



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020 – Meeting #2

7:00 p.m.



Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark
County Support Services
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
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)

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:

Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large
Vicki Storaas, ABA Expertise Professional
April Helmkey, Speech-Language Pathologist

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

I. Approval of Amended Agenda

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

II. Department Update

There have been some interesting opportunities for learning and growth while supporting staff and students within our new reality. Direction has been provided to schools on how to support students with special needs. Board staff and school staff have been reaching out to families as directed by the principal. CDSBEO has developed a protocol for contacting families in a safe manner. There is also information on the CDSBEO website to support staff and families. Staff and families in need of technology have been provided with the equipment and software required to stay connected during this unprecedented time.

Educational Assistants, Student Support Workers, Itinerant ABLE Workers and Board staff have connected each morning on TEAMS for an hour of professional development with follow-up activities. Topics have included Learning About Teams, Read/Write, Self-Regulation, FASD, Communication and Communication Systems.

The Psychology Department are delivering assessment results and we are preparing secure documents to move forward with virtual IPRCs.

Special transportation is being reviewed with principals to examine who can transition to a regular bus.

There has been no reduction in SERTs for next year and we are in the process of staffing EAs for each school.

Professional Development has also taken place for Itinerant ABLE Workers and Student Support Workers on the new Safety Response Plans and BMS. MEP teachers have met virtually to share ideas and resources. Professional development for SERTs will include sharing best practices, Lexia training and Ministry Guidelines around IEPs and IPRCs.

Executive Council has been connecting online with the Ministry and other Boards a few times a week. Dr. Kiiffner has been working on a protocol and policy for virtual counselling that ensures the security aspects needed. Dr. Kiiffner and Marcia St. Pierre have begun virtual counselling.

A mental health webinar takes place weekly and both Dr. Kiiffner and Michelle Neville are involved in these to share best practices.

CDSBEO is working with all partners to ensure students receive support. A new mental health literacy course will be offered for teachers.

Education Week will focus on the importance of wellness through Religion and Mental Health activities.

Information in the form of videos is being prepared for parents to educate them on the use of online platforms such as TEAMS, D2L and learning online.

III(a) Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2020

The following sections were shared:

- Section IV – Identification, Placement and Review
- Section VI – Special Education Placement Provided by the Board
- Section IX – Staff Development
- Section XI – Accessibility of School Buildings
- Section XII – Transportation
- Section XV – Special Education Advisory Committee

A recommendation was brought forward to contain the last seven years of accessibility items. All agreed.

III(b) Ways to Support Families with Home Schooling

Discussion – parents are worried that their children will lose their year if they can't follow through with online learning.

Superintendent McDonald explained that the Board is dealing with individual situations and advised that parents reach out to the school to ask for support.

The messaging directly from the Ministry to teachers and parents is that the marks from March 13th will be the lowest marks given to students at the end of the year. CDSBEO will adapt and adjust based on student and family need. Principals and their staff are reaching out to any families that have not connected.

Credit recovery over the summer may provide opportunities to improve if students were struggling before March Break.

IV. Correspondence Received

- Resignation – Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large – April 17th, 2020
- Letter from Greater Essex County District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re MACSE
- Letter from Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board to the Minister of Education re increase to average class size and mandatory online courses
- Letter from Durham District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re MACSE – tabled at last SEAC meeting

V. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

All SEAC members were present however, Fran Brauneisen missed most of the meeting due to technology issues.

VI. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 starting at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Good News Sharing

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

VIII. Closing Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

IX. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Assoc. for Community Living	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large (vacant)	Cornwall Community Hospital	Open Doors	Total
August	P	P	P	P	P		P		6
September	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	7
October	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	7
November – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	7
November – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	7
January	P	P		P	P		P	P	6
February – Cancelled									
March – Cancelled									
April – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	7
April – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	7
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)*