

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 **April 8, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: N. Byrne*, C. Chen*, A. Connolly*, S. Gatti*, M. Iafrate*, D. Legris, J. Man*, N. Welch *, J. Wigston, Y. Zhou*

Association Representatives: J. Akleh*, C. Sandig*

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

Regrets: A. Grella, N. Lai, M. Xue

Recording: C. Mong*

Guests: G. Bosch, *Student, YCDSB*
C. Cosentino, *Principal, SBAH, YCDSB*
J. Fiorini, *SBAH Parent, YCDSB*
N. Fiorini, *SBAH Parent, YCDSB*
S. Lynn, *EIS*
E. Norris, *Program Consultant, Student Services*
F. Puma, *Parent, YCDSB*
M. Rapallo-Ferrara, *Program Consultant, Student Services*
L. Volpe, *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 SBAH Tuckshop. This presentation highlighted the journey from conception, design to building of the cart. Students work together with the support of the tech studies workshop to build the cart with existing and donated materials. After the cart was built, the next step was designing and incorporating the logo. Now the cart is fully operating. What a team effort!

5.0 Approval of Agenda April 8, 2024

Motion– Agenda approved (Byrne / Connolly)

6.0 Approval of the Minutes March 4, 2024

Motion - Minutes approved (Connolly / Byrne)

7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2023:05 – **March 2024**

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Board Meeting Date

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

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

9.0 Correspondence

Nil – No Correspondence

10.0 Presentations / Discussions

10.1 Family of Schools Presentation

- This presentation highlighted the recently held Family of Schools event for all elementary special education teachers. This was an opportunity to re-energize staff while sharing the research on our new remediation program for Math, the day was well received and an overwhelming success. Special thanks to the team of special education consultants and the multidisciplinary team members.

10.2 ILIT Data Presentation

- This presentation captured the data from term 1. ILITs were places in 40 schools in term 1 and supported 306 students. Both comprehension and word recognition are assessed at the beginning, middle and end. Three tests were considered: IOTA Word Reading Test, Flynt Cooter Reading Inventory and the CREST spelling test. The data shows students made progress: IOTA Test: 78% of students made a 1 year gain (or more), 21% made a more than a 2 year gain. CREST spelling test: 77% of students made a 1 year gain (or more), 36% made more than a 2 year gain. Flynt/Cooter: 49% of all students who participated advanced in reading by one full grade level, 31% made more than a 2 year grade level jump in their reading level and 20% of learners made less than 1 grade level of progress in reading overall.

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

- Autism Ontario: \$120 mil added to Ontario Autism Program
- Community Living: [E- Connector](#)
- LDAYS: Social Skills, Annual Parent Conference

14.0 Items for Future Agendas

- Play Day PA Day
- Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday May 6, 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 8:03 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Byrne / Wigston)

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.