

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 on **April 8, 2019** at Catholic Education Centre located at 320 Bloomington Road West, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: H. Adams, C. Amenta, K. Bryden, D. Legris, F. Tyndall, N. Welch, J. Wigston

Association Representatives: D. Flynn, E. DiFalco, J. Richard

Administration: M. Battista, A. Cabraja, M. Fedrigoni, L. Lausic

Regrets: F. DiMarco, J. Fragnelli, D. Giuliani, S. Gatti, M. Ho, M. Hunter, J. Man, E. Morgilio S. Suppa, S. Trozzo

Recording: A. Berry

Guests: Jennifer Svalina, Acting Special Education Program Consultant, Student Services
Diana Candido, Principal Guardian Angels
Maria Liberatore, Special Education Teacher, St. Augustine
Steven and Elena Olidis, Parents, Our Lady of the Annunciation
Dina Franchi, Parent, Our Lady of the Annunciation

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

2.0 Prayer

3.0 Moment of Inspiration – SEAC Video shown

4.0 Approval of Agenda

Approval of Agenda for **April 8, 2019**

Agenda Approved: (Jennifer Wigston/Cathy Amenta)

5.0 Approval of the Minutes

Approval of Minutes for **March 4, 2019**

Minutes Approved: (Diane Legris/Filomena Tyndall)

6.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2019:02 – **March 4, 2019**

7.0 Information Items

7.1 Student Services In-Service Calendar

- April 2019

7.2 Board Agenda

- March 26, 2019

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 Autism Ontario's response to Ministry of Education

8.2 DCDSB Letter to Minister of Education

8.3 YCDSB Letter to Minister of Education and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

8.4 Conseil scolaire Viamonde Letter to Minister of Education

Items 6, 7, & 8 Approved by Diane Legris/Nancy Welch

9.0 Presentations / Discussions

9.1 Maria Liberatore, Special Education Teacher at St. Augustine Catholic High School presented information regarding the Work Experience Program in Secondary Schools

- Highlights and overall expectations of the program were shared (method of delivery, types of lessons taught, samples of communication with parents etc.)
- Transit Training is a key component of the program. At the conclusion of the presentation, SEAC members discussed the ongoing impact of York Region Transit's decision to stop providing complimentary bus tickets to secondary students with Special Needs
- this decision is having an impact on students pursuing job placements in the community as part of their experiential learning goals
- Chair Bryden explained that she would once again reach out to the YRDSB Chair of SEAC to invite her to collaborate on a joint letter to regional Councillors and Minister of Transportation
- L. Lausic noted that Trustee Giuliani previously mentioned that he would support the board and trustees in drafting a letter to be presented to regional Councillors
- L. Lausic also confirmed that she spoke to a Work Experience Coordinator in YRDSB who outlined the significant impact that YRT's decision to stop providing tickets was having on their board as well

9.2 Diana Candido, Principal at Guardian Angels and Jennifer Svalina, Acting Special Education Program Consultant, Student Services presented the FLS Program at Guardian Angels

- The school is blessed with a very large number of Special Education students
- 20 student with ASD, 100 students in the special education program
- As part of the daily functional life skills program, a school grocery store has been created
- Students are responsible for running the store, processing snack and grocery orders, and delivering all items to staff and students
- Student engagement has increased significantly since the introduction of the grocery store and feedback from staff, students and parents has been very positive

9.3 Current Events: Development in the new OAP & Autism Ontario's Response

Kathy shared Eleonora's comments about the OAP details shared

How does this impact school boards, public consultation?

- To date, there is lack of clarity on what types of funding/supports the Ministry of Education will be providing to board's as they welcome students with Autism
- Many Boards, including ours, have sent letters to the Ministry to express concern but no responses received
- Approximately 130 students returning full-time from IBI or entering YCDSB schools for the first time in September from IBI
- There are concerns that at the same time that these students are entering our schools, resources are being cut (eg., class sizes increased, system investment removed etc.)
- While Boards have concerns, all students are welcome
- Coordinators are visiting schools and working to accommodate students transitioning to school
- No GSN information will be available until April 11 when the provincial budget is released
- Staffing to be in place before end of June
- Boards across the province will continue to collaborate

9.4 SEAC Goals

- **Schedule Budget Sub Committee meeting before next SEAC meeting**
- **Marianne and Kathy to have a phone conversation (teleconference)**
- **Invite Anthony Yeung**
- SEAC to present at Board Meeting on **May 28, 2019**
- 2 delegations for 10 minutes each
- Suggestion that SEAC's presentation should include information on how staff impacts students
- There is also value in showing how many excellent programs are in place for students to thrive
- Demonstrate why Special Education makes a difference for students in our board
- How to approach provincial government not board of trustees

10.0 Business Arising

Special Education Plan handed out to for SEAC Review

- Revisions to be sent to A. Berry before next SEAC meeting
- 2019-2020 SEAC Meeting Dates will be approved at next SEAC meeting

11.0 Action Items

12.0 Association Reports

12.1 York Hills Centre for Child & Youth (see attached)

12.2 Community Living York South (see attached)

12.3 Learning Disability Association, York Region (see attached)

12.4 Down Syndrome Association

- March 21st was World Down Syndrome Day
- Event box was a success. 50 plus schools attended (2/3 from YCDSB)

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

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| • Board Surveys | May 6, 2019 |
| • Special Education Plan Approval | May 6, 2019 |
| • SEAC Banner | May 6, 2019 |
| • "Getting Ready for the World of Work" | June 10, 2019 |

**14.0 Next Meeting: May 6, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Center,
320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario**

15.0 Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.
Meeting adjourned (Cathy/Nancy)