

# 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 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

### PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, B. Drenoski*, A. Grella, D. Legris,* J. Man*, J. Wigston, M. Xue*, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	E. Di Falco*
Administration:	A.Cabraja*, D. Candido, L. Lausic*, E. Strano
Regrets:	S. Gatti, N. Lai, N. Welch
Recording:	C. Mong*
Guests:	Antwon, <i>SHH Student, YCDSB</i> A. De Faveri, <i>Interim Director of Education, YCDSB</i> M. Leadbetter, <i>SHH Parent, YCDSB</i> R. Leadbetter, <i>SHH Parent, YCDSB</i> A. Miraglia, <i>Itinerant Work Experience Teacher, Student Services</i> F. Puma, <i>Parent, YCDSB</i> C. Ruffolo-Defilippis, <i>Supervisor, Physical Management, Student Services</i> A.Saggesse, <i>Trustee, YCDSB</i> A. Trimarchi, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> T. Wighton, <i>Special Education DH, 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 highlighted students participating at various school events: Terry Fox Walk, School Dance, Phys. Ed. Lesson, Carnival ice skating field trip through CanChild's 6Fs.*

### 5.0 Approval of Agenda February 12, 2024

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

### 6.0 Approval of the Minutes January 15, 2024

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

### 7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2023:03 – **January 2024**

### 8.0 Information Items

#### 8.1 Board Meeting Date

The date of the next Board Meeting is February 27, 2024

**9.0 Correspondence**

PVNCCDSB SIP Funding

**Items 7.0-9.0 Received on block** (Wigston/Legri)

**10.0 Presentations / Discussions**

10.1 Vince's Market Grocery Trip

- This presentation highlighted SHH FLS Students exploring and learning in the community. Students had the opportunity to learn about the workings of the grocery store, became special helpers for the day, and witnessed how orders are received from a delivery truck! This trip helped prepare them for work experience and to learn about and connect with the local community.

10.2 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**

Nil

**14.0 Items for Future Agendas**

- YRT Presentation
- Play Day PA Day

**15.0 Next Meeting: Monday March 4, 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 7:58 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned (Xue / Zhou)

## 10.2 Student Services Updates (February)

Speech & Language Services to date this school year:

- The 12 SLPs supporting elementary schools have completed over 800 assessments and provided over 225 intervention sessions;
- The newly created YCDSB AAC team of the YCDSB Speech and Language Services department has provided 473 visits in support of 204 different YCDSB students who use alternative/augmentative means of communication. Along with providing direct support to students, this team of Speech Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants offers training and capacity building/skill enhancement in the area of AAC for YCDSB educators.

Occupational & Physical Therapy Services (Physical Management) to date this school year:

- 6 OTs supporting elementary and high schools:
  - 1513 students have been seen to date by this team with over 4753 visits completed

SEA OT team: over 200 visits completed by this team - OTs and OT/PT Assistant support students with SEA equipment and capacity building of both staff and students.

- OTs -assessment and monitoring of mobility and sensory equipment, Ipad, tools to access devices (eye gaze, large keyboards, specialized chairs/desks, etc.), specialized applications to support scaffolded writing, money management software
- OTA/PTA - under the guidance of OTs and PTs, able to train new staff working with our complex care students on transfer methods, use of mobility equipment, activities of daily living to ensure safety of both student and staff

Accessibility: consulting with schools and plant department to meet these needs

- Automatic door openers, height-adjustable change tables, new accessible washrooms (2nd floor high school, elementary schools), emergency exit accessibility (grading and snow removal), accessible recess areas, accessible field trips promoting inclusivity

Psychological Services - over 125 comprehensive assessments have been completed or are in progress to date, and over 450 external assessments have been reviewed. We have also processed over 230 SEA Claims. We continue to consult around learning, mental health, and behavioural concerns. Recently, some of our staff members attended professional development around school refusal and supports that can be used by school staff around this issue.

Mental health - PPM 169 is now active. We have inservice our intermediate HPE teachers to deliver the mental health literacy lessons and held our first virtual educator support session last week. We are continuing to provide role specific inservices- this month we are working with ILIT and are participating in the family of schools event for spec ed teachers. MHW's also attended training this month to learn about identity affirming CBT and using dbt principles in suicide risk assessment. The recorded module for catholic school councils will be shared with all schools to share at a csc meeting to help increase mental health literacy in our parent group.

ASD team and ABA specialists completed a third session of Elementary EA/SEI training on February 2nd PA day.

A STAR feedback form was sent to all teachers trained in STAR and the team will be providing small group sessions to support teachers with the implementation.

After-school Fall-Winter session is finishing the week of February 5 and the final preparations are taking place in order to start Winter/Spring session the week of March 25.

### **Elementary Special Ed**

Our ILIT teachers have moved on to their second term for the year, and are currently completing screening assessments to create the groups they will be working with during term 2. We have continued to see great progress from students who participated in the program first term

Our Grade 5 and 6 PACE students have received Lego Robotics kits, and teachers participated in an online training session with a representative from Spectrum to get them started. We look forward to seeing the robots they create.

Our Consultants are busily planning a Family of Schools event for all of our Special Education Teachers which will take place on Feb. 21 and 22. For half the day teachers will participate in an active training session on using manipulatives to supplement their program when teaching math, and they will be bringing back a bag filled with manipulatives to use in their schools. The second ½ of the day will be training on SEA programs available to our students with reading and writing challenges. We will have a gallery walk set up in the foyer with representatives from all departments in Student Services including SLP, Behaviour resource, ABA services, physical management as well as hearing and vision.

### **Secondary Special Education**

On Thursday of last week, our secondary staff and students attended the annual YCDSB Best Buddies Valentine's dance at the Venetian Banquet hall in Woodbridge. Thanks to the financial support of Trustees, the Senior Team and OECTA, this social event was held for students with special needs and their neurotypical buddies and as always, it was an unforgettable evening for all! We will be sharing a short presentation on this event at the March SEAC meeting.