



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 15th, 2020
Microsoft Teams – 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

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:

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network
(Alternate)

Guests:

Lorraine Boyer

Meeting Called to Order

Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests until Sue Wilson (Chair) could join because of technical difficulties. Sue Wilson did Chair the meeting during the association reports.

Opening Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Lord of all Creation*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

II. Sharing April 29th, 2020 Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on May 7th, 2020.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Karen Moore

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

New Initiatives:

- LCSS is continuing with the virtual/digital sessions with participants. See attached schedule.
- See attached newsletter for summary to date and some highlights of our participants who have been essential workers during this time.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- June 20th, 2020 – David Somppi, Planet Youth Rep through Zoom conferencing.

New Initiatives:

- Investment Readiness Fund application for social enterprise rejected.
- Steering Committee established to work on Trillium Grant application for social enterprise.
- Open Doors Children Mental Health has formally agreed to become our umbrella charity organization.
- We have been selected to represent the province at the Ontario Quality Health Council on behalf of people with neuro-disabilities.

Other Information:

- Beckwith Tech Camp, our current social enterprise, already has 28 girls registered for the August 6th Hackathon with 22 of them coming from CDSBEO – Sandra Theobald from St. John, Perth joining the planning committee. MPP Jill Dunlop of Children and Women Issues in MCCSS will be bringing greetings to the participants.
- Our Monthly Speaker Series is currently generating the highest numbers in Cogeco's Podium Show.
- If restrictions lift, potential August ball tournament and campout at Morehaven Farm could still happen.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Moving to Phase 2 of opening and considering what face to face might look like.
- Active in virtual work and referrals have increased.

- Still doing talk in model with no wait list.
- Involved in Quest Program for quality assurance perspective.
- Caregiver Advisory Group up and running.
- Youth Engagement Group running.
- Information gained from SEAC for parents last meeting was truly appreciated.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- Ramping up stage of work. PPE has been ordered and have started doing in person psychological assessments.
- Next week in person play therapy will begin.
- Virtual Post-partum Group starting next week.
- Referral still at low volumes but seems more complex (15 referrals and all youth with suicide ideation).
- Virtual appointments will continue with clients who it is working well for.
- Parents Psycho-educational Groups will begin with parents on how to prepare their children to return to school.
- Group, group loss and the impact on youth.
- A live chat was held with the mayor about the importance of services and to encourage the community to reach out.

IV. Department Update

Professional development has continued over the last few weeks. Pat Cole shared her expertise on the Social Skills Programs that we offer to the students throughout the Board. This generated an increased interest for support staff who hope to be able to co-facilitate these programs in the future. Krista Kiiffner and Pat Cole delivered information on anxiety the following week, with an emphasis on strategies to use when students struggle with anxiety. Pat finished the week talking about the Hidden Curriculum and how this impacts students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This week Janet Carioni is teaching the staff about the sensory needs of our students and how we can support these needs in the general classroom and throughout the school. All the professional development noted above has been offered to Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and administrators and has been well received. The Student Support Workers and Itinerant ABLE Workers have been taking part in meetings to learn more about the “Duty to Report”.

“The Science of Reading” and how our brain learns to read has been presented to many school teams throughout the Board. The first session focused on how kids learn to read and the important role that phonological awareness and phonics play in word-level reading. They shared how to align teaching practices with how the brain learns to read. The second session concentrated on shifting our focus from letters (visual) to sounds (auditory), which falls in line with how we learn to read and makes teaching phonics and phonemic awareness run more smoothly. This session also focused on shifting the way we teach kids to learn high-frequency words to align with how the brain learns to remember words. Words are divided into three types of high-frequency words, from the most easily decoded, to the most irregularly spelled.

Example routines were explored. Teachers and support staff are excited to put what they have learned into practice.

The Department received positive feedback from the Educational Assistants after the job placement took place virtually. This will probably continue to happen virtually in the future.

Summer Learning Program

The Ministry allocated money for the following priorities:

- Responding to crisis situations.
- Supporting special needs students who are presently on our caseload.
- Special education funding to hire SERTS and Educational Assistants.
- An in-person transition back to school program for special needs students two weeks prior to school opening.
- The expansion of the Summer Learning Program (K-8) for 618 students. Forty teachers and forty Educational Assistants have been hired.
- A Lead Consultant from Special Education and the Principal of Curriculum will oversee this.

The Summer Learning Program will run from July 6-24, 2020 for six hours a day. Two of those hours will involve a synchronous learning component. The other four hours will focus on working with smaller groups of students, parent engagement, feedback and assessment.

CDSBEO is also offering their regular e-learning programs this summer, 907 students have registered from Grades 9-12.

The Mental Health Team and the Psychology Department will continue to conduct assessments, mental health check-ins and virtual support to parents. Our ABA Consultants will continue to support ASD students and Mental Health Addictions Counselors will continue to provide support working in collaboration with our Community Partners.

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

The following sections were shared:

- Section II - Programs and Services Model/Special Education Funding
- Section VIII - Special Education Staff
- Section X – Equipment
- Section XV – Special Education Advisory Committee

b) Funding/Staffing Presentation

Mini meeting proposed for June 22nd, 2020. Bonnie Norton will join to explain funding.

VI. New Business

SEAC Goals/Priorities – 2020-2021 School Year

- A feedback session to discuss what we have learned and what we should continue moving forward in terms of SEAC (e.g., daily virtual PD, alternate learning environments, consider moving January and February meetings to virtual meetings).
- Tap into Catholic School Councils and getting staff involved.
- Record meetings to share with community.

Topics for Presentations – 2020-2021 School Year

- Dual credit
- Trauma
- BMS Training
- Self-regulation
- Executive Functioning
- Vision and Hearing
- How EAs and ECEs Supported Virtual Learning
- SLP Science of Reading
- Planet Youth presentation
- Student Success (on-line modules on careers and trades, my blueprint, co-op
- Anxiety

SEAC Meeting Dates – 2020-2021 School Year

- Wednesday, August 26th, 2020
- Wednesday, September 30th, 2020
- Wednesday, October 28th, 2020
- Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 (double meeting)
- Wednesday, January 27th, 2021
- Wednesday, February 24th, 2021
- Wednesday, March 24th, 2021
- Wednesday, April 21st, 2021
- Wednesday, May 12th, 2021
- Monday, May 31st, 2021

VII. Correspondence Received

- Letter from Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education re MACSE.

Letter to be sent to SEAC members for review.

VIII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living and Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network (Alternate).

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

IX. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, June 22nd, 2020 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: Rob More

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
June 15 th , 2020	P	P		P	P		P	P	6
June 22 nd , 2020									
June 29 th , 2020									

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