

# 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 **February 10, 2025** at **7:00 p.m.**

### PRESENT:

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

Association Representatives: J. Akleh\*, E. DiFalco

Administration: A.Cabraja, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano

Regrets: A. Carter, M. Xue

Recording: C. Mong\*

Guest Presenters: R. Jordan, *Mental Health Lead Teacher, YCDSB*  
M. Liberatore, *Itinerant Work Experience Teacher, YCDSB*  
M. Prinzo, *Manager, Mental Health Services, YCDSB*

\*Denotes virtual attendance

### CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

#### 1.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

#### 2.0 Roll Call

#### 3.0 Approval of New Material NIL

#### 4.0 Approval of Agenda February 10, 2024 Motion– Agenda approved (Legris / Byrne)

#### 5.0 Approval of the Previous Minutes Motion - Minutes approved (Byrne / Legris)

#### 6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes NIL

#### 7.0 SEAC Report to Board Motion – Report Received (Byrne / Wigston)

#### 8.0 Moment of Inspiration

*This moment of inspiration highlights the collaboration with community partners and agencies to build connections for YCDSB students with disabilities. Students from St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS, Our Lady Queen of the World and St. Robert CHS had an opportunity for a Religion Retreat with L'Arche Daybreak celebrating their gifts.*

**9.0 Presentations / Discussions**

9.1 Transition Planning Symposium

- Student Services Department and SEAC in collaboration with Your Support Services Network are hosting a Life After Highschool: Transition Planning Symposium on Thursday My 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00pm. Please [register](#) by May 5<sup>th</sup> to confirm your attendance

9.2 Mindfulness with ASD and FLS students

- In collaboration with YSSN, students participated in a 6 week program where students learn to use these skills for stress management as well as emotional learning and developing resiliency skills. The program varies week to week, building on previous practices and can be tailored to the needs of the students in the classroom. To address the unique needs of students, the program is an adapted skills teaching that includes simple terms at a modified pace, uses different modalities and it avoids abstract concepts. In an effort to accommodate all learner levels, students have the opportunity to practice mindfulness through the use of different aids.

9.3 Student Services Monthly Update

- Superintendent Powers presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month, see page 3.

**10.0 Action Item(s)**

Nil

**11.0 Discussion Item(s)**

Nil

**13.0 Information Item(s)**

**12.1 SEAC Meeting Dates**

**12.2 MASCE Submission**

Superintendent Powers shared the copy of the MASCE form with SEAC member feedback, no additional feedback was provided.

**12.3 Rare Disease Day: February 28, 2025**

**12.4 Special Education realignment**

Superintendent Powers addressed the changes to literacy support across the system

**12.5 Association News**

Autism ON: Celebrate the Spectrum on April 2025, Report Card Project

Community Living: E- Connector

LDAYS Monthly Report & Flyers

**Items Received** (Byrne / Welch)

**14.0 Future Item(s)**

Nil

**15.0 Next Meeting: Monday March 3, 2025 @ 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 7:41 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned (Man / Legris)

### 9.3 Student Services Monthly Update

#### **Secondary Special Education**

Once again I am very excited to share that on May 8th, the secondary Student Services Team will be hosting the *Life After High School Symposium* for Parents/Guardians of students with intellectual disabilities. This symposium will take place here at the CEC and will host various community day programs, and agencies that offer programs and services to students with disabilities after they graduate at 21. We have included the Symposium Flyer in your package and plan to send it via School Messenger to parents/guardians and we will be posting it on our board website. Trustee Grella, please do save the date so that you can join us that evening to address the guests on behalf of SEAC.

On Wednesday of this week we will be hosting our annual Best Buddies Valentine's Dance for secondary students with special needs and their buddies at the Venetian Banquet Hall in Concord. We look forward to an evening of food, friendship and dancing and we are actively praying that the next round of snow that may be coming for us is going to hold off until everyone gets home safe and sound.

#### **Elementary Special Education**

On Thursday January 30, we invited parents of children with exceptionalities who are registering for Kindergarten in September 2025 to an Information Evening. We were happy to host the meeting in person this year and welcomed approximately 50 parents between the boardroom and online. We were grateful to have representatives join us, from York Region Early Intervention Services, Kinark Entry to School Program and the Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe as well as Trustee Grella from SEAC.

In the next few months parents will be registering their children for school, and our Mutli-disciplinary teams will be meeting with the families and school teams to develop an Action Plan for September.

At the end of February we will be hosting parents of students who have met criteria for our Program of Academic and Creative Excellence (aka PACE), in a similar fashion so that we may share information about the Programs and its different locations.