

**AGENDA**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

CEC - Boardroom

*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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- 2. Summer Program Update; C. Kyte, R. Commisso
- 3. Uplifting Special Events/Days; R. Commisso, S. Baiana

**C. Budget**

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**F. Work Group**

- 1. Upcoming Parent Reaching Out Grant Events; R. Commisso, S. Baiana

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December 7, 2022 (Liturgy at 6:30 p.m.)

January 25, 2023

February 15, 2023

March 22, 2023

April 12, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 14, 2023

**L. Adjournment**



# OPENING PRAYER

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God of compassion,  
You created us for community.  
Gather us together in your embrace  
And give us the grace to support one another.  
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 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Call**

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca Dely Farrace  Heather Bialowas  Myra Del Rosario Lisette Gaylie Janice Hatton Caroline Huxtable Christine Koczmar Liza Dowson	Trustee - Chair Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative Easter Seals Ontario - Representative Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative Community Living Mississauga - Representative Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative
Regrets:	Luz del Rosario Thomas Thomas Shawn Xaviour Laurie-Anne Clark  Airene Cunanan Celeste Encila Lisa Papaloni Leslie Silvestri Nancy Vrbaneck	Alternate Trustee Alternate Trustee Trustee Representative Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Alternative Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Alternative Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative ABC Association for Bright Children - Alternative
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D. David Amaral Deborah Finegan-Downey Sabrina Baiana Tammie Cameron Sharon Chambers Rosanna Commisso Peter Cusumano Joanne Dean Marisa De Oliveira Kellie Donaher Clementine D'Souza	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board Associate Director, Instructional Services Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision OECTA Secondary - Representative Association of Professional Student Services Personnel Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners

Laurie Eschli	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative
Camila Gonzalez	Senior Child and Youth Care Practitioner
Pina Grosso	Chief of Social Work
Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
Debra Lean	Chief of Psychology
Cairine MacDonald	Superintendent, Family of Schools
Patricia McGrillis	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative
Cristine Pergotski	Association of Professional Student Services Personnel
Laura Pincente	Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners
Jason Pratt	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary
Michael Schaus	OECTA Elementary - Representative
Jacqueline Toste	Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs

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

**A. Routine Matters**

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment - Katherine Magee

3. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Finegan-Downey led the Opening Prayer.

a. Year-End Liturgy

Clementine D'Souza, Tammie Cameron, Laura Pincente, Eliane Moniz-Baptista and Jacqui Toste conducted the Year-End Liturgy.

4. Approval of Agenda

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, May 18, 2022

**THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, MAY 18, 2022, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Business - NIL

**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

1. Acknowledgement of Superintendent D. Finegan-Downey's Retirement; D. Amaral

Trustee Bruno Iannicca thanked Superintendent Finegan-Downey, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, for everything she has done for the committee and wished her happiness in her retirement. He introduced Associate Director David Amaral to speak on her retirement.

Associate Director of Instructional Services David Amaral thanked Superintendent Finegan-Downey on behalf of the entire Executive Council for her contribution to the school board and her advocacy for students with differing abilities and all students.

Later, Trustee Bruno Iannicca welcomed the new Superintendent of Special Education and Learning Services, Lucy Papaloni. Superintendent Papaloni thanked Superintendent Finegan-Downey for her work over the past four years, and specified that she would be taking over the role on August 1st.

2. Student Success Story; R. Commisso, R. Adea

Rosanna Commisso, Coordinator of Special Education and Learning Services, welcomed student Ron Adea, his mother, and his manager, Lucy Adea, to the committee. She talked about his many ongoing accomplishments in his music career, cumulating in the creation of his band, the ASD Band. The following are some of Ron's accomplishments:

Ron is a gifted 27-year-old with autism, diagnosed at the age of three and a quiet and kind individual. When he was five years old, he started to manifest his love for music. At age seven, he started to play by just watching the screen of his electronic keyboard. He was then taken in by a private piano tutor and later enrolled in a music school. Presently, Ron works with a renowned piano tutor, adjudicator, and performer.

From 2003 up to the present, Ron performed several functions for different organizations in Ontario, Canada, such as the Autism Society of Ontario, Geneva Center for Autism, Kerry's Place for Autism, Holland Bloorview McMillan Research Centre and the Autism Society Philippines.

In 2009, Ron's first solo concert was at the Brae Ben Golf Course. 2009 also marks the year of the release of Ron's first CD titled "My Music and Me," which is a collection of his favourite classical pieces.

In 2010, Ron was the Ambassador for the Geneva Center for Autism Symposium in Toronto. The following year, he performed at the Centre's Gala Night and Auction at the Royal Conservatory of Music at the University of Toronto.

Ron serenaded his staff of seven years, expressing his gratitude to them. During his last year at St. Joan of Arc in 2013, the staff organized a farewell concert for him titled "A Night to Remember", a dinner concert attended by over 50 people. This was also when his second CD was launched, entitled "A Quiet Night with Ron."

Then in 2015, three very special and talented young men on the spectrum led a performance where they impressed the audience in a concert titled "Our Voice." In this same year, Ron's third CD titled "One More Time" was launched, another compilation of his favourite musical pieces, including his most requested 5th Symphony by Beethoven.

A music video of one of the band's songs was presented to the committee. Afterwards, Ron Adea played a piano composition by Chopin titled Fantasy Impromptu.

3. Child and Youth Workers: Supporting Emotion Regulation; C. Kyte, C. Gonzalez

Christiane Kyte, General Manager of Clinical Services and Special Education, introduced Camila Gonzalez, Senior Child and Youth Care Practitioner.

Camila Gonzalez presented on the work of Child and Youth Workers to support Emotion Regulation.

Child and Youth Workers of Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board respond to students' behaviour and social/emotional needs through direct intervention and consultation, as well as contributing to the development and implementation of preventative programs. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that affirming and supportive environments are created to help develop social-emotional skills. Camila Gonzalez discussed strategies and programs used to support emotion regulation and the different tiers of support. She discussed materials that are provided to students to help them with emotion regulation. A video was presented on how students can use these strategies.

**C. Budget - NIL**

**D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked Superintendent Finegan-Downey to expand on the status of allowing students to stay beyond 21 years of age. Superintendent Finegan-Downey explained that this question was brought to the board, and the Ministry for the Central Region was contacted. The boards in the Central Region are all following the directive that is in the Education Act, and students finish on the last day of June, in the year in which they turn 21. There are no boards in the Central Region extending beyond this age.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca again mentioned that he would like to have a student read the opening prayer at the beginning of the SEAC meetings next year.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned the discussion from the last SEAC meeting regarding the committee writing a letter to the Ministry to support the extension of the students' age past 21. It was decided to re-visit this in September.

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

**F. Work Group**

1. Input to the Special Education Plan; S. Baiana, R. Comisso

Rosanna Commisso, Coordinator of Special Education and Learning Services, introduced Sabrina Baiana, Coordinator of Special Education and Learning Services, to discuss the input to the Special Education Plan. Sabrina Baiana discussed the purpose of the Special Education Plan and the Ministry's requirements and explained how to navigate through the document. She requested input to be provided by June 24th through the Feedback Survey Link.

**G. Information and Correspondence**

1. SEAC Dates for 2022-2023

SEAC dates for 2022-2023 will be provided over the summer.

**H. Communication - NIL**

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

Liza Dowson, Representative of the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders, mentioned an article on CBC called "I Wish It Were Easier to Connect with People Who Care for My Kid at School" it was published on May 25th. She asked if there was a standardized method of communication between the school and parents of children with limited verbal skills. Superintendent Finegan-Downey said when working with parents on a case-by-case basis, how communication would be done would be discussed. In the past, it could look like a notebook or duo-tang to ensure that the pages do not fall out. Parents can meet with school staff to discuss a student's needs concerning communication.

**J. Questions asked by Public**

**K. Future Meetings**

**L. Adjournment**

**Moved by**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:12 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

June 22, 2022

Honourable Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[Christine.elliott@pc.ola.org](mailto:Christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)  
[Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org](mailto:Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org)

Honourable Christine Elliott and Honourable Stephen Lecce,

The Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is aware of the process of revision to PPM 81 that has been undertaken by the Ministries. The committee is also aware of the provincial shortage of nursing staff and the impact that this is having on students and families, particularly as it relates to having medical needs met within the school setting.

The UCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee understands that the Regulated Health Professions Act does permit regulated health care professionals to delegate controlled acts to non-regulated individuals. Delegation to staff is not possible within the UCDSB, and many other boards, as the collective agreements do not have provisions to permit this to occur. In situations where regulated health care professionals are delegating controlled acts, UCDSB is in a position of needing to draw upon scarce nursing resources and to fund private nursing. Given the current nursing shortage, it is not always possible to secure private nursing services and alternative arrangements are made directly with families to ensure that the students can safely attend school while having their medical needs attended to. This has included permitting parents/guardians or temporary health care workers employed by families within their homes, following all health and safety measures for the school environment, to come into the schools to perform the controlled acts.

The UCDSB SEAC is concerned with the proposed amendments and a potential expansion in the types of controlled acts that can be delegated to non-regulated education workers. UCDSB is already in a position of not being able to provide service from non-regulated education workers with the current PPM and we do not support assuming the risk to students, staff, and the board.

Beyond the concerns related to collective agreement barriers, we would like to draw attention to other related concerns:

1. Medical procedures that are controlled acts should be performed by duly qualified health care professionals. Schools and boards are not in positions to manage the supervision of controlled acts that are regularly performed in the school setting.
2. Parents and guardians should not be expected to attend at a school to perform medically prescribed procedures as a result of the nursing shortage. Where collective agreements do not permit the delegation of controlled acts to non-regulated education employees, measures must be in place to permit boards to use the traditional method of securing nursing services through the Ministry of Health for school-based nursing.
3. If the intention of the Ministry is to permit the delegation of controlled acts to non-regulated education workers, Boards should have a means of recovering the full cost of private nursing services that are incurred as a result of delegation by a regulated health care professional. In the absence of a cost recovery system, there needs to be a mechanism in place to have the provision of services revert to the Ministry of Health. Private nursing services are costly and can severely impact budgets allocated for special education services. Medical procedures that are controlled acts that need to be performed during the school day for students should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and should not negatively impact the education services available for all students with special education needs.
4. While the nursing shortage is not the responsibility of school boards, the delegation of controlled acts by regulated health care professionals places boards, like UCDSB, in direct competition for scarce nursing resources, thereby exacerbating an already challenging situation and placing additional burdens on our families.

We appreciate that discussions are ongoing at the provincial level and between various ministries. We request that the government take immediate action to develop a solution that ensures that all students requiring medical support in the school setting continue to have equitable access to learning and that risk to students, school boards and their employees is minimized.

Sincerely,

John McAllister  
 Chair of the Board  
 Upper Canada District School Board

Michel LaBonte  
 Chair, UCDSB Special Education  
 Advisory Committee

Cc. Chairs of all Ontario Special Advisory Committees  
 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)  
 Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAAC) on SEAC  
 John Jordan, MPP of Lanark, Frontenac and Kingston  
 Steve Clark, MPP of Leeds Grenville, Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes  
 Nolan Quinn, MPP of Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry  
 Stephanie Sarrazin, MPP of Glengarry, Prescott and Russell



SEAC DRAFT LETTER

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Ministry of Education  
Mowat Block, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor  
900 Bay St.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1L2

September 12, 2022

Dear Minister Lecce,

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is deeply concerned about the impact the last 2 1/2 years of this COVID pandemic has had on the education of the students we represent.

We are writing to request that the Ministry of Education consider providing the option to extend the time students with differing abilities have to remain or continue in Secondary School beyond year 7 and beyond age 21.

The "Ontario's Plan to Catch Up", which you have publicly announced, is a welcome starting point to address some of the educational gaps brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We too are very concerned but despite the huge impact this pandemic has had on student learning and well-being, we have yet to hear or understand explicitly how your Ministry (and perhaps other applicable Ministries within the government) plan to address the gaps currently faced by diverse learners. Specifically, how are you addressing the gaps experienced by those diverse learners who have graduated or are currently nearing the end of their secondary school education?

Many of the students we represent could not learn online or even attend online. They had no instruction or experiential learning during the first couple of waves because inperson learning was not available. And when special education classrooms did eventually open and remain open, these students were unable to benefit from integration into regular classrooms, extracurricular activities, or socialization with students in the main stream; nor did they have the opportunity to learn from cooperative work experience essential to successes needed in life because it was not available or severely limited in the community. There were and are also vulnerable diverse learners in other programs who have failed to reach their potential or even come close due to similar circumstances and missing the time needed in school and with peers. Parents and guardians of diverse learners could not provide even similar opportunities that the school system could; many of these families struggle with

disparities in income, time, and many other resources which the pandemic worsened as statistics have shown us all. The school system also carries an intricate network that can access opportunities much more readily than parents. For example, there are teams of teachers and ERWs who not only teach, but organize and coordinate co-op opportunities, liaise with businesses in the community, develop resumés, and provide support at the co-op work location.

“Education For ALL” and universal design are good for all but absolutely necessary for special needs students. With some students, we believe that it is a fundamental accommodation that your Ministry consider the option to also extend the time that students can remain in high-school or return to high school to enable their own education recovery, whether that means extending the 7 year maximum for high school, or providing Boards with the funding to accommodate students within other special education programs. We are advocating for the most vulnerable students who require additional time as part of their accommodation to “catch up” and close the gaps experienced during this COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of integration time, cooperative experience, and the learning available within a school system can drastically change the post-secondary trajectory for the most vulnerable students SEAC represents.

We appreciate your attention to this very important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Bruno Iannica  
SEAC Chair  
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) DPCDSB  
Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11.  
Dely Farrace, SEAC Vice Chair, DPCDSB  
SEAC Association Representative for Brampton-Caledon Community Living

cc: (suggestion)  
DPCDSB Trustees all  
other Ontario SEACs