



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 – Meeting #2 Microsoft Teams – 6:30-7:25 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
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community
Hospital
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Tom Jordan, Family and Children's Services
of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

Board Resource Staff:

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

Approved Regrets with notification:

Guests:

Christina Hatchard, Parent, St. Patrick,
Rockland
Karie Hartle-Poirier, Parent, St. Mary-
St. Cecilia, Morrisburg
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

II. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

- The agency is moving forward with online sessions.

- Liam Dobson (offensive line man for the Black Bears) is facilitating a men's group alongside staff.
- Sessions are being offered on rights and advocacy, relationships, birds and their habitats, and budgeting (each session has between 6-10 participants).
- Christmas plans include Secret Santa and a virtual PJ party.
- Leadership attended a health and safety conference by the public service.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- December 19th, 2020 – Christmas Party for caregivers and children.

New Initiatives:

- Children's Mental Health Ontario asked us to present at their annual conference this month to over 300 Ontario Mental Health and Health Clinicians. Interest was so great that we have been asked to do a series of videos going forward.
- Bill 172, which would require all school boards to develop a board-wide strategy on supporting students with FASD and would require all teacher's colleges and ECE programs to have a section on FASD, passed second reading and could become legislature in the next 12 months.
- Dr. Flannigan and Dr. McLachlan, who are recognized internationally as experts on FASD and the Criminal Justice System, presented this month and we were joined by the Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, MPP Arnott as part of our audience.

<http://youtu.be/P65VQVTipjs>

Other Information:

- We have contracted a grant writer to write our Trillium Grant application in helping build resilient communities across Ontario. She identified we are providing 36 different services at a value of about \$225,000 annually. Considering our annual budget is \$19,000, it speaks to the force of our volunteer base and generosity of our community partners.
- We completed our membership database and it now sits at 120 families, 156 children and adults with FASD including 63 children in the counties of Lanark and Leeds-Grenville.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Offering ACT training to increase knowledge on fostering and adoption.
- Referrals are up and the work is being done remotely for the most part.
- The virtual walk-in clinic is very busy.
- Very busy in the two mental health classrooms.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- There has been a surge in referrals over the last five weeks (25-30 per week).
- Increase in emergency with youth presenting with suicide ideation (six youth seen for high risk in the last six weeks).
- Many new referrals are urgent which include children eight and under.
- Providing a range of services to meet the demands of families (virtual, school, in-home and in-office) up to 50 a week.

- Ministry announced 11 million in funding and a social worker was hired on a permanent basis. Also looking at hiring a therapist to work in Emergency Department to help high needs kids and an RN two days a week.
- Will be meeting with partners to discuss resources.
- Youth wellness hub received funding and hopes to offer walk-in.

Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan

No update at this time.

III. Department Update

CDSBEO’s mental health team shared that referrals are up, so all supports from community partners are very appreciated.

Interviews for Educational Assistants were held, and a few have been added to the casual list.

One of our Itinerant ABLE Workers is now CUPE president, so we are looking for an IAW and ABA person.

We welcome Kariane Schinzel to our team as Marianne Boot has retired.

A non-regulated health professional has been hired and will be working out of St. Francis Xavier CHS and Pope John Paul II, Hammond. We are looking for one more mental health worker to hire.

The PA Day on Friday, November 27th, 2020 is featuring a guest speaker, Dr. West-Burns on Equity. CDSBEO staff will also be learning about concussion protocol and workplace violence prevention. The Special Education Department is proud to have Sandra O’Doherty, Leslie-Ann Clement, Vicki Storaas and Heather Gerber provide training on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Trauma. The training will look at what Autism Spectrum Disorders are, how autism and trauma can be co-occurring, the functions of behaviour and differential reinforcement. We hope to send the links to SEAC once the PD is over.

The Vice Principals are taking the Special Education for Educators course facilitated by Heather Gerber. They will be completing a 40-hour job embedded practicum on ASD.

Heather Gerber, presently Vice President of the Ontario ECPP working group, will be taking over as president in December.

The Speech-Language Pathologists are looking forward to presenting to SEAC in January on the Science of Reading.

Professional development was held on November 19th in two sessions; one at 8:30 a.m., and one at 1:00 p.m., to inform our SERTs about the new templates for the Plans of Success and Safety Plans. We reviewed the roles of the SSWs and IAWs and how they support students

and build capacity with school teams. Our Board team also did some PD on the features and applications of Excel with a focus on data collection and graphing.

Superintendent Norma McDonald shared that she, Mental Health Lead Michelle Neville and Lead Psychologist, Dr. Kiiffner, attend the yearly School Mental Health Ontario Leadership provincial meeting on November 24th.

- Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, started off the conference.
- The following topics were shared: Equity and mental health, wellness promotion, social emotional development, student mental health literacy, school based prevention and early intervention, cohesion alongside community mental health partners, virtual mental health supports, faith and wellness resources.
- Norma shared a new School Mental Health initiative called #SharetheGood on Twitter. This is an opportunity for staff and students to share the positive stories about what is happening in their schools with SMHO. Norma invited people to follow her on Twitter @MsNormaMcD as well as SMHO @SMHO_SMSO.

First draft of the new mental health strategy is being developed.

Video ad from PLEO (Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario) was shared.

IV. New Business

- Discussion Item – Bill 172 – Rob More

Recommendation:

To forward a letter to MPP Natalia Kusendova, Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy, expressing appreciation of the committee taking this Bill into consideration and communicating to them about the ways CDSBEO are supporting our students with FASD.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

V. Correspondence Received

No correspondence received.

VI. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

All present.

VII. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held virtually on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Good News Sharing

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

IX. Closing Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

X. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Cornwall Community Hospital	Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth	Family and Children Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville	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
Nov 25 th , 2020 – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P		P			6
Nov 25 th , 2020 – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			7
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)*