

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Memorial St. Demetrius
Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

The mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and Church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education, which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

Committee Members:

Luz del Rosario, Chair, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11
Leslie Silvestri, (Vice-Chair), Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region
Stefano Pascucci, Trustee, Mississauga Ward 4
Bruno Iannicca, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 7
Thomas Thomas, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 5
Myra Del Rosario, ABC Association for Bright Children
Nancy Vrbaneck, ABC Association for Bright Children (Alt.)
Dely Farrace, Brampton Caledon Community Living
Janice Hatton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter
Airene Cunanan, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter (Alt.)
Lissette Gaylie, Easter Seals Ontario
TBD, Canadian Mental Health Association/Peel
Rose Casaccia, Canadian Mental Health Association/Peel (Alt.)
TBD, VOICE/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children
Maria Demata, VOICE/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children (Alt.)
Christine Koczmar, Community Living Mississauga
Heather Bialowas, Down Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network
Celeste Encila, Down Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network (Alt.)
Bobbi Wilson, CCCSC, Member at Large

Rosie Della-Spina, Recorder

Staff:

David Amaral
Deb Finegan-Downey
Cairine MacDonald
Cathy Bova
Tina De Vellis-Carino
Kylie Richardson
Jason Pratt
Christiane Kyte
Joanne Dean
Kate Hann
Yulanda Julien
Irene Rukavina
Rosanna Commisso
Shannon Pompili Bosco
Sabrina Baiana
Tammie Cameron
Laura Pincente
Jacqui Toste
Michael Schaus
Teddi Lowie
Blair Patterson
Laurie Eschli
Cristine Pergotski
Kellie Donaher

AGENDA

A Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – “We would like to acknowledge that we are on sacred Indigenous territory and thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for being the stewards of this land.”
3. Opening Prayer - *A Prayer of Gratitude*
4. Approval of Agenda

Agenda – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – October 9, 2019

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, September 11, 2019 – *(attached)*
6. Previous Business

B Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Riverwood Programs; Jane New
2. Gifted Program; Staff

C Budget

D Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees

E Reports from Community Associations

F Work Group

- 1.

G Information and Correspondence

1. Letter from Écoles Catholiques Centre-Est

H Communication

I Questions asked of, and by Committee Members

J Public Questions

K Future Meetings

~~September 11, 2019~~

~~October 9, 2019~~

January 15, 2020

April 22, 2020

November 13, 2019

February 12, 2020

May 20, 2020

December 4, 2019

March 11, 2020

June 10, 2020

L Adjournment

Agenda – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – October 9, 2019

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**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Memorial St. Daniel
Wednesday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

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Chair: Luz del Rosario
Vice Chair: Leslie Silvestri
Trustees: Luz del Rosario, Stefano Pascucci, Bruno Iannicca, Thomas Thomas
Superintendent: Deb Finegan-Downey, Special Education and Learning Services

Committee Members:

Luz del Rosario, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11
 Leslie Silvestri, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region
 Stefano Pascucci, Trustee, Mississauga Ward 4
 Bruno Iannicca, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 7
 Thomas Thomas, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 5
 Myra Del Rosario, ABC Association for Bright Children
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 Jason Pratt
 Christiane Kyte
 Joanne Dean
 Kate Hann
 Yulanda Julien
 Debra Lean
 Rosanna Commisso
 Shannon Pompili Bosco
 Sabrina Baiana
 Tammie Cameron
 Laura Pincente
 Jacqui Toste
 Michael Schaus
 Teddi Lowie
 Kimberley Crhak
 Laurie Eschli
 Kellie Donaher

REGRETS: Bobbi Wilson, Rose Casaccia, Airene Cunanan

ABSENT: Maria Demata

Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – September 11, 2019

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MINUTES

A Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by Chair, Luz del Rosario. Attendance was taken, regrets noted and guests welcomed. Changes to Members and Staff were read out and recorded.
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
An opening liturgy took place in the St. John XXIII Chapel led by Special Education and Learning Services staff, *The Light of Insight*. All members proceeded to the chapel.

A change in the order of the agenda was made. At this point B 1. was presented.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dely Farrace

THAT THE AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting,

Moved by: Lissette Gaylie

THAT THE MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2019 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business – NIL

B Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Greetings from Associate Director – Instructional Services
David Amaral, Associate Director – Instructional Services brought greetings to SEAC on behalf of Executive Council. Mr. Amaral spoke of our elected Trustees and how they gather in the boardroom over many late night meetings always ensuring with staff that students who learn differently and have diverse learning needs are always serviced to the best of our capabilities. He praised SEAC members for their participation and dedication and to continue asking the difficult questions. School Boards are asked to find inefficiencies which Dufferin-Peel continues to do and with the confusion and instability in education, SEAC should continue to keep an open eye on decisions made for Special Education and voice their concerns. E-Learning is still being considered by the Ministry of Education for a minimum of 4 courses, however, there has been no update other than it won't begin until 2020. Staff especially Special Education staff are concerned about planning and implementation of e-learning courses in a short amount of time as well as the consequences for some students. Class sizes have not been an issue in the

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elementary schools however in secondary the ration this year is 24:1 compared to last year 22:1. Trustees have asked for a report to see what the implications are. The Ministry directed boards to increase class sizes in secondary schools 28:1 within 4 years. For the 2019-20 school year, programs have not been cut but going forward this will have an impact to offer some programs in the secondary school. Associate Director Amaral thanked the staff of Special Education and Learning Services for the hard work and support for students with diverse learning needs and Trustees Luz del Rosario and Stefano Pascucci for their leadership.

2. Feedback on PRO Grants

Staff provided a second look at the video of each of the SEAC PRO Grant evenings which took place in 2018-2019. Shannon Pompili Bosco reviewed the feedback forms with members which gave new ideas moving forward. We are going to structure some of our evenings in Mississauga and some in Brampton. There will be 2 evenings where we group 2 events on the same evening at the same venue, *Preparing your Child with Differing Abilities for the Sacraments* and *Transitions: Planning the Journey & Community Agencies Marketplace* which will take place on November 6th at Blessed Trinity Catholic Centre for Learning in Mississauga. Next year we will hold them in Brampton to give those who can't commute to Mississauga a chance to participate. A draft of the flyer was passed around for input. The second evening will be held in Brampton in April, details are still being worked out for the Math PRO Grant and a Technology Marketplace PRO Grant again reversing the location in 2020 to meet geographical needs. Other evenings we are planning are *Welcome to Kindergarten* in January and Speech and Language evening in May both to be held at the Catholic Education Centre. More details to come.

C Budget – NIL

D Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees

1. Trustee Stefano Pascucci welcomed everyone back and thanked them for giving up their time.
2. Contract negotiations are currently in progress.
3. Sheanne Jesudhason, student at Holy Name of Mary CSS and Eugene Zanone student at Loyola CSS our two new student trustees, were welcomed at the August 27th Board meeting.
4. We are waiting for government updates on funding and/or direction for new students Thursday that will join our schools who no longer receive funding.
5. Chair Luz del Rosario attended the launch of "Project Now", a new initiative to end child and youth suicide in Mississauga. The Government is giving \$3M over the next 3 years for this initiative and Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB, Peel DSB will work closely with Peel Children and Youth as well as other partners throughout this initiative.

E Reports from Community Associations

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Peel: Leslie Silvestri updated SEAC on the programs that will be running starting in late October. Programs running in Malton will be free of charge. Leslie Silvestri will send information electronically to R. Della-Spina.
2. Mississauga Community Living: Christine Koczmaro urged members to buy a 'Smile Cookie' from Tim Horton's September 16 – 22, 2019. Proceeds go to Mississauga Community Living.
3. Brampton Caledon Community Living: Dely Farrace updated SEAC on the 2019 Fall Workshops taking place beginning September 2019. An electronic copy of the workshops will be sent to R. Della-Spina to share with members.

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F Work Group**1. PRO Grants 2019-2020**

Staff had SEAC members break into groups as per which parent evening event they would be interested in supporting. Discussion and sharing of ideas from community members for each initiative took place.

Laurie Eschli updated Members that last year's report was submitted however the template was not user friendly due to changes made. The government gave our Board \$10,000 for PRO Grants however there was over \$17,000 spent which will be covered by Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services, Deb Finegan-Downey.

2. SEAC Goals

Staff handed out a draft template of SEAC Goals 2019-2020 for SEAC members to work on entering their input. Goals established last year aligned with the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC) 2016 – 2019. The new CBILC will be out soon so we can align the 2019-2020 Goals. An electronic copy will be sent out to members to fill in and forward back to R. Della-Spina by

G Information and Correspondence

Four letters were copied to us from Greater Essex County School Board to the Minister of Education. All letters were sent to members prior to the meeting to review and content covered funding, class size changes, Bill 64 *Noah and Gregory's Law* and FASD Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder.

H Communication – NIL**I Questions asked of, and by Committee Members**

Christine Koczmaro of Community Living Mississauga raised the question when Financial Services would be making their next presentation? Superintendent, Finegan-Downey is working with Financial Services to arrange a suitable meeting date.

J Public Questions - NIL**K Future Meetings**

October 9, 2019	January 15, 2020	April 22, 2020
November 13, 2019	February 12, 2020	May 20, 2020
December 4, 2019	March 11, 2020	June 10, 2020

L Adjournment

Moved by: Christine Koczmaro

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 9:05PM.

CARRIED

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