



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

**Present:**

**Administration:** Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator  
Frank Ricciuti, SJSH – Special Education Curriculum Lead  
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

**Trustees:** John Willemsen  
Barb McCool

**Associations:** April Porter, Alternate, Community Living  
Marie Derosier, Member, LDAO  
Mary Grise, Member, Parent Representative

**Regrets:** Jeannie Boissonneault, Member, NDSS -  
Tracey Hanzlik, Member, Nipissing First Nation

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**1. PRAYER**

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer.

**2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by April Porter and seconded Barbara McCool THAT the revised agenda of April 20, 2021 be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Barbara McCool THAT the minutes of March 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Weller presented the following NPSC program updates:

- Special Education: In Year and Summer Programs
- COVID - 19 Updates: Asymptomatic Testing for Students & Staff, Prioritization of Vaccination for Special Education Staff, Remote Learning After April Break
- Grade 9 Mathematics De-Streaming September 2021
- Ministry Equity Data Demographic Project
- Indigenous Education Update
- OCSTA Together in Faith Resource: Home. School. Parish.
- Catholic Education Week: Nurturing Hope May 3 - 7, 2021

## 6. UPDATES

### a) Parent Guide

DEFERRED

### b) SEAC/PIC Carousel Evening 2021

Ms. Weller shared the great success of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SEAC/PIC Carousel Evening. Michael and Marcel Jacques presented virtually and educated an audience of thirty participants on diversity and inclusion. Through the sharing of Michael's brave story and positive outlook on life, this duo was truly an inspiration to participants.

### c) New SEAC Membership

The process is underway to accept a new SEAC member from One Kids Place: Mr. Corry Thomas, Director of Client Services. Additionally, Secondary Curriculum Leads Frank Ricciuti and Ticha Overholt will be sharing SJSH representation.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Hastings and Prince Edward DSB

On February 19, 2021 HPEDSB members of SEAC wrote to the Medical Officer of Health regarding the prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff.

Durham District SB

DDSB members of SEAC wrote to the Town of Whitby regarding accessibility concerns for the students of the Durham District School Board.

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared the details of the upcoming system Professional Development Day on April 23, 2021. The day will begin with an opening liturgy followed by a keynote interactive speaker session by Dr. Greg Wells entitled: "Rest, Refocus & Recharge". The afternoon will consist of several breakout sessions: K-3: Tools For Life Training (Tools For Life Training Team), Gr. 4-8: Exploration Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom (Student Support Services Team), Gr. 9 - 12 Practical Classroom Strategies for Student Well-Being and Health and Safety: WHMIS Training Completion.

Ms. Weller shared that the 2021 – 2022 Proposed Preliminary Special Education Budget meeting will occur following release of the Ministry of Education: Grants for Special Needs (GSN).

ii) Coordinator's Update:

With the shift to remote learning, NPSC is moving forward in offering virtual speech and language therapy services. We are in the process of communicating with families to discuss virtual sessions or alternative methods of service delivery if/as required.

Throughout the month of April, in addition to offering modified and alternative curriculum opportunities, the elementary virtual LAC is participating in a virtual STEM workshop on Monday April 26<sup>th</sup> called 'Strong Structures', the class is creating cards for Au Chateau - Home for the Aged in Sturgeon Falls as well as learning about Earth Day, Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, as they discuss sustainability and the environment while working on 'do it yourself' recycling projects using items found around the home such as newspaper, cardboard, bottles and cans.

iii) Secondary Lead's Update:

Mr. Ricciuti shared the following updates:

- We are in the third year of the Pilot to Support Transitions to Post Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities. Our work in this project continues to involve Job Path training, mock interviews, workplace experiences, and new this year we purchased virtual reality sets and additional materials that support our students special education needs.
- Transition planning is underway (live videos, virtual visits, on-going case conferences, summer transition) to support students coming to us from grade 8 and for those who have been learning from home and in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Special Olympics (virtual soccer, basketball and track & field) have occurred at SJSH.

**b) Association Reports**

- i) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member  
NIL Report
- ii) Community Living – April Porter, Alternate  
NIL Report
- iii) Parent Representative – Mary Grise, Member  
NIL Report

**9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**  
NIL

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Mary Grise THAT the meeting of April 20, 2021 be adjourned at 6:59 PM.