

# 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 **May 6, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.**

### PRESENT:

Committee Members: N. Byrne\*, A. Connolly\*, S. Gatti\*, A. Grella, M. Iafrate\*, S. Leckey\*, J. Man\*, M. Rennie\*, N. Welch \*, J. Wigston, M. Xue\*, Y. Zhou\*

Association Representatives: C. Sandig\*

Administration: D. Candido, A. Cabraja\* L. Lausic\*, E. Strano\*

Regrets: N. Lai, D. Legris

Recording: C. Mong\*

Guests: F. Puma, *Parent, YCDSB*  
O. Staneviciys, *After School Skills Development Program Teacher*  
V. Raffin, *Student, YCDSB*

\*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

*Celebrating the success of the After School Social Skills Program at St. Margaret Mary CES. This presentation shared the class format. The lessons were short, were kinesthetic and included role play. Students completed the program with a cumulating activity. Most students did not want to graduate as they thoroughly enjoyed the program.*

### 5.0 Approval of Agenda May 6, 2024

**Motion**– Agenda approved (Connolly / Byrne)

### 6.0 Approval of the Minutes April 8 2024

**Motion** - Minutes approved (Man / Byrne)

### 7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2023:06 – **April 2024**

### 8.0 Information Items

#### 8.1 Board Meeting Date

The date of the next Board Meeting is May 28, 2024

**Items 7.0-8.1 Received on block** (Welch / Wigston)

### 9.0 Correspondence

Nil – No Correspondence

**10.0 Presentations / Discussions**

10.1 Distinguished Alumni

- Celebrating Jeffrey Man, Easter Seals Ontario Representative, recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award. Congratulations Jeffrey!

10.2 Special Education Plan

- The Special Education Plan was shared with SEAC members to review, to be finalized at the next meeting.

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 3-4.

**11.0 Business Arising**

Nil

**12.0 Action Items**

Nil

**13.0 Association Reports**

- Association for Bright Children: Spring newsletter
- Autism Ontario: Spring updates
- Learning Disabilities Association – York Simcoe: Social Skills, Jump Math, Annual Parent Conference

**14.0 Items for Future Agendas**

- Budget Presentation
- Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities

**15.0 Next Meeting: Monday June 17, 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 7:43 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned (Xue/ Byrne)

### 10.3 Student Services Updates (May 2024)

#### **Elementary Special Education:**

This month special education teachers are participating in workshops given by our Mental Health team around mental health literacy and autism. Teachers were given a plethora of background information and strategies to be used with their students.

We are well into the planning stages of our **Integrated Track and Field Days** which will take place for 2 weeks in June. Student Services has been organizing **Integrated Track and Field Events for over 20 years** to allow students with special needs to participate with their school teams, and has become an event that students, staff and parents look forward to each year! These special events will be offered on all board wide track and field days and will take place from **June 5th – June 21st, 2023**.

**In Literacy**, consultants continue to work on expanding our ILIT and Core programs to include more strategies on Reading Fluency, Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills. At the end of May Special education teachers will again be invited to an inservice covering these areas as well as the importance of using assessment as, for and of learning to guide programing for more individualized, targeted literacy interventions.

Elementary schools have been busy planning Welcome to Kindergarten events, and our consultants have been planning for all students who have been identified as being part of our **Early Facilitation process**. They have set up meetings with Multidisciplinary team members, school teams as well as parents and Early Interventionists to gather information and develop an action plan for students who may need support when they begin JK in September.

We have also been busy completing IPRCs for students who meet criteria for an Identification through the Ministry of Education all year. By June, we will have completed 430 IPRCs.

#### **Secondary Special Education**

We are also very excited to be partnering once again with REENA in the Summer Employment Transition Program for our secondary students with special needs. SET is a 10-week supported employment program designed for students with intellectual disabilities who wish to build their job search/workplace skills and gain paid summer work experiences in the competitive labour market. Participants are supported by the SET job coaches to secure a paid summer job as well through on-site coaching at the workplace. So far, 12 of our secondary students are preparing to submit their application packages to be considered for the first round of applications and interviews. We expect that many of these students will successfully secure employment and earn their first paycheques this summer!

A reminder that on Friday, May 31, the YCDSB Special Olympics will be held at St. Theresa CHS. Secondary students with special needs, with the support and assistance of their Best Buddies, will be competing in various track and field events. Preparation and planning are well underway and we look forward to seeing some of you join us that day at St. Theresa.

As per PPM No. 156, **Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs**, the Elementary to Secondary school transition is considered a key transition and therefore requires coordinated and detailed planning. In an effort to support students with Special Education needs who are transitioning from Elementary to Secondary school and grade 6 students with Special Education needs who will be entering grade 7 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Academy

and St. Katharine Drexel CHS, most of our schools have started transition visits to the receiving school. I am grateful to all of the elementary and secondary staff involved in organizing and supervising these critical visits as they ultimately prepare students for a more successful and less anxious September start up.

**Mental health:** this month we acknowledge mental health awareness month and children's mental health week. Our schools have many different mental health initiatives and events planned. At the board level we are hosting the second group of special education teachers for the mental health and asd literacy workshop as well as educators k-12 for MH literacy for educators. On May 8 we are partnering with the national eating disorders information centre to host educators for a professional learning session and a parent panel at night. On May 22 we will be participating in the Fast Track: Explore your future conference and career expo where we will have a booth promoting mental wellbeing.