to Rosie Della-Spina electronically to have posted and to share with members.

Vice-Chair Leslie Silvestri shared information received from a memo from Small Arms Inspection Building, offering community hours during the day to community groups running programs supported to the public for free. This is a large space and is fully serviced. This initiative is called Community Hours and is open to community groups. Leslie to send information to Rosie Della-Spina to share with members.

Caroline Huxtable representative for Epilepsy South Central Ontario shared that Thursday, March 26, is Epilepsy Awareness Day, and everyone is encouraged to wear purple. Epilepsy South Central Ontario has people who are willing to go into the schools to talk about epilepsy.

Superintendent Deborah Finegan-Downey shared that Saturday, March 21st is Down Syndrome Awareness Day - Rock your socks off. Dufferin-Peel CDSB has sent out the flyer to the system for awareness. Heather Bialowas representative for Down Syndrome Association of Peel: a caring network also sent a flyer from her association. Both flyers can be found on the board website under Special Education - Special Education Advisory Committee - Upcoming Events.

Dely Farrace representative for Brampton Caledon Community Living sent a list of spring workshops for parents which will be posted on the Special Education Advisory Committee website - Quick Links for Parent Support.

Rosie Della-Spina to send this information with dates to members and staff.

F. Work Group

NIL

G. Information and Correspondence

1. World Down Syndrome Day, March 21, 2020 - Brochure

H. Communication

NIL

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

NIL

J. Questions asked by Public

NIL

K. Future Meetings

March 11, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

L. Adjournment

Moved by

Moved by Lissette Gaylie

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCESSIBILITY = INCLUSION AND BELONGING FOR KIDS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES **Easter Seals Ontario kicks off its annual fundraising and awareness campaign**

Toronto, ON, March 2, 2020 – Kids with physical disabilities are often left out because a building isn't accessible, there is no accessible transportation or a program won't accommodate someone in a wheelchair. Easter Seals Ontario has been an advocate for improving accessibility for children with disabilities in the community for 98 years.

Accessibility means more than just ramps, elevators and electric door openers. It is also being able to join a group and play together, enabling a child with a disability to be included and have a sense of belonging.

"Having an accessible building or offering an accessible program sends a very positive message to child with a physical disability," says Jennifer Green, an Easter Seals parent. "It says 'Yes, you can' instead of 'No, you can't.'" At Easter Seals camp, when asked 'Who wants to?' my son, Cameron, always raises his hand and shouts 'Yah.' He always knows he will be able to participate in anything being offered at camp whether it's sailing, crafts, cooking or swimming."

"We have heard from the kids we serve that the feeling of being different and excluded leads to tremendous stress and anxiety. Easter Seals' services are so important because they enable kids to get out into the community or attend Easter Seals camp and experience a sense of belonging," says Kevin Collins, President and CEO, Easter Seals Ontario. "Last summer, a mother had tears in her eyes when she picked up her teenage daughter from Easter Seals camp and learned that she had made her very first friend. It's not easy for kids with disabilities to make friends or have a social life. Through the support of our donors, Easter Seals helps kids with physical disabilities get essential mobility and accessibility equipment and offers opportunities for inclusion and participation at our fully accessible camps."

March kicks off Easter Seals annual campaign to raise funds and bring awareness to the challenges and needs of kids with physical disabilities.

Initiatives include:

- The Easter Seals annual giving campaign containing the traditional "seals" arrives in homes across the province.
- The launch of Easter Seals Ontario's new Services website, www.Services.EasterSeals.org, featuring information on our programs and services as well as resources for parents and caregivers.
- Easter Seals segments air on the CKWS Morning Show in South Eastern Ontario throughout the month
- The **Easter Seals Paper Egg Campaign** takes place **March 20 to April 12** in retailers across Ontario, including Sobeys, Foodland, FreshCo, Avondale, Highland Farms, Giant Tiger and Booster Juice, where shoppers can lend their support by purchasing a \$2 paper egg.
- Annual **Easter Seals Telethons** air on **Sunday, March 22 in Sudbury** and on **Sunday, March 29 in Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor-Essex**. For more information, visit EasterSeals.org.

Easter Seals Ontario has been a champion for children and youth with physical disabilities from all ethnic and religious backgrounds for the past 98 years. Programs include funding for essential mobility and accessibility equipment, fully accessible summer camp opportunities at its two properties, Camp Merrywood and Camp Woodeden, public awareness and information resources. Easter Seals is only able to provide its programs and services with the generous support of its donors and sponsors. For more information, visit EasterSeals.org.

Meredith Wiens
Easter Seals Ontario
416.421.8377 ext. 368, mwiens@easterseals.org

Epilepsy Awareness Month

March 1st - 31st

epilepsy
south central
ontario

International Purple Day March 26th



www.epilepsysco.org



Captain Epilepsy says...

...show your
support...

wear PURPLE



February 17, 2020

Dear Community Friend,

Thursday, April 2, 2020 will mark another historic day in Canada for the autism community and for the 7th year, Canadians will officially recognize World Autism Awareness Day.

Autism Ontario's **Raise the Flag for Autism** celebrates the day through awareness events, fundraising and formal acknowledgement of this special day.

All across Ontario we will have participation from:

- Municipalities raising the flag with proclamation
- Schools will be running awareness activities and fundraising for the cause
- Places of Worship will be celebrating the day at a service with a free-will give
- Businesses and service clubs will be running internal awareness campaigns and fundraising through their corporate social responsibility committees

We are writing to you to request your assistance and support on this special initiative. By participating in the **Raise the Flag for Autism** campaign you will be helping to increase public awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and the day-to-day challenges faced by individuals with autism and their families. With a 1 in 66 diagnosis rate, we know there are many people seeking support from Autism Ontario and the incredible programs and services we deliver as a result of our fundraising initiatives.

If you would like to participate in this year's annual **Raise the Flag for Autism** event please contact me by email at julie@autismontario.com or by phone at 905-966-7317. For more information visit <https://raisetheflagforautism.com/raise-the-flag/> to learn more about the campaign.

Thank you so very much for your consideration and I hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

Julie Densham
Fundraising and Finance Coordinator
Central West Region
Autism Ontario



TEACHERS & STUDENTS!

Fundraise in support of Autism Ontario and in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day 2020!

'We believe in the world being a more inclusive place for all.'

What is Raise the Flag?

Raise the Flag, through the simple act of raising a flag, unites families, schools, communities, government and professionals in recognizing World Autism Awareness Day, and brings to light the struggles and triumphs of people on the autism spectrum.

Why we Fundraise

The funds raised through Raise the Flag go to supporting children and adults with autism and their families living in Ontario. Last year, Autism Ontario supported over 20,000 people through our programs, events and services.

How Does My School Get Involved?

Register and you'll receive a flag to fly in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day 2020 (WAAD). You also have access to our Educator Toolkits which include activities and educational videos.

When do we Raise the Flag?

WAAD falls on Thursday, April 2 in 2020.

Teachers, register today and access the Educator Toolkits at:

www.raisetheflagforautism.com

Questions? Email rtf@autismontario.com



Raise The Flag
Levée du drapeau