



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 28th, 2019

Board Office, Kemptville

6:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living
Amanda Banfield, Lanark County Support Services
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community Hospital
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network (Alternate)

Board Resource Staff:

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special Education
Michelle Neville, Mental Health Lead

Approved Regrets with notification:

Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth

Guests:

Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
Kathleen Panela-Seguin, FASD Worker, Prescott-Russell

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, "*God our Father*".

I. Approval of Amended Agenda

The Dual Credit presentation was cancelled and will take place at a later date. Michelle Neville, Mental Health Lead presented on Mental Health Resources for Parents.

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

II. **Sharing June 3rd, 2019 Minutes**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on June 10th, 2019.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Deena Shorkey

CARRIED

III. **Association Updates**

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

The upcoming 66th AGM conference, Pathways to Empowerment: Healing, Understanding and Strength will take place at the Valhalla Inn, in Thunder Bay, September 18-20, 2019. The keynote speakers are Nick Maisey and Tanya Talaga.

Local Initiative:

A CARF (Commission on Accreditation and Rehabilitation Facilities) survey will be held at Community Living North Grenville between September 9-11, 2019. The team will survey supports and services for the purpose of maintaining current high status. A report with level of achievement and recommendations will follow in a few months.

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

Lanark County Support Services were busy this summer with trips, workshops and individualized activities for clients. The Gathering Grounds Café hosted some community events. Renovations are underway in the Carleton Place location. A retirement party was held for the Director in June.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- August 29th, 2019 – P-R FASD Supper Gathering, 5:30 p.m., 750 Principale Street, Casselman
- September 9th, 2019 – Open FASD Training Citizen Advocacy, Ottawa
- September 21st, 2019 – Calvary Bible Church, Smiths Falls, 10:30 a.m. – Yuergen Beck, Tiny Home Contractor
- September 26th, 2019 – Renfrew FASD Support Group Launch, 6:30 p.m.
- October 8th, 2019 – Lanark-Leeds-Grenville FASD Fall Forum, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Hanley Hall, Smiths Falls

New Initiatives:

- Prescott-Russell, SDG FASD Support Group has launched. Partnership established.
- CDSBEO team met with MPP Roberts and presented an inclusive model of supporting students with FASD. MPP Roberts promised to work on getting an audience with Minister Lecce for us.

- CanFASD has released an online course for FASD and school staff. CDSBEO is mentioned in the course.
<https://estore.canfasd.ca/fasd-for-school-staff-level-ii>
- Renfrew FASD Support Group launches September 26th, 2019 with the Rural FASD Support Network serving as the keynote speaker.
- Rural FASD met with Housing Minister, Steve Clark. Interdependent housing options being explored in new legislature with collaboration between ministries.
- Rural FASD travelling to Queen's Park on February 24th, 2020 to provide an information session for MPPs and advocate for more supports.
- Rural FASD and Cornerstone Landing partnering to advocate for tiny home options within municipalities.

Other Information:

- Rural FASD non-profit corporation currently with CRA and being processed.
- Beckwith Township and Barker Funeral Home, Carleton Place partnered to host a charity ball tournament for the Rural FASD Support Network. There was \$1,600 raised for advocacy purposes.
- Rural FASD Support Network has established seven initiatives as advocacy objectives for the year. The blog will be exploring these objectives in more detail over the next couple months.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- Cornwall Community Hospital focused on decreasing the wait lists this summer by offering more sessions. They were successful and were able to decrease this list from 201 to 96.
- The Rockland and Cornwall hubs will be open in the fall. Deena explained that it would be a soft launch that will offer mental health and addiction staff to provide single sessions and brief therapy. The centres will also accommodate young mothers and their children.
- Cornwall Community Hospital received money from the Ministry in June that was based on population - \$79,000 is to be shared across the community.
- Cornwall Community Hospital has recommended that one Youth Crisis Worker is not adequate for the needs, so they are moving towards combining services and enhancing skills of the current crisis team. Members are being trained to deal with a variety of issues.

IV. Department Update

Corey Kalsi, previous Assistive Technology Coordinator is returning to the classroom. Samantha Vidoni, previous Special Education Consultant is also returning to the classroom. Angela McNamee, previous Special Education Consultant has accepted a position as (Acting) Vice-Principal at St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond.

The Department is busy planning PD for support staff and looking at previous feedback forms to accommodate the learning needs in the system.

The Welcome Back Mass was officiated by Auxiliary Bishop Guy Desrochers and the Holy Trinity choir truly awed the participants.

The leadership team met before Mass and the SEAC flyer was shared. Principals were reminded to designate someone from their Catholic School Council to share news from SEAC and to SEAC. They were also asked to look for possible representatives to sit on SEAC.

On September 3rd, 2019 the Religion, Curriculum, IT and Special Education departments will join for PD, which will include an indigenous experience.

Over the summer, updates have been made to the IEP program. Strengths and needs will now reflect language used in psychoeducational assessments, speech language assessments and occupational therapy assessments. An icon will now appear on the expectation page so that teachers can easily see when a student has achieved the goal.

We have acquired more Lexia licenses and these will be distributed early in September.

Janet Carioni, CDSBEO Occupational Therapist will be attending an invitation only, week-long PD and the multi-disciplinary team will be joining for part of the training.

Sandra O'Doherty and Cindy Scott are being trained to do BMS training.

New curriculum will be shared with staff on the September PA Day. A meeting guide has been developed for school teams and will be distributed in September.

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School Effectiveness, shared her vision of interconnectedness between departments. She feels that understanding the expertise at the Board level will help schools and parents to understand where to go for support. The new components in the physical education curriculum document focuses on the social-emotional needs of the student. A new team has been created at the Board level that includes religion and mental health to examine resiliency data to find out when kids start to feel disengaged from faith and are feeling anxious. This will provide a baseline and information moving forward so that strategies can be put in place to increase resiliency in students and decrease anxiety.

Two new ABA/Behaviour classrooms are set up and teachers and support staff are excited to begin a great year of learning.

Parents of children with autism will continue to receive funding under the present system.

V. **Presentation:** Mental Health Resources for Parents – Michelle Neville, Mental Health Lead

CDSBEO's Mental Health Strategy was shared with SEAC members.

Community resources available:

- **Triple P** – available across the school board, run by Health Unit – free discussion groups and online programs (anxiety, bedtime problems, teens, family conflict, etc.).
- **PLEO** (Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario) – parents who support parents through a help line, who have been through the same experiences with their own children – will go to schools and offer support groups.

Resources offered through CDSBEO:

- CDSBEO Mental Health Flip Book
- Know What to Do Cards (suicide prevention tips)
- Mental Health Kits (in every school)
- Big White Wall (16 yrs. and up connect with others to work through issues)
- Bounce Back (15 yrs. and up – free psychological therapy on the phone through the use of workbooks)
- Parents and Schools Working Together Booklet (focus on building resiliency)
- safeTALK training sessions with high school students
- Call 211 to find Mental Health Resources

VI. Review of SEAC Goals/Priorities, Presentations for the 2019-2020 School Year

SEAC goals/priorities and presentations for the 2019-2020 school year were finalized at the SEAC meeting in June 2019.

VII. New Business

- **Chair and Vice Chair Elections**
 - Nominated Sue Wilson for SEAC Chair – voted and retained.
 - Nominated Amanda Banfield for SEAC Vice Chair – voted and retained.
- **Letters of Invitation to Associations for New SEAC Association Memberships**
 - Invitations to associations/parents for new SEAC association memberships will go out the first week of September.
 - Citizens Advocacy Ottawa – a letter will be sent to invite a representative to join SEAC for the four-year term.

VIII. Correspondence Received

- **Letter of Resignation – Dave Conners, Autism Ontario**
- **Letter from Grand Erie District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re Class Sizes and E-Learning**

IX. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large and Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth.

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

X. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019 at the Board Office, Kemptville, 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: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Assoc. for Community Living	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large – LB	Cornwall Community Hospital	Open Doors	Total
August	P	P	P	P	P		P		6
September									
October									
November									
January									
February									
March									
April									
May									
June									

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