

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

MINUTES of the SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A regular meeting was held in a hybrid format in person at CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google Meet on **January 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Committee Members: | N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, S. Gatti*, A. Grella, D. Legris,* J. Man*, N. Welch*, J. Wigston, M. Xue*, Y. Zhou* |
| Association Representatives: | J. Akleh*, M. Marcello*, C. Sandig* |
| Administration: | D. Candido, L. Lausic* |
| Regrets: | J. Gamboa, N. Lai, |
| Recording: | C. Mong* |
| Guests: | S. Biafora, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> F. DiNardo*, <i>Retiree, YCDSB</i> M. Iafrate, <i>Vice Chair of the Board, YCDSB</i> K. Nguyen, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> M. Oyston, <i>Special Education DH, YCDSB</i> F. Puma, <i>Parent, YCDSB</i> |

*Denotes virtual attendance

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

3.1 Roll Call

3.2 Approval of New Material

Nil – No New Material

4.0 Moment of Inspiration

The presentation showcased 32 students across YCDSB who communicate with augmented communication devices participated in a Christmas Jingle.

5.0 Approval of Agenda January 15, 2024

Motion– Agenda approved with an additional item 14.0 MASCE (Wigston/ Legris)

6.0 Approval of the Minutes December 11, 2023

Motion - Minutes approved with clarification provided for Information item 8.2 (Byrne / Xue)

7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2023:02 – December 2023

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Board Meeting Date

The date of the next Board Meeting is January 30, 2024

9.0 Correspondence

HPEDSB SIP Funding

Chair Grella provided clarification: Special Incident portion claims support students with extraordinary needs in a 2:1 model. The funding is based on claims submitted by schools. HPEDSB is advocating for more funds to support students across the province.

10.0 Presentations / Discussions

10.1 Brew Crew

- This presentation highlighted a program the SAH school community participates in. Through the Brew Crew students develop their God given talents and can practice their pre-vocational skills. The success of the program has allowed the school to bring real world learning experiences to students with special needs.

10.2 Rare Disease Day- February 29, 2024

- Ideas shared on behalf of CORD Canada to celebrate Rare Disease Day celebrating diversity and inclusion. Additional information found on pages 3-7.

10.3 Student Services Department updates

- Superintendent Candido presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month. Additional information found on page 8.

11.0 Business Arising

Nil

12.0 Action Items

Nil

13.0 Association Reports

Autism ON: [March Break Reimbursement Fund](#)

Community Living: [E connector](#)

Easter Seals: [New Educator Inclusion & Accessibility e- Learning](#)

14.0 Items for Future Agendas

- YRT Presentation
- PEP Presentation
- Vince's Supermarket

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday February 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid format over Google Meet and at CEC Board office, 320 Bloomington Rd W Aurora ON

16.0 Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Xue / Zhou)

CELEBRATING
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
RARE DISEASE DAY: FEBRUARY 29, 2024
FEBRUARY 28 on non-leap years
(pages 1-5)

This can be a day about acknowledging Diversity and Inclusion. A day to bring awareness to the community and all students regarding the challenges that children with rare diseases experience and how to include them in student interactions.

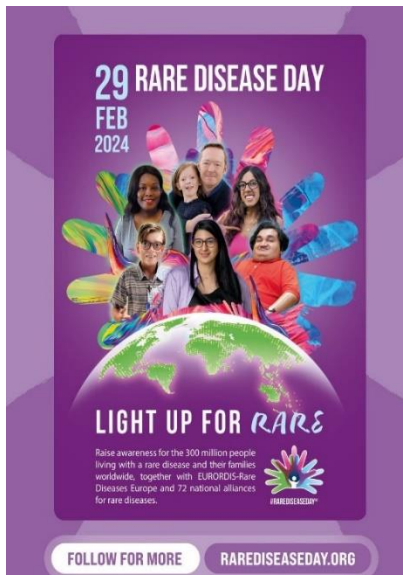
Suggestions for Rare Disease Day:

- this event could be posted in the Parent Newsletter
- bill board outside of every school have a notification:
“Diversity and Inclusion: Rare Disease Day February 29, 2024
- Rare Disease Day is recognized on February 28th, except during leap years when it is recognized on February 29th, commemorating a rare day for people who have rare disorders
- students and staff could either wear striped clothing, or pink, blue, green, purple clothing, which are the official colors of Rare Disease Day
- at the February school assembly, show short video
“Show Your Stripes” (it’s available on Youtube)
- Scholastic story book “Fast Friends by Heather M. O’Connor and Claudia Davilla (for primary grades)
- students in primary grades could learn to sign the song “The More We Get Together” as most children are familiar with signing “more” and this song involves sign language
- student created posters depicting the Hand Logo, striped zebra, or any art work using stripes or the official colors (pink, blue, green, purple)

Have class discussions about how to include these special needs students, many children have not experienced being around special needs children and don’t really feel comfortable or know how to engage them.

Continue discussions about activities that special needs students would enjoy engaging in. For example:

- singing songs with them
- reading story books to them
- playing ball games
- any kinesthetic activity
- technology activities and educational games
- continue discussions about students paying attention to body language and facial expressions, particularly to students who are non-verbal, as they will respond using body language
- discuss that often special needs children need time to respond, to be patient and wait for a response



Share Your Stripes Video on Rare Disease Day (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b926EI8GR-8>



EVENTS WORLDWIDE

SHARE YOURS TODAY!  **RAREDISEASEDAY.ORG**



A few of the famous landmarks supporting RARE DISEASE DAY - February 29, 2024

These landmarks will be illuminated on Feb. 29th 2024 with the colors: pink, blue, green, purple

Toronto CN Tower

Toronto City Hall

Toronto 3D sign at Nathan Phillip Square

Niagara Falls (10:00pm – 10:15pm.) I have included a live cam link (https://www.earthcam.com/canada/niagarafalls/?cam=niagarafalls_str) that you can share, so that families and friends can see the Falls illuminated

Vaughan City Hall

Edmonton Bridge

Edmonton Tower

Calgary Tower

British Columbia Legislature

British Columbia Place

Vancouver Convention Centre

Sales Of Light Vancouver

Science World Vancouver

Olympic Cauldron Vancouver Convention Centre

**Tentative: all of the TV screens in the GoodLife Fitness Clubs in Ontario
CP 24 Breakfast Television**

Useful links:

<https://www.rarediseaseday.org/downloads/>

<https://www.rarediseaseday.org/friends/canadian-organization-for-rare-disorders/>

10.3 Student Services Updates (January)

We have finalized our timeline for migration from our current IEP Engine platform to RISE, a new and exciting software that integrates intelligent workflows and enhanced efficacy for all stakeholders, throughout all processes that Student Services manages. This migration will take place in May of this year and we are currently developing a comprehensive training plan for all future users.

Our Early Facilitation Meeting for parents of students with special needs entering schools will take place this month.

Our ILIT program will change over to a second set of schools in order to support students with difficulties in reading. The elementary special education team will also be hosting special education teachers in our upcoming Family of Schools to provide support with math gap closing and literacy programs.

YCDSB Speech and Language Services will be once again offering groups for high school students who have existing augmentative communication (AAC) tools. This is a five-week program that will be run during the regular school day by a Communicative Disorders Assistant and/or a Speech-Language Pathologist. The group is an opportunity for secondary students to practice using their AAC communication tool during conversation, short games, and small group activities.

A concern was brought forward that the application of an extra 5% to the final grade of AP face to face courses was not equitable as not all schools across the province had this practice. As we are always turning our mind to ensuring that our practices are equitable, we underwent this review. Many parents have reached out to us, to Principals of AP schools and to Trustees expressing their concerns that this AP multiplier would be cancelled. This was not quite the case as we needed to complete the review. The AP Multiplier review process: we met with AP Principals, SSLT, AP teacher via google form, the AP College Board and the Ministry of Education to review the assessment practice of the AP Multiplier.

We have finalized the review as we consulted with Curriculum to ensure that the practice is in line with our interpretation of Growing Success. The full report will be shared at the Jan 30 Board Meeting indicating that the practice of the AP multiplier will remain in effect here at YCDSB.