



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Microsoft Teams – 6:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark  
Children and Youth  
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community  
Hospital  
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network  
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network  
(Alternate)

#### **Approved Regrets with notification:**

Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark  
County Support Services  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living North Grenville

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School  
Effectiveness  
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education  
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special  
Education

#### **Guests:**

Angel Montgomery, Teacher, St. Thomas  
Aquinas CHS, Russell  
Diana Allan, Teacher, St. John Bosco,  
Brockville  
Judy Legault, Teacher, Sacred Heart, Cornwall  
Sandra Theobald, Teacher, St. John  
Intermediate, Perth  
Jennifer-Lynne Dubois, EA, Pope John Paul II,  
Hammond  
Jodi Herrgott, EA, Virtual School  
Julie Marshall, EA, St. Mary CHS, Brockville  
Christine Bryce, IAW – CDSBEO  
Christine Lefebvre, Parent, St. Gregory,  
Carleton Place  
Christine Rondeau, Parent, St. Francis Xavier  
CHS, Hammond  
Christina Hatchard, Parent, St. Patrick,  
Rockland  
Melinda Reynolds, Parent, St. Patrick,  
Rockland  
Lorraine Boyer, Parent, Pope John Paul II and  
St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond  
Deborah Terrance, Consultant, Mohawks of  
Akwasasne  
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

## **Opening Prayer**

Heather Gerber led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Prayer to Grow in Faith and Love*".

### **I. Approval of Amended Agenda**

Change in order - Item V will occur before Item IV.

Moved by: Deena Shorkey

CARRIED

### **II. Sharing August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

#### **Motion:**

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

### **III. Association Updates**

#### **Association for Community Living North Grenville – Fran Brauneisen**

The housing project started a few years ago in a co-operative manner between Community Living North Grenville, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Municipality of North Grenville and Lockwood Brothers Construction. On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the official grand opening was held with COVID protocols in place. There was to be both television and newspaper coverage. All units have been rented (never a fear from the beginning) and there is a waiting list of people who want to sign a lease when a space is available. Rent to income housing was sorely lacking for a long time and although this does not go very far to resolve the need in our community, it was a step in the right direction. Kudos to all those who made it happen.

#### **Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield**

##### **New Initiatives:**

- LCSS is re-opening our day centres to participants the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The new Carleton Place agency was finally able to open its doors to participants!

- The Gathering Grounds Café has been nominated for an award by the Chamber of Commerce, online voting to occur.

Other Information:

- Zoom virtual sessions continuing but the format will be changing over the coming weeks to multi-week sessions.

**Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More**

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Maude Champagne, PhD candidate, The neuroscience behind FASD

New Initiatives:

- MCCSS announces an additional \$3,000,000 initiative, an increase in support workers, knowledge and training capacity, additional partners particularly in health, support group, purpose established on website. Six of our initiatives from February were incorporated.
- September is FASD month and marketing is at the greatest level ever seen.
- CanFASD and MCCSS shares marketing resources and we were included as one of the 12 key stakeholders on the Memo of Understanding.
- Additional partnerships through Situation Table are being explored including community justice.

Other Information:

- Girl's Coding Club initial meeting had 14 participants and Gr. 12 student Charlotte Brown served as an instructor.
- Speaker Series now includes two more international recognized experts including Maude Champagne.

**Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore**

- There will be anxiety groups developed for youth, age 6-18.
- "Parenting through Anxiety" groups are being offered.
- The website has lots of information, new ideas and strategies to use.
- There has been an increase in referrals over the last couple weeks.
- The agency is continuing with remote work, evening work and face to face in cohorts.
- Boards are being informed on how kids can reach out to mental health services.

**Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey**

- The service model accommodates virtual, in-person and in-home support.
- Referrals are ramping up and there are no waitlists.
- There is an increase in the emergency department of teen girls with anxiety and depressive symptoms.
- The hospital is working with Michelle Neville, Mental Health Lead, CDSBEO to understand pathways to connect students to community mental health supports with an emphasis on the students working in the virtual school.
- The province has developed a working group with Kathy Short as the Co-chair and School Boards representation to discuss the development of pathways to improve communication

strategies, so parents know where to go for mental health services. The focus is on easy access through technology and to target vulnerable kids effected by COVID-19.

#### **IV. Presentation: “How Special Education Students are Supported Virtually”**

SEAC was blessed tonight to have eight talented educators share their passion and best practices around teaching virtually. The evening began with Julie Marshall, EA, sharing information on the four-block learning system that was used for the MEP students during the winter shutdown. Julie shared some of the interactive applications (Boom Cards, PowerPoint, MyON, Encore) that the board has provided to ensure our students are engaged in their learning.

Sandra Theobald, Teacher, showcased some of the work her students in summer learning and her classes now are producing using OneNote and the accessibility tools. Sandra explained that the Boards investment into Microsoft and the accessibility tools it offers, has provided opportunities for students with special needs and equalized the access to education for all.

Angel Montgomery, Teacher, focused on math activities using the interactive white board and Padlet. Angel explained that students who may have been hesitant learning on-line were now feeling confident in their abilities to take a leadership role and share their thinking with others.

Jennifer-Lynne Dubois, EA, played a video that depicted the experience of on-line learning for our very young students, and stressed the importance of body breaks and outdoor activities to spend time away from the screen.

Christine Bryce, IAW, emphasized the importance of EA support for students while they are learning virtually. Someone to monitor the chat box, reinforce on-line etiquette, encourage students to advocate for themselves and to prevent bullying were just a few of the benefits.

Diana Allan, Teacher, shared her excitement for Skype in the classroom and how students and teachers can visit anywhere in the world with a guide or expert to answer questions. She also gave a shoutout to the SLP Department for their guidance around sound walls and the Science of Reading.

Jodi Herrgott, EA, had the winter experience on-line, the summer school experience and is now working in the virtual school that began in September. Her worry was the lack of connection for students so she set up a breakfast channel in the summer and found that not only did the students in the virtual classroom take part to connect every morning, but others in the household did as well. She referred to this time as the “*daily dose of happiness*” and was able to connect with the students and have the students connect with each other. This created an inclusive environment for all.

Lastly, Judy Legault, Teacher, developed some accommodations for her virtual learners that included visual schedules, learning goals and the use of graphic organizers. She reviewed the schedule and learning goals every day. This helped the students to anticipate what was happening and enabled them to organize their time.

Everyone who shared was enthusiastic about virtual learning and passionate about the growth they have seen in their students with special needs.

## V. Department Update

Tabled to October's SEAC meeting.

## VI. Ontario Community Living Motion

The Annual General Meeting for Community Living Ontario took place on September 16<sup>th</sup>. A resolution stating that inclusive education be available for all students equitably and meaningfully was tabled at the meeting. Their hope is that COVID closures and changes to education platforms not negatively impact our equitable and inclusive practices.

## VII. New Business

- Resignation – Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living North Grenville

**Motion:**

To accept letter of resignation from Fran Brauneisen.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education – Community Collaboration Forms Successful practices, challenges and next steps were added to the form. The collaboration form was electronically sent to our MACSE representative on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 on behalf of SEAC.

## VIII. Correspondence Received

- Email from Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board re study entitled, Ontario's Leaders in School Districts, Children's Treatment Centres and Special Education Advisory Committees' Vision of Effective Collaboration in School-based Rehabilitation Therapy Services – email to be sent to SEAC members with minutes.

## IX. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

**Motion:**

Motion to excuse Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark County Support Services and Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living North Grenville.

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

**X. Next SEAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held virtually on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 starting at 6:00 p.m.

**XI. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

**XII. Closing Prayer**

Heather Gerber led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

**XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

**CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking**

|                                   | Trustee / Chair | Trustee | Rural FASD Support Network | Lanark County Support Services | Cornwall Community Hospital | Open Doors | Assoc. for Community Living<br>*Resigned September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Member-at-Large (vacant) | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--|--------------------------|-------|
| August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020    | P               | P       | P                          | P                              |                             | P          |  |                          | 5     |
| September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | P               | P       | P                          |                                | P                           | P          |  |                          | 5     |
| October                           |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| November                          |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| January                           |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| February                          |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| March                             |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| April                             |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| May                               |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |
| June                              |                 |         |                            |                                |                             |            |  |                          |       |

*New 4-year term of office effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.  
 (4 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*