



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 Microsoft Teams – 6:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark
County Support Services
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark
Children and Youth
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network
(Alternate)

Approved Regrets with notification:

Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community
Hospital

Board Resource Staff:

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education
Janet Carioni, Occupational Therapist

Guests:

Deborah Terrance, Consultant, Mohawks of
Akwesasne
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
Christina Hatchard, Parent, St. Patrick,
Rockland
Christine Lefebvre, Parent, St. Gregory,
Carleton Place

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 of Thanks*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

II. Sharing of September 30th, 2020 Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on October 9th, 2020.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

- Face to face services in place now.
- Virtual sessions are continuing.
- Four programs running virtually; Taking Care of Mind Body and Soul, WMIS, Zones and Employment Skills.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- November 21st, 2020 – Dr. Katy Flannigan, Dr. Kaitlyn McLachlan – FASD and Justice

New Initiatives:

- Bell Let's Talk announces a \$20,000 grant to support our alternative therapy project and training multiple caregivers as peer facilitators through Children's Mental Health of Leeds & Grenville.
- Youth Group met as a group on September 17th for the first time since March. Mr. G did an epic Diet Coke and Mentos experiment and Kahoot game.
- Maude Champagne released the results of her study on the effectiveness of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy for youth with FASD and trauma.

Other Information:

- Girl's Coding Club meets every Tuesday night. With most projects completed now, the girls are now learning how to program interactive greeting cards with the intention of establishing an ecommerce site to sell them to the public. They are also creating instructional videos on the new Gr. 1-8 Coding Curriculum expectations using Lynx Coding.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Back to normal referral rates.
- Getting ready for accreditation.
- Look at website, Facebook page, Instagram and/or call the agency for strategies to cope with pandemic, mental health issues and inquire about parent information nights.

IV. Presentation: “Trauma”

Janet Carioni, Occupational Therapist - CDSBEO shared information about Trauma and what happens to our brain when it is exposed to trauma. Trauma is defined as something that happens to you internally from external factors. The more adverse childhood experiences, the greater the impact on health outcomes. Responses to trauma are unique to each person. Those who have suffered trauma, respond in different ways because our bodies hold on to the memory of the trauma which is sensory based. The good news is that our brains can change and with the right supports people can heal. Some strategies that support students suffering



from trauma include, asking specific questions about the student’s life and feelings, co-regulating (doing things together), relating or letting them know you are still there for them (holding space) even after a difficult situation, and reasoning with the student by reflecting and helping them articulate their needs. It is important to remember when students are in crisis to speak low and slow, move low and slow and regulate your self so that you are modelling calm.

V. Department Update

a) September 30th, 2020

Professional development was held on Monday, September 28th for all SERTS supporting the virtual school. SERTs were encouraged to collaborate with virtual teachers on writing IEP goals and to share programming ideas and accommodations that would best suit the learning needs of the students. Some of the home school SERTs are supporting in virtual resource rooms offering intensive supports to our students with high needs. EAs are synchronously and asynchronously supporting virtual learners to review work and complete tasks. The principals have been very supportive in the “bricks and mortar” schools providing supports to parents and students that are learning on-line to ensure families remain connected to their home schools.

The consultants met with the virtual teachers to provide ideas, examples and technology tools to enhance programming for students in the virtual school. Examples of accommodations that would work virtually along with IEP goals were shared with the teachers. Resources were offered which included the TAFE, Math and SHINE magazines. All the IEPs were uploaded to the TEAMS site so that the virtual teachers would have access to them.

b) October 28th, 2020

A meeting was held for all IAWs and SSWs to review Plans of Success and Safety Plans. Information was shared on how and when to refer students, the gradual release model to increase capacity in the school and the importance of collaborating as a team.

Marianne Boot, Special Education Secretary is retiring, and we will greatly miss her. She will be helping to transition her replacement over the next two weeks.

Heather Scott was hired for Jessie Burnie's maternity leave to support Western schools as one of our Secondary Mental Health & Addiction counsellors.

Two sessions are being held on November 3rd for EAs, SSWs and administrators on PPE and how to keep students and themselves safe.

The PD sessions on November 27th are being planned collaboratively with the Religion, ICT and Curriculum Departments. The topics are: Equity, Concussion Training and Autism Spectrum Disorder with some trauma information weaved in. The first hour will showcase Dr. Nicole West-Burns (guest speaker) for all staff in CDSBEO. Her message based on the Ontario Equity Action Plan is to focus on teaching practices, curriculum, assessment and how educators are being responsive to who they teach. Every student should see themselves reflected in their school environment.

Heather Gerber is teaching Special Education for Administrators and will invite administrators to a future SEAC meeting.

Education and Community Partners Programs (ECP) have been renamed. We have been working with the programs to narrow treatment goals that are based on lagging skills. The overarching goal is for students to gain the skills required to reintegrate back to their home schools. Heather Gerber was elected Vice-president for the provincial ECP working group.

CDSBEO is creating monthly mental health update newsletters for principals to share with staff and parents through various forms of media. There is a vast amount of resources available for parents to access.

School Mental Health Ontario are offering resources for teachers such as conversation starters, Youth Net, Stress Lessons and How to Help a Friend.

Mental health addiction referrals and how the process works is being reviewed with schools.

Sources of Strength is being offered to schools.

Psychological and speech language assessments are continuing in schools for **all** students.

Nov 9th is the turnaround date for changing learning platforms; 81% of CDSBEO students have opted for in-person. This number is comparable to the numbers in the fall.

VI. New Business

- SEAC Nomination Letter from Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

A letter was received from Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville nominating Tom Jordan as representative and Cathie Knapp-Fisher as alternate.

Recommendation:

To appoint Tom Jordan as representative of Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville and Cathie Knapp-Fisher as alternate.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

VII. 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

VIII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community Hospital.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

IX. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 starting at 6:00 p.m.

X. Questions Raised at Last SEAC Meeting

Norma McDonald shared the calendar of training and PD for teachers and parents in virtual schools.

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: Karen Moore

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 *Resigned September 30 th , 2020	Member-at-Large (vacant)	Total
August 26 th , 2020	P	P	P	P		P			5
September 30 th , 2020	P	P	P		P	P			5
October 28 th , 2020	P	P	P	P		P			5
November									
January									
February									
March									
April									
May									
June									

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