



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Board Office, Kemptville

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  
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community  
Hospital  
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network  
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network  
(Alternate)

#### **Approved Regrets with notification:**

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Lorraine Boyer, Member at Large

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School  
Effectiveness  
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education  
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special  
Education  
Pat Cole, ABA Expertise Professional

#### **Guests:**

Rhonda Peterson, CUPE  
Sharon Roche, Parent (St. Luke, Holy Cross)

### **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, "*New Year's Prayer*".

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

## **II. Sharing November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Minutes**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Motion:**

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

## **III. Association Updates**

### **Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen**

The Community Living Ontario contest called “Together We’re Better” is open again. There has always been knowledge of this contest in the past, but in this time of turmoil and dissension we should encourage more teachers to enter this as an antidote to potential dissatisfaction and resentment. We have a great deal of potential winners in our Board, we just need to shine a light on them.

### **Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield**

- There has been a staff development and training focus while partnering with other agencies in the county.
- Person centered training will happen in February and the cost is \$50.
- The online training on disabilities is a great resource.
- There will be upcoming training for parents on understanding ODSP.

### **Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More**

#### Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Support Group Meeting with DoTerra rep involving essential oils followed by the AGM.
- February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 34 people presenting at Queen’s Park to the Legislative Assembly.

#### New Initiatives:

- Rural FASD Support Network is now a non-profit corporation with a focus on peer-led mental health support, providing education and training to service providers and the public, and serving as a voice for those needing additional supports.
- We will be having conversations with over 30 MPP’s including the Speaker of the House, the Education Critic, the Minister for People with Disabilities, the Deputy Minister for the NDP and the Youth Engagement Critic. The presentation will be videotaped and broadcasted afterwards. Our youth are being featured in a national campaign by Kids Brain

Health Network and CBC News and raised over \$8,000 to do this event by several local sponsors. Expect a major announcement on February 24<sup>th</sup> from the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.

- With our non-profit designation, Children's Mental Health of Leeds-Grenville and Cornerstone Landing for youth homelessness are serving as our charitable registered organization depending on the funder. We are currently writing proposals for Bell Let's Talk, United Way, Perth Community Fund, Atkinson Foundation and Canopy Growth Enrichment Fund with the purpose of hiring a full-time employee to serve as our Executive Director, Event Coordinator and Job Developer.

Other Information:

- We now have a rep on the Open Doors Advisory Council.
- We are in conversations with Cogeco TV to create a mobile TV show focusing on FASD and broadcasting our events.
- CBC News is speaking with our police and mental health unit about writing a feature about the new model they have established to support people with mental health challenges.

**Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore**

- Planet Youth addiction prevention work has begun with CDSBEO. Surveys have been completed with all Grade 10 students.
- Open Doors will be doing training on attachment trauma and addiction for their staff.
- The agency received a grant for the "Families First" program which is intensive services in home from an evidenced based approach.
- Walk-in clinics are held across the county both day and evening. They are also in each high school, one day a week.
- Open Doors is in the midst of the accreditation process and is working towards positive outcomes.

**Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey**

- The Hub opened in Cornwall and is fully staffed with a CAS worker, youth justice, adult health and addictions and a nurse practitioner. It is open to people 12-25 years of age and is located at 212 Pitt Street.
- A Bell Let's Talk celebration was held in the Mental Health building.
- The Ontario Perception of Care survey was completed by caregivers, 89% of respondents felt that their children are getting a high quality of service.
- Work is continuing on suicide prevention through collaboration with community partners.

**IV. Department Update**

In the fall, the department started a pilot to have Speech Language Pathologists do early assessments (Grade 1 and Grade 2) in order to provide timely feedback to schools on student needs. This action leaves more time for the Psychologists to conduct full assessments throughout the School Board.

There are some after school PD sessions taking place for staff that includes information on ASD.

Heather Gerber will attend a workshop on trauma.

CDSBEO is looking for a Mental Health and Addiction Professional in the western region as Jessie Burnie will be going on maternity leave.

Our first after school session on “Managing Challenging Behavior in the Early Years” was well attended and successful. These sessions have been postponed due to job action.

There will be a Skype session provided for Educational Assistants on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Our Speech Language Pathologists will present information on “Supporting Speech Language and Communication with Students to Support Independence”.

The Itinerant ABLE Workers and Student Support Workers will gather in Kemptville on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to discuss confidentiality, “Caring and Safe Schools for Special Education Students” and PTRs with an opportunity to share and learn about new resources.

Superintendent McDonald attended the Planet Youth launch along with Michelle Neville, Mental Health Lead and Theresa Lalonde Pankow, Principal of Religious Education. She expressed the impact of the collaborative model which is based on Iceland’s model that decreased addictions by 100%. The survey was revised, and the letter was revamped before it was sent home to families. We will survey every year for five years and hope to see a delay in the onset of the first use of drugs and/or alcohol.

Our schools were very active in the Bell Let’s Talk Day and have tweeted out pictures to keep the conversation going.

A joint meeting with the Renfrew Catholic District School Board was held with members of CDSBEO to look at mental health and best practices to incorporate spirituality.

## V. **Presentation: After School Social Skills Programs**

CDSBEO presented proposals to the ministry and were provided funding to deliver various social skills programs throughout the Board. These programs include: PEERS, Art of Play, Art of Conversation, Art of Positive Interaction, Self-Awareness, Consolidation of Skills and FITA. Staff from schools were trained and work with students in their own schools. Principals, Vice Principals, Teachers, Student Support Workers, Educational Assistants and Early Childhood Educators have all taken the opportunity to lead the programs at various times in several locations. Each program is scripted, and materials are provided to school teams for ease of delivery. Data was collected, parents were well informed and asked for feedback. The data reflects growth in our students.

Pat Cole shared several videos to showcase the success of the programs. She delivers the programs after school and during the day through the gradual release model.

Lack of transportation has been a definite barrier because of the rural nature of our Board but is not included in the grant money. The funds cover training, materials and compensation. The ministry has provided two more years of funding after this year.

## **VI. New Business**

- Proposed Calendar for 2020-2021 School Year  
SEAC was pleased with the proposed calendar that was brought forward for consultation, starting prior to Labour Day and finishing earlier in June. This aligns with the Upper Canada District School Board as a cost saving measure as well.
- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) – Collaboration Form  
The collaboration form was electronically sent to our MACSE representative on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 on behalf of SEAC. This form can be viewed at the end of these minutes.

## **VII. Correspondence Received**

- Letter from Durham District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re the Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE)
- Email from Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network re Make the Cut Program, Carleton University-to present Feb. SAC meeting-Will invite all school principals and school councils
- Self-Care for Caregivers – FASD Group – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020-More information will be sent to Shelley from the Mores to add to minutes.

## **VIII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received**

### **Motion:**

Motion to excuse Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living and Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large.

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

## **IX. Next SEAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Board Office, Kemptville, starting at 6:00 p.m.

**X. Good News Sharing**

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

**XI. Closing Prayer**

Heather Gerber led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

**XII. 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	<b>Total</b>
August	P	P	P	P	P		P		<b>6</b>
September	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	<b>7</b>
October	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	<b>7</b>
November – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	<b>7</b>
November – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	<b>7</b>
January	P	P		P	P		P	P	<b>6</b>
February									
March									
April									
May									
June									

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

**MINISTER’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (MACSE)**

**COMMUNICATION: COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY  
February 2020**

The purpose of this form is to obtain targeted feedback to support discussion at the next MACSE meeting. Please use this form to gather input on issues related to special education programs and services.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Please submit the completed form electronically to your MACSE representative by **February 3, 2020**.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**CDSBEO**  
(Name of Organization)

**EXCEPTIONALITY/SECTOR: SEAC**

<b>SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES</b>	<p>The addition of the Multidisciplinary Team. Having a transdisciplinary approach to supporting our students with complex needs has made an incredible difference for the students and the staff who support them. It is a good use of resources, it is defined, clear, and allows for a quick response to access services and provides a holistic approach with the child at the center.</p> <p>The addition of the Mental Health and Addiction Counsellors in each high school. This ensures that students are being seen in a timely fashion and bridges the gap when there are long wait times at other agencies. Last year, 106 cases were resolved in-house and didn't have to go to community agencies.</p> <p>The school board collaboration with the Rural FASD Support Network. This was a one-day training in October where the community agencies and board support staff gathered to collaborate and learn about meeting the needs of students/persons with an FASD diagnosis.</p> <p>The overall philosophy of supporting mental health and special education in this board really stands out with the associations/community partners across the system. The level of interventions and programming that CDSBEO provides is to be commended.</p> <p>The fact that not one student was expelled last year. This is because CDSBEO staff have a different conversation. They don't say, "no" or "we can't do it" rather they reach out and say, "How do we do it?" or, "we need to figure it out" and they find, "outside of the box", solutions. There is a sense that the student is part of the family and that the priority is the student.</p> <p>School initiatives that happen within the school directly involve the community. There are works of social justice at the community level. Schools are directly involved in their communities.</p> <p>The emphasis on building relationships with children is being emphasized as evidenced by the board providing each school with a copy of the resource "<i>The Third</i></p>
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<p><b>SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p><i>Path</i>", which is written by Canadian authors. There is a buy-in that relationships come first before academics.</p> <p>As a board they are always researching and updating trainings and professional development to help support students.</p> <p>The alternative high schools, St. Luke and St. Matthew, offer innovative programs that are dedicated and profound. They have caring staff who support students who struggle in the regular school setting. This provides students with a supportive and positive school experience they wouldn't necessarily find anywhere else.</p> <p>The Math program/support offered throughout the board is well executed as evidenced by the EQAO scores of students who are supported with an IEP. There is a mindset that each student can and will meet with success in math and other subject areas.</p> <p>SEAC has hosted three SEAC symposiums which were made available to all our community partners, parents and educators. During the symposium, people could visit the various kiosks and get ideas and learn about the supports that are available to them.</p> <p>The board staff welcome community partners to be part of their team. We work in partnership, around referrals, space, treatment plans, and parent meetings.</p> <p>The opportunity to access dual credit courses, especially for kids with special education needs. This allows students to understand, concretely, that they have access to college and apprenticeships.</p> <p>The strategic presentation of both Dual-Credit and Co-Operative education opportunities in a menu-like fashion on their course option sheets. This ensures that they have choice and it also ensures equal opportunity for all students.</p>
<p><b>CHALLENGES /ISSUES</b></p>	<p>Lack of supply teachers and thus professional development for teachers is difficult to deliver.</p> <p>Need to filter ideas and strategies down to the grassroots to avoid disconnect and ensure the same opportunities for all students as there can be a lack consistency across the system.</p> <p>Huge geographical area.</p> <p>Due to the large catchment areas of St. Luke and St. Matthew, it can be difficult to build community outside of the school.</p> <p>Not being able to apply for more Care Treatment Custody and Corrections (CTCC) programs for so long. We do not have high school programs to service any of our secondary students whose primary need is not education. Also, due to the vast geography, we have students who can't access our three elementary CTCC programs as the travel time would be too great as would the transportation costs.</p> <p>Transportation.</p>



<b>CHALLENGES /ISSUES</b> (cont'd)	<p>Communication streams in general.</p> <p>Having everyone embrace a growth mindset.</p> <p>IPRC meetings can feel rushed. They are not always welcoming or collaborative. Need to use the IPRC meeting time to do some of the transition planning.</p> <p>Not enough early planning to ensure a smooth transition to post-secondary living for our students with special education needs. Further, the funding is not there to support students as they transition from school to adulthood. The solution would be to bring professionals together for a symposium so parents can see what is available for their kids after high school. This transition could be facilitated in the IPRC meeting and transition plans supported through the IEP. There is a need to acknowledge these transition plans sooner as not to lose momentum. This will also help to ensure that students choose their courses properly.</p> <p>A community solution is required to help families find meaningful post-secondary life activities sooner. A bridge is required between the school setting and the community supports available to them post-secondary. It is important that this occur long before high school is over. Limestone District School Board has a program in place that could be looked at and adapted to meet our needs. Funding would be required. Parents don't always know about all the options that are available to them.</p> <p>It could be valuable to ensure Special Education Part 1 is mandatory for all teacher education programs to ensure educators are coming into teaching positions with a basic understanding of special education.</p> <p>There are so many needs and the services/funding are not out there. Thus, there is a need for more support including financial support so that parents access services and ensure that their children can get to their appointments. Also, there is a need for more availability to services and shorted waitlists. A solution might be a willingness/expectation for supports to come to the student at the school if space allowed.</p> <p>Lack of Educational Assistant funding as the needs of all students can't be met.</p>
<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS / FUTURE DIRECTIONS</b>	<p>More electronic messaging.</p> <p>Have a better understanding and use of IPRC meetings which mandate transition planning.</p> <p>Allow for the application of new CTCC classrooms.</p> <p>Fund SEAC symposiums.</p> <p>Improve Catholic School Council Guidelines.</p> <p>Have agencies come to the school to support students so parents don't have to get them there.</p> <p>Increase Educational Assistant funding.</p> <p>Increase transportation funding.</p>

<p><b>OTHER COMMENTS</b></p>	<p>There is a need for SEAC to be active with various agencies and ensure that SEAC reflects the area the school board covers.</p> <p>There is a need to focus on the positives and success stories and ensure that individuals are not falling through the cracks.</p> <p>We would like to know:</p> <p>What are you going to do with this information and how is our voice going to be shared across the province?</p> <p>Are you going to indicate in your minutes that you have received something from the CDSBEO SEAC?</p> <p>Will you include SEAC members on your MACSE team?</p> <p>When is your next meeting?</p>
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