



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 Microsoft Teams – 6:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark
County Support Services
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community
Hospital
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Tom Jordan, Family and Children's Services
of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

Approved Regrets with notification:

Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark
Children and Youth

Board Resource Staff:

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness responsible for Special
Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education
Tiffany Kalsi, Speech-Language Pathologist
April Hackett-Helmkay, Speech-Language
Pathologist
Julie McDermid, Speech-Language Pathologist

Guests:

Christina Hatchard, Parent, St. Patrick,
Rockland
Erin Nolan, SEAC Rep, St. Mary,
Carleton Place
Trudy Scott, President, CUPE
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. On behalf of SEAC, Chair Wilson welcomed Heather Gerber to her new role as Superintendent of School Effectiveness responsible for Special Education, "Congratulations Superintendent Gerber on your new success. May the circle of your career keep rolling on and create more prosperous story in your life. I hope your new position as Superintendent brings you deep satisfaction and fun challenges. Your dedication, perseverance and skills have rewarded you!"

Opening Prayer

Superintendent responsible for Special Education, Heather Gerber, led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Happy New Year!*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Deena Shorkey

CARRIED

II. Sharing of November 25th, 2020 Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on December 4th, 2020.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

III. Presentation: “SLP Science of Reading”

The Special Education Department is proud to be spearheading the importance of understanding how the brain learns to read through our speech language pathologists. The SLP’s have been providing professional development to administrators, teachers, and support staff since last spring. Reading influences your life outcomes and yet it is something that is not taught in teachers’ college. Sharing this information with educators has revolutionized teaching reading to students. “When you know better you do better.”

There are many myths about how kids learn to read. We used to think it came naturally and was learned through exposure. Through research, we now know there is only one way to learn how to read and that is to provide purposeful instruction. Reading is complex and involves areas throughout the brain. Explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics is required to learn how to read. Once we understand the deficits for a child in these areas, we can start to close the gap for all students.

Speech language assessments in CDSBEO now align with the reading brain. Our SLP’s continue to assess oral language and reading skills. The assessment provides a guide for interventions and remediations for our students. Five percent of children learn to read no matter what, thirty five percent with some guidance, but sixty percent need more instruction. They need explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics to crack the code. Sharing this type of instruction with teachers is critical.

Board wide webinars were delivered to educators over the spring and summer. The topics included, “The Science of Reading,” “Thinking in Sounds,” “High frequency Words,” “Phonological Awareness” and “Sound Walls.” Our teachers are now able to look critically at what they are doing in their classrooms. SLPs have provided materials they can use immediately. They have trained teachers how to use the material in small groups and whole class sessions. All the materials can be used virtually as well. The SLPs have also developed a TEAMS page available to all teachers that holds all the resources and “how to” videos.

Teachers and administrators are motivated by the impact this information has had on teaching students to read. This impact can be felt across the Board and has made a difference because of the theory, that backs the approach, and the ability for teachers to apply their knowledge with the materials and supports provided.

IV. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

New Initiatives:

- Return to virtual sessions – offering registered sessions and many social recreational group sessions. Our registered sessions this round includes a relationship focused topic – Love on the Spectrum. Using the television show “Love on the Spectrum” to facilitate topics such as Healthy Relationships, Using Technology Socially and Safely, and Romantic Relationships vs Friendships. This is a five-person co-ed session. Other registered sessions include Arts and Crafts, Birds and Their Habitat, and Having a Healthy Lifestyle. See pages 9-10 of the minutes for the virtual sessions for January.

Other Information:

- TSS is functioning in a virtual capacity – building and maintaining relationships with participants and their families/caregivers, providing ongoing employment supports to currently employed participants as needed. Support is provided virtually, assisting individuals and families in crisis, attending annual planning meetings, and participating in transition planning.
- An individualized, 1:1 employment preparation/education series will be beginning shortly.
- TSS continues to be available as a resource to schools and families to better understand the adult system and assist in navigating the adult system.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- February 20th, 2021 – Pateresa Winter, FASD Transition Worker, Cold Lake, Alberta

New Initiatives:

- Karen Moore, Maude Champagne and Rob More presented at the CMHO Annual Conference to 300+ mental health clinicians. Follow-up conversations happening. <https://cmho.sharepoint.com/sites/collaboration/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fcollaboration%2FShared%20Documents%2FCMHO%20Virtual%20Conference%20Recordings%2FFASD%20and%20Mental%20Health%20%2D%20A%20Lifetime%20Relationship%2Emp4&parent=%2Fsites%2Fcollaboration%2FShare d%20Documents%2FCMHO%20Virtual%20Conference%20Recordings&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9jbWhvLnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpz2Oj9zL2NvbGxhYm9yYXRpb24vRVM5TllubmdBSnRLa293NGtPSzINT01CS0pBNGxQaHNxcTJUTjFJcXNxbExOdz9ydGltZT1wRIJVTEVILTJFZW>
- Contracted by LCYAC (Lanark Child Youth Advocacy Centre) to create a training module about considerations for children and youth with FASD in a victim/witness circumstance.

- Beckwith Tech Camp currently has 38 participants in its winter session on Graphic Design. We will be offering a spring session on Lynx Coding and a fall session on Python Coding. Our five instructors and hosts are between ages 12 and 22. Due to Lanark County funding, we are not charging a fee but giving the choice of making a freewill donation to us. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvB5wMIEUeps149FtTGXjFg>
- Hosted Lisa Longworth, OPP, on January 16th, who presented on Mobile Crisis Response Teams and the new partnership between the OPP and Medic Alert. Presented to 38 people including seven MPP's, Ministry of Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Community Justice, Indigenous friends from the North, Senior Management OPP East Region, and multiple FASD workers and caregivers from across the province. <https://youtu.be/N7yih0wOd1s>

Other Information :

- Our grant writing consultant is continuing to make great progress.
- We have also hired an attorney to start working on our charity status.
- Beckwith Tech Camp is now serving as the server host for the CEMC's POTW committees.
- We are now accepting bids from website developers to create and run a website. Youth group is serving as the advisors on this project.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- Continuing in office therapy as needed despite lockdown.
- Depending on situation, but 80% of therapy is still virtual.
- Day treatment has opened in Morrisburg and Cornwall.
- There has been an increase in complex cases and those needing therapeutic interventions.
- The screening tool used to triage has provided data that shows that severity of needs has gone up in youth.
- Compassion fatigue is setting in with staff.
- Staffing has been increased that includes nursing and social work. Some temp positions have opened as well.
- Hospital is advocating to the Ministry to carry over funding.
- Cornwall is struggling with COVID numbers and the hospital is messaging concerns for the City of Cornwall and COVID situation.

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

- We are very pleased with the results of this year's Angel Tree Campaign.
 - Many families benefited from the gifts and food throughout LLG counties.
- Our Agency also took a lead role in the annual Snowsuit Drive throughout LLG.
 - We want to thank our partners who contributed to the success of this important annual event.
- Child welfare is one of the sectors that is considered "essential" under COVID-19 conditions, the agency and staff are working hard to continue to meet the needs of those we serve under very difficult conditions.
 - Many workers are reporting COVID fatigue – keeping workers motivated and upbeat has proven to be an ever-increasing challenge.

- We are thrilled that our students in LLG are now back in schools and classrooms as many of our kids/families do not do well in a virtual only learning environment.
- We have partnered with both the CDSBEO and the UCDSB to help supplement the critical technology tools needed for our kids in care to continue to learn when face to face learning is temporarily not permitted.
 - We continue to have strong and fruitful partnerships with our Educational Partners.
- We are in the final stages of developing a partnership with Queen’s University Faculty of Education whereby some of their second-year teacher candidates have volunteered to be Triple R teachers for the kids and families we serve.
 - Triple R stands for Review, Reteach, Remediate, and will be offered virtually.
 - It is designed to compliment what the child’s teacher and school is already doing both in times of virtual only learning and beyond.

V. Department Update

Appointment of new CDSBEO Supervisory Officer – Heather Gerber. Superintendent McDonald congratulated Heather Gerber on her appointment.

Ministry is requesting data for students with special education needs. They requested up to date numbers for the total schools that in-person learning took place when schools closed. The information requested included type of exceptionality and placement.

School Update

- 131 students in 16 classes went back to in-person learning.
- 97 staff which included teachers, EAs, SSWs, IAWs and ABA professionals were back in to support special needs students.
- West end schools in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville were back Monday, January 25th, 2021.
- Eastern Ontario Health Unit schools remained closed except for specialized programs.
- Norma was pleased to report how much we do for special education students in our Board.
- CDSBEO’s positive lens and language has earned the system a fabulous reputation.

CDSBEO Board staff have been delivering professional development on “Writing Meaningful Goals and Expectations” on Individual Education Plans. We have also been delivering the Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training in one-hour sessions, over six weeks. Both professional learning opportunities have been voluntary and many of our educators, support staff and administrators have taken part.

The PA Day on February 1st, 2021 will engage EAs, BCCs, SSWs and IAWs in the BMS refresher course, The Science of Reading and the Effects of COVID-19 and the Impact of Trauma.

Strategic Plan

In the creation and design of the new strategic plan, the planning committee felt it necessary to include several elements such as:

- The Catholic Graduate Expectations.

- How being holy and living a holy life means putting faith into action.
- Recognizing our indigenous community partnerships.

Many elements were drawn upon to formulate a plan that addressed the whole person – heart, body, mind, and soul so that students, staff and CDSBEO partners in education would see themselves supported in all ways, therefore creating a sense of balance within each of us. Cultivating the heart, body, mind, and soul was decided as the foundation for the 2020-2025 CDSBEO strategic plan. This foundation is woven into the fabric of our Board’s mission. The new strategic plan is anchored by four tenets – believing, protecting, learning, and nurturing. Our new strategic plan brings hope for a bright future in how we focus, plan, and reflect on what is best for and what is truly at the center of our system, our students.

VI. New Business

- Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education – Community Collaboration Form (sent to SEAC members on January 18th, 2021 for additional input).

The collaboration form was electronically sent to our MACSE representative on January 21st, 2021. Heather Gerber has requested how to access minutes from MACSE.

- SEAC Presentations – February to June 2021
 - Sharing Changes in the Child-welfare System – Tom Jordan, Cathy Knapp-Fisher – February 2021
 - Dual Credit – March 2021
- Letter – Bill 172 – Rob More

Passed by Board to send letter out, draft letter will be sent to other stakeholders once it is edited by Heather Gerber, Norma McDonald and Rob More.

VII. Correspondence Received

No correspondence received.

VIII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth.

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, February 24th, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m.

X. Good News Sharing

Members and guests shared items of good news from across our eight counties. On behalf of SEAC, Chair Wilson expressed her gratitude to Superintendent McDonald. “Over the past two years, as Superintendent of School Effectiveness responsible for Special Education, you have made each day of our SEAC committee so special and memorable. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the forgiveness and patience you have shown towards our children with Special Education needs. Through your leadership as the Superintendent responsible for Special Education, you have provided our students the tools with which they can only succeed. We are forever indebted and grateful for your leadership. We wish you continued success with the new portfolio you have been entrusted with.”

XI. Closing Prayer

Superintendent responsible for Special Education, Heather Gerber, led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

XII. 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 27 th , 2021	P	P	P	P	P		P			6
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)*

Lanark County Support Services - Virtual Sessions - January 04-08/21
******Men's Club will now be on Tuesdays 4pm-5pm******

Monday January 04	Tuesday January 05	Wednesday January 06	Thursday January 07	Friday January 08
8:30-9:30 Coffee Talk with Amy & Tianna	8:30-9:30 Guided meditation with Alexis	8:30-9:30 Fitness with Lorie	8:30-9:30 Around the World with Krista & Julie	8:30-9:30 Reading Harry Potter with Megan & Steph
				
10:00-11:00 Celebrity Stories with Cheryl	10:00-11:00 All about "The Rock" with Sarah P	10:00-11:00 Ring in the New Year Krista	10:00-11:00 More than just coffee - the Tim Horton Story with Bonnie	10:00-11:00 Zumba with Louise, Steph & Nat
				
11:30-12:30 Fun & Games with Amy & Tianna	11:30-12:30 Bingo with Jenn	11:30-12:30 Anne of Green Gables with Natalie & Angie	11:30-12:30 Poker Face - all about Lady Gaga with Krista	11:30-12:30 Girl Talk with Kim
				
1:00-2:00 Vinyl Cafe Alexis and Kathleen	1:00-2:00 Disney Trivia with Kim	1:00-2:00 Keeping Safe at Home with Sarah & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 Dance Party with Julie & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 Behind the Scenes with Jenn & Kim
				
2:30-3:30 Jeopardy with Jenn & Kim	2:30-3:30 What am I - Winter edition with Laurie & Lorie	2:30-3:30 Directive Drawing with Laurie & Jenna	2:30-3:30 Remember This? 1990's edition with Megan	2:30-3:30 Music & Music Trivia with Kristine & Jeni-Lyn
				

Lanark County Support Services - Virtual Sessions - January 11 - 15/20
******Men's Club will now be on Tuesdays 4-5******

Monday January 11	Tuesday January 12	Wednesday January 13	Thursday January 14	Friday January 15
8:30-9:30 Coffee Talk with Amy & Tianna	8:30-9:30 Guided meditation with Alexis	8:30-9:30 Fitness with Sarah P	8:30-9:30 Around the World with Krista	8:30-9:30 Reading Harry Potter with Megan & Steph
				
9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Sarah P & Kim	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Bonnie & Julie	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Natalie & Cheryl	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Amy & Tianna	10:00-11:00 Zumba with Louise & Natalie
				
11:30-12:30 Fun & Games with Amy & Tianna	11:30-12:30 Bingo with Jenn	11:30-12:30 Anne of Green Gables with Natalie & Angie	11:30-12:30 The Black Panther - Chadwick Boseman with Krista	11:30-12:30 Girl Talk with Kim
				
1:00-2:00 Vinyl Cafe Alexis and Kathleen	1:00-2:00 Can you make it out? With Jenn	1:00-2:00 Keeping Safe at Home with Sarah & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 Dance Party with Julie & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 The Fab 4 with Megan & Natalie
				
2:30-3:30 Cross Canada Touring with Kim & Sarah P	2:30-3:30 What am I? Food Edition with Laurie & Lorie	2:30-3:30 Word Games with Angie & Sarah D	2:30-3:30 Directive Drawing with Laurie & Jenna	2:30-3:30 Music & Music Trivia with Kristine & Jeni-Lynn
				

Lanark County Support Services - Virtual Sessions - January 18-22/21
 ****Men's Club will now be on Tuesdays 4-5****

Monday January 18	Tuesday January 19	Wednesday January 20	Thursday January 21	Friday January 22
8:30-9:30 Coffee Talk with Amy & Tianna	8:30-9:30 Guided meditation with Alexis	8:30-9:30 Fitness with Lorie	8:30-9:30 Around the World with Krista & Julie	8:30-9:30 Reading Harry Potter with Megan & Steph
				
9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Sarah P & Kim	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Bonnie & Julie	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Natalie & Sarah D	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Amy & Tianna	10:00-11:00 Zumba with Louise & Natalie
11:30-12:30 Fun & Games with Amy & Tianna	11:30-12:30 Bingo with Jenn	11:30-12:30 Anne of Green Gables with Natalie & Angie	11:30-12:30 All About Blake Sheldon with Krista	11:30-12:30 Girl Talk with Kim & Jenn
				
1:00-2:00 Vinyl Café with Alexis and Kathleen	1:00-2:00 Sports Trivia with Laurie & Jenna	1:00-2:00 Keeping Safe at Home with Sarah & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 Dance Party with Julie & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 The Fab 4 (2/4) with Megan & Natalie
				
2:30-3:30 Cross Canada Touring with Kim & Sarah P	2:30-3:30 Forever and ever, Amen with Julie & Bonnie	2:30-3:30 Starring Me!! Tell us all about you! With Amanda C & Laurie	2:30-3:30 Directive Drawing with Laurie & Jenna	2:30-3:30 Music & Music Trivia with Kristine & Jeni-Lynn
				

Lanark County Support Services - Virtual Sessions - January 25-29/21
 ****Men's Club will now be on Tuesdays 4-5****

Monday January 25	Tuesday January 26	Wednesday January 27	Thursday January 28	Friday January 29
8:30-9:30 Coffee Talk with Amy & Tianna	8:30-9:30 Guided meditation with Alexis	8:30-9:30 Fitness with Sarah P	8:30-9:30 Around the World with Krista & Julie	8:30-9:30 Reading Harry Potter with Megan & Steph
				
9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Sarah P & Kim	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Bonnie & Julie	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Natalie & Sarah D	9:45-11:15 Closed session - registered participants only Amy & Tianna	10:00-11:00 Zumba with Louise & Natalie
11:30-12:30 Celebrating January birthdays with Kim & Julie	11:30-12:30 Bingo with Jenn	11:30-12:30 Anne of Green Gables with Natalie & Angie	11:30-12:30 Hulkamania!!! All about Hulk Hogan with Krista	11:30-12:30 Girl Talk with Kim & Jenn
				
1:00-2:00 Vinyl Café with Alexis and Kathleen	1:00-2:00 Jeopardy with Kim & Jenn	1:00-2:00 Keeping Safe at Home with Sarah & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 Dance Party with Julie & Bonnie	1:00-2:00 The Fab 4 with Megan & Natalie
				
2:30-3:30 Cross Canada Touring with Kim & Sarah P	2:30-3:30 Directive Drawing with Laurie & Jenna	2:30-3:30 Fun & Games with Amy & Tianna	2:30-3:30 Alex Trebek - The Host with the Most! With Bonnie & Julie	2:30-3:30 Music & Music Trivia with Kristine & Jeni-Lynn
				