



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

Microsoft Teams – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Present:

<u>SEAC Members:</u>	<u>Board Resource Staff:</u>
Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee	Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark County Support Services	Effectiveness
Karen McAllister, Trustee	Renee Rozon, Principal of Special Education
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community Hospital	Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth	Education
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network	Kariane Schinzel, Secretary to the Principal of Special Education
Tom Jordan, Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville	
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network (Alternate)	
<u>Approved Regrets with notification:</u> All SEAC members present.	<u>Guests:</u> Rhonda Peterson, CUPE Lorraine Boyer, Parent, Pope John Paul II and St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond

Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. Chair Wilson wished all students and staff great success as we head into uncharted territory. She expressed hope that all schools will be back as soon as possible.

Roll Call

All SEAC members present.

Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer

Superintendent Gerber said the Land Acknowledgement and Principal Rozon led the group in a prayer entitled, “*Draw Us Forth, God of All Creation*”.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

II. Sharing March 31st, 2021 Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on April 12th, 2021.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

- TSS continues to function in a virtual capacity – building and maintaining relationships with participants and their families/caregivers, providing on-going 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.
- TSS continues to be available as a resource to schools and families to better understand the adult system and assist in transitioning to and navigating the adult system and life-long – planning.
- In-person supports are continuing with cohorts of 5(including staff). Virtual services continue in both a group format and individual.
- A new fiscal year for funding has begun and Passport 1 has continued with the exceptions for spending due to the pandemic.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- April 24th, 2021 – RFASD Girl’s Group
- May 10th, 2021 – RFASD Boy’s Group
- May 17th, 2021 – Rural FASD Caregiver Group with Ken Inbar, LCY Advocacy Centre through Open Doors CMH of Lanark County

New Initiatives:

- Our Boys and Girl’s Groups launched this past month to a resounding success.
- Our local FASD workers, Shannon for LG and Mariah for Lanark, presented on funding sources for children and adults with FASD. A 2½ hour discussion ensued afterwards. Lots of solutions found families struggling right now.

- RFASD Training Committee met to begin developing training modules for school boards and educators in preparation of Bill 172 passage.
- RFASD children are now receiving funding for alternative therapies through Bell Let's Talk grant.
- RFASD caregivers are now participating in virtual Mental Health First Aid courses through Bell Let's Talk funding.

Other Information:

- FASD Family Day in August, if it happens, will have Steph the Grilling Gourmet shoot on location at Morehaven Farm.
- Brooklyn Robinson from Carleton University has accepted the September placement to conduct an environmental scan of FASD services in the counties of Lanark and Leeds-Grenville and create a gap analysis report for publication. Supervision is being provided through Rural FASD and Open Doors CMH of Lanark County.
- RFASD Rep has been added to the Kids Inclusive Parent Experience Council.
- H+R Block, Smiths Falls has been contracted to serve as the bookkeeping agency for RFASD.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- In person, as well as virtual work is being done.
- There is no waitlist for service and clients can be seen within 48 hours.
- Mental health supports are available for children, youth, and parents.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- In person, virtual and in home services have continued.
- No staff have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Although we are receiving on average 30 referrals a week, we are assigning urgent cases immediately and offering brief services as appropriate so that our wait list is not too long for less urgent cases.
- Some clients have been waitlisted for less urgent matters.
- A master therapist and nurse have been hired to assist.
- Day treatment program closed, and Cornwall Community Hospital is doing in office counselling and virtual groups with the students.

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

No update at this time.

IV. Department Update

The Department has been busy meeting with parents, virtual social groups, providing speech language support, assistive technology assistance, and planning PD.

The Special Education Department will be providing professional development for administrators, educators and education workers throughout the month of May.

Sessions will include:

- *Deaf Education – Living and Working in the Same Shoes* – May 7th & 10th, 2021 presented by Lori Murphy, Specialist Teacher of the Deaf.
- *The SEA Transfer Process* – May 11th, 2021 presented by Corey Kalsi, Technology Consultant.
- *Vision Loss, Blindness and Low Vision* – May 12th & 17th, 2021 presented by Debbie Balog, Hearing and Vision Resource Teacher.
- *How to Create Bitmoji Classrooms* – May 18th, 2021 presented by Rhonda Tough, Itinerant ABLÉ Worker

V. Presentation: Special Education for Administrators – Additional Qualifications Course (SEA AQ)

Superintendent Gerber presented information on the Special Education for Administrators – Additional Qualifications Course. She taught this course throughout the winter. The emphasis was on how to provide inclusive education for all students. She expressed how proud she was of the growth and learning that took place and the thought and effort put into the practicums.

Superintendent Gerber modelled the use of technologies throughout the course, and it was embraced by the participants. She felt that encouraging them out of their comfort zone and teaching them to use the various technologies would benefit both students and staff back at their schools. Members of the group had the opportunity to collaborate in break out groups to increase their comfort with each other in hopes that they will reach out to one another after the course to share ideas and problem solve together.

The practicum was 40 hours with a focus on ASD based on funding, but the material created will benefit all diverse learners. The work included collecting pre and post data to see the outcomes of their work and the progress the students made. Superintendent Gerber encouraged Flipgrid for video submissions and shared a “news release” created by James Malyon, Vice Principal at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Cornwall. In the video, James talks about approaching student learning with a fresh perspective and individualizing programming for each student based on their unique learning needs.

Some of the work the participants did included:

- Slogans to promote inclusive education including Bitmoji
- Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
- Strategies that included reinforcement, social stories on video and visual schedules
- Mind Craft activities
- The use of Motivaider
- The PEERs Program
- Kids have Stress Too!
- Creating Buckets of Resiliency

- Supporting ASD in Secondary
- Transitions – Elementary to Secondary
- Transitions to Kindergarten
- Digital Transition Binders
- Go Zen for teaching wellness
- The Greenhouse Project

Some of the key learnings included, understanding disquieting words and the power of person first language, moving out of judgement and into curiosity to shift mindset when thinking about how to support students who are dysregulated and the significance of being the champion for our staff and students.

VI. New Business

- 2021-2022 School Year Calendar – received via email on March 18th, feedback was due April 8th, 2021. The approved calendar will be shared with PIC, SEAC and Catholic School Councils.
- Trustee Vacancy for the City of Brockville, Town of Smith Falls and Leeds County has been advertised.

VII. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2021

The following sections were shared:

- Section IX – Staff Development. The professional development chart will continue to be updated until the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Section XI – Accessibility of School Buildings
- Section XII – Transportation

Amanda Banfield requested that information on professional development be shared with Catholic School Councils on a regular basis throughout the year.

VIII. Correspondence Received

No correspondence received.

IX. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

All SEAC members present.

Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

April 21st, 2021

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