

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 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 2
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, March 11, 2020 3
6. Previous Business

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Financial Services Presentation - Julie Cherepacha, Executive Superintendent Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Brian Hester, Superintendent Financial Services; Guy Arangio, Budget Manager; Domenic Santucci, Grants Administrator
2. Online Resource Materials - Shannon Pompili Bosco; Rosanna Commisso

C. Budget

D. Reports from Trustees

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

F. Work Group

G. Information and Correspondence 7

1. Easter Seals Ontario - Key Issues for Students With Physical Disabilities and Learning from Home April 15, 2020

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

J. Questions asked by Public

K. Future Meetings

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

L. Adjournment

Gentle Jesus,

We thank You for Your mercy and grace which woke us up this morning and kept us safe throughout the night.

We remain forever grateful for our homes, jobs, families and pray that You will send angels to protect us today and always.



In a special way, we ask You to watch over the elderly. Keep them safe of physical and emotional harm.

May You mend every broken heart, touch all who need healing, comfort all who mourn, and bless those with financial needs.

We anticipate the day when we can hug our children and grandchildren, share meals with our parents and visit friends.

The everyday parts of lives, perhaps, we didn't stop to recognize how precious those blessings are.

Distance is difficult, the unknown is scary. On those difficult days, we take comfort knowing You are with us. Changing fear into hope and sadness into joy.

Help us to remember we a guiding force of light and fill our hearts knowing that we are immeasurably loved by You.

Amen

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca Luz del Rosario Myra Del Rosario Dely Farrace Janice Hatton Airene Cunanan Lissette Gaylie Christine Koczmaro Heather Bialowas Caroline Huxtable Laurie-Anne Clark Tim Smith	Trustee - Chair Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Rep Brampton Caledon Community Living - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Rep Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alt Easter Seals Ontario - Rep Community Living Mississauga - Rep Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Rep Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Rep Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Rep
Regrets:	Leslie Silvestri Thomas Thomas Nancy Vrbaneck Rose Casaccia Maria Demata Celeste Encila Anna da Silva	Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Peel Region, Vice-Chair - Rep Alternate Trustee ABC Association for Bright Children - Alt Canadian Mental Health Assoc./Peel - Alt Voice/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children - Alt Down Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network - Alt Alternate Trustee
Staff:	Deborah Finegan-Downey Cairine MacDonald Caterina Bova Joanne Dean Kate Hann Michael Schaus Blair Patterson Cristine Pergotski Sharon Chambers	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services Superintendent, Family of Schools Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision Chief Support Officer, Child and Youth Workers OECTA Elementary Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association Association of Professional Student Services Personnel Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary

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 taken and regrets noted.

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 - Second Week of Lent

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

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Heather Bialowas

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, February 12, 2020

Moved by Heather Bialowas

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, FEBRUARY 12, 2020, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business - NIL

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 Workers

Deborah Finegan-Downey, Superintendent of Special Education and Learning Services introduced Kate Hann, Chief Supporting Officer of Child and Youth Workers and Joanne Dean, Chief of Speech-Language, Hearing and Vision Services. The presentation began with a review of what Early Intervention is and why it is important, followed by a review of the Responsive and Inclusive Support Model by Support Services Personnel. Next, Kate Hann reviewed the definition of social-emotional learning and evidence-based programs commonly offered in the primary grades by child and youth workers to support social-emotional growth. Finally, Joanne Dean explained the importance of oral language development, its impact on communication, reading, writing and spelling development, as well as evidence-based programs /supports commonly offered in the primary grades by a speech-language pathologist. Questions were answered following the presentation.

C. Budget - NIL

D. Reports from Trustees

1. Trustee Luz del Rosario shared that the virtue this month is Kindness, and there is no cost to demonstrate kindness. Share a smile as every small act of kindness matters.
 2. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, and we are reminded for 40 days ahead leading up to Easter to Give up something and to give.
 3. March is National Nutrition Month, and we are encouraged to make healthy food choices that fuel healthy bodies and brains, improve student learning and contribute to academic success. For more information, please visit: <http://food-guide.canada.ca/en>.
 4. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) 2020-2021 budget will give opportunities to engage our communities and stakeholders in the development process to ensure public input is considered by the Board of Trustees. Updates will be posted to the DPCDSB website to inform the community of consultation opportunities and ways in which input may be submitted. Delegations at regular DPCDSB board and committee meetings are always welcome. Information will be distributed to parents/guardians through school newsletters and at Catholic School Councils (CSC) meetings. There will also be news releases and social media postings. The Public Budget Webcast is set for April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
 5. The Board of Trustees received an update on February 4th from Student Transportation. Monthly performance measures indicate bus operators continue to have a dedicated driver for each route, and driver retention continues to be strong. Delays are posted in a timely manner, and service levels remain strong overall. STOPR website: www.stopr.ca.
 6. On April 2, 2020, in partnership with Peel Police, SEAC Chair, Bruno Iannicca arranged an informative Parent Engagement Presentation on Human Trafficking. This presentation will take place at Father Michael Goetz CSS at 7:00 p.m. All Parents/guardians are welcome to attend. (CANCELLED)
- The Peel Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Task Force, which was recently created, invited Director of Education, Marianne Mazzorato, to be part of the task force.
7. Community Living Mississauga Tribute Dinner is on March 26th, 2020. All proceeds go to fund summer camps for mentally and developmental youth and children.
 8. Corona Virus (COVID-19) is being widely talked about and is now considered a pandemic. Conversation about those who will be travelling on March Break and when they return, it is hoped that parents show some restraint if their child is not feeling well and keep them at home. Parents are very happy in the way the Board is forwarding information, which is rapidly changing by the hour. Custodial staff have a changed routine, and they are going to check washrooms several times a day, wiping down surfaces and checking to make sure everything is working properly. We are doing as much as we can to minimize the spread of this virus.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

1. Easter Seals Ontario: March is Easter Seals Month - March 1 - 31, 2020 - Brochure
- Lisette Gaylie spoke to Easter Seals Month and highlighted important dates with members; Easter Seals Paper Egg Campaign March 20 - April 12 in retailers across Ontario. You can 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.

2. Epilepsy Awareness Month - March 1 - 31, 2020 - Brochure

Caroline Huxtable spoke to Epilepsy Awareness Month, March 1 - 31. International Purple Day is March 26 and communities are encouraged to wear purple to support families and those who have epilepsy. March 28 is the annual Purple Gala, which is their main fundraiser.

3. Autism Ontario - Raise the Flag for Autism April 2, 2020 - Brochure

Airene Cunanan spoke to Raise the Flag for Autism, and asked how the school boards could get involved. Flags are being offered free of charge to bring awareness to school communities. Chair, Bruno Iannicca, through Superintendent Deborah Finegan-Downey, will discuss with Bruce Campbell, General Manager, Communications and Community Relations re flag protocol.

F. Work Group - NIL

G. Information and Correspondence

A letter from Avon Maitland District School Board to the Minister of Education was received late Wednesday, March 11, 2020 requesting that through the After School Skills Development Program, allow boards to offer the program over March Break and/or during the summer; and consideration of partial use of funds for transportation for this program.

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

Christine Koczmaro asked members to please consider the older population during this time of uncertainty.

J. Questions asked by Public - NIL

K. Future Meetings

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020

June 10, 2020

L. Adjournment

Moved by

Moved by Dely Farrace

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:22 p.m.

CARRIED

Key Issues for Students with Physical Disabilities and Learning At Home

The following issues have been identified by families of students with physical disabilities:

- **Attitudes** – Any media or public discussion that devalues the life of people with disabilities and their right to health care in the Covid crisis.
- **Loss of Health and Personal Care supports** – Many families are electing to decline personal care supports because of the risk from workers entering multiple homes. Agency providers are using best practices for safety and hygiene, but the children are very vulnerable.
- **Health and physical care of students** – Parents are providing the majority of care to their child and this requires significant time and energy. It impacts the capacity of the parents to support learning. Single parent led families are even more impacted without additional help in the home.
- **Loss of therapy as it has been deemed a non-essential service** – Children's Treatment Centers who provide rehabilitation services at school are currently closed. Parents are trying to follow therapy recommendations and work with their child at home, but it is challenging.
- **Access to Equipment at school** – Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funded equipment that supports learning as well as health and safety, such as walkers, standers, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, were not taken home at the start of March break. Families need this equipment for the health, safety and learning of students.
- **Access to Education Assistants (EAs)** – EAs are key staff in the delivery of programming to students with physical disabilities, Contact with a familiar face and remote support for students who are working on credit courses is needed.
- **Accessibility features for on-line learning** – Students with disabilities require a wide range of accessibility features for learning, and some of the recommended learning website do not provide these features.
- **Graduation Planning** – Students with disabilities who are hoping to graduate in June, are concerned about marks and requirements to graduate or for admission to post secondary. Families and students are concerned about how planning for graduation be supported.

- **Transition Planning** – Students who are transitioning in the fall to a new grade, school or placement need to know how planning will occur while learning at home.
- **Social isolation** – Many children with disabilities have few friends and rely on school for all of their social connections. The absence of school leads to further isolation.
- **Family feelings of isolation and stress** – Families face the additional stress of caring for a student with disabilities at home to ensure their health and safety, while trying to work from home, or if employment and income has been impacted with limited resources, creates an incredibly difficult situation for families.

Solutions:

Access to equipment at school – Arrangements to have equipment delivered to the student's home.

Accessibility features for on-line learning – All recommended websites should be reviewed to ensure that they have the accessibility features that may be required. The available accessibility features for each site should be clearly identified.

Access to Rehabilitation services and Therapists – Many CTCs are setting up on-line platforms and reaching out to individual families with suggestions for therapeutic exercises and activities that can be carried out at home. This should be required for all students on the School Health Support Program. Exercises and activities should be individualized to the student needs and family capacity.

Access to Educational Assistants – Many school boards are working on ways to involve EAs in supporting learning at home. Supporting remote connections with EAs who are a familiar face, would be helpful to students with physical disabilities. Students who are working on credit courses need these vital supports at home. One on one connections with EAs will help students, and their families feel supported.

Social Isolation – Peer support programs and the development of new initiatives to connect students with disabilities could use a variety of methods to reach out to the students using, mail, phone and video. Students with severe physical disabilities or communication impairments may need creative approaches to connect socially with school friends and peers.

Issues related to other Ministries

- **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** - Children's Treatment Centers who provide rehabilitation services at school are currently closed.
- **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** – Direct funding programs such as Special Services at Home (SSAH) and Passport rely on support workers and in

many cases the family or workers are not comfortable entering the home or interacting directly with the child. This vital support provided on a daily or weekly basis has been an additional loss of respite, support and socialization for students with disabilities.

- **Ministry of Health Assistive Devices Program (ADP) is closed and not accepting any more applications** – This is a barrier for families who need additional mobility or accessibility equipment in their homes.
- **Ministry of Health Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN)** who provide health care and personal supports in homes, have not been flexible in allowing family members to be hired to provide personal care support.