

# 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 **September 16, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.**

### PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N, Byrne*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, D. Legris, S. Leckey*, R. Liscio*, J. Man*, J. Wigston, M. Xue, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	M. Marcello*, C. Sandig*
Administration:	A.Cabraja, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano
Regrets:	N. Welch
Recording:	C. Mong
Guest Presenters:	J. Fryer, <i>SEA Assistive Technology Trainer, YCDSB</i> S. Lambert, <i>Boomerang Health</i> C. Ruffolo-Defilippis, <i>Manager, Physical Management Department, YCDSB</i> L. Pietrolungo, <i>Boomerang Health</i> M. Prinzo, <i>Lead &amp; Manager, Mental Health Department, YCDSB</i> A. Volpe, <i>SEA Assistive Technology Trainer, YCDSB</i>

\*Denotes virtual attendance

### CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

#### 1.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

#### 2.0 Approval of New Material

Nil – No New Material

#### 2.1 Roll Call

#### 3.0 Moment of Inspiration

*SEA Summer Assistive Technology Camp: This summer, the SEA team ran the Summer Assistive Technology Camp. Students grade 3 + attended this camp. This camp provided assistive support to students and families to better prepare them for the upcoming school year, the campers and family really enjoyed themselves!*

#### 5.0 Approval of Agenda September 16, 2024

**Motion**– Agenda approved (Legris / Xue)

#### 6.0 Approval of the Minutes June 17, 2024

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

#### 7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2024:08 – June 2024

#### 8.0 Information Items

**8.1 Board Meeting Date: September 24, 2024**  
**Items 7.0-8.1 Received on Block** (Wiston / Byrne)

#### 9.0 Correspondence

#### 10.0 Presentations / Discussions

10.1 Therapy Services

- Boomerang Health powered by SickKids provided an overview of their facilities and programs.

10.2 Summer Mental Wellness Programs

- This program highlighted summer programs the Mental Health team and the Physical Management team offered through funds provided by the Ministry of Education TPA. During the month of July there were over 2000 students ages 8-18 years participated. Transportation was provided to those who needed it. Parent feedback: the overall experience was extremely positive!

10.3 Student Services Summer 2024 Recap and updates

- Superintendent Powers presented the successful summer programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the summer, see page 3.

**11.0 Business Arising**

Nil

**12.0 Action Items**

Nil

**13.0 Association Reports**

- LDAYS: Upcoming Events, Programs and Services – Flyer attached
- Autism ON: September 2024 Updates
- Easter Seals: Upcoming Events – Flyers attached

**14.0 Items for Future Agendas**

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**15.0 Next Meeting: Monday October 21, 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 8:15 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned (Legris / Connolley)

### 10.3 Student Services Summer 2024 Recap and updates

#### **Elementary:**

We have hit the ground running this year with inservices already happening for the 36 teachers who are New to Special Education taking place last week. This week we are bringing all Special Education teachers in for Professional Development to review the **importance of assessment for programing** and IEP development. On September 24th and 25th we will host them once again in order to review the standards of IEP writing, specifically for modified and alternative programs. Both training sessions will also introduce teachers to our new SEA process. We are expecting over 160 teachers for each of the 2 sessions of training. Other Professional development has already taken place for New to PACE and ILIT teachers.

We have opened two new PACE classes this year; a grade 5/6 at Father Henri Nowen, which now houses grades 5-8 PACE and a grade 6 class at St Julia Billiard, as the demand for PACE in our board continues to grow.

The Itinerant Autism Intervention teachers started the year providing support to the Early Facilitation students. We have four teachers each assigned to 4 schools, supporting approximately 50 students. We will be providing you with ongoing feedback on the impact of their involvement in the system.

#### **Secondary**

We had another very busy summer supporting over 700 secondary students with special education learning needs in various summer programs, including credit courses. 16 Special Education Teachers and 6 Education Workers worked together to support these students throughout the month of July.

We also partnered with REENA in July and August as 7 of our secondary students with special needs participated in REENA's summer employment transition program. Students attended various virtual and in-person employment workshops and 1:1 coaching sessions for resume development and interview preparation. A number of our students with special needs were hired to work on REENA's farm as well as 2 different golf courses in York Region. They all earned a pay cheque for the work they did there.. Finally, I am thrilled to share that the MOE notified me a few weeks ago that the proposal submitted in the Spring requesting additional Ministry funding to allow us to continue to enhance our Pathways to EmployABILITY program, was approved. We will be sharing much more information with you as soon as we have had a chance to finalize some details.

The secondary Student Services team was pleased to welcome 15 NEW Special Education Teachers at a full day training session on September 12th. On September 19th, we will also be delivering training to all of our secondary Pathways to EmployABILITY teachers.

#### **Occupational & Physical Therapy Services:**

Over the summer:

- OTPT and Mental Health Services partnered to run a two week camp called Fit Body Fit Mind for students with physical disabilities who could direct their own care.
- Professional Assessments were completed for 13 students on the OT waitlist referred for fine motor and/or sensory regulation difficulties.
- OTs & PTs worked with students with physical disabilities who required equipment for both home and school use. These students were either discharged from hospital, new to the country or new to board. They were also provided with home visits to assess home needs (e.g., safety, equipment, etc.)

Currently:

- All of our OTs and PTs are attending to the needs of our early facilitation or new to board students to facilitate a positive and safe transition to school;
- Supporting schools to develop care plans (e.g., health management plans, Personal Care Toileting plans) if required