

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 **January 26, 2015** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	H. Adams, M. Agosta, K. Amenta, K. Bryden, C. Ferlisi, D. Legris, T. Ciaravella, T. McNicol, T. Ciarevella, C. Newton, A. Simonetta, T. Sergnese, H. Sirola, P. Whittam
ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES:	E. DiFalco, F. DiMarco, D. Flynn, S. Turrin
ADMINISTRATION:	A. Cabraja, T. D'Acunto, G. Galloro, C. Leger, O. Oloya
REGRETS:	B. Shepherd
RECORDING:	C. Brinias
GUESTS:	S. Gatti, Learning Disability Association D. Kusturic, ISA Teacher @ St. Brigid S. Spano, ISA Teacher @ St. Brigid M. Sullivan, Principal @ St. Brigid ISA students and parents @ St. Brigid: K. Bodi, J. Bodi, L. Bodi, A. Casschetto, M. Casschetto, Mr. & Mrs. Casschetto, M. Cook, A. Kellow, S. Jager, M. Moonsawmy, Mrs. Munusami, L. Munasami, Y. Nicholson, M. Loprest, V. Lopresti, I. Pentz, S. Pentz, C. Pedro, H. Pedro, G. Rodriew, R. Rodriew, S. Rodriew, J. Ryan, M. Ryan, S. Ryan, T. Ryan, I. Shiers, M. Shiers

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

Election of Chair & Co-chair (Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners to preside)
Paul Whittam was nominated as SEAC Chair by Cenza Newton

Motion – C Ferlisi / McNicol --Motion Carried--

Cenza Newton was nominated as SEAC vice-chair by T. Ciaravella

Motion – C. Ferlisi / McNicol --Motion Carried--

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Approval of Agenda for **January 26, 2015**

Motion – Agenda approved.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

Approval of Minutes **December 17, 2014**

Motion – Minutes approved

5.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report **2014:10** was distributed and received by committee.

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Board Agenda

December 16, 2014 agenda were distributed and received by committee.

6.2 Student Services: Summary of In-Services Calendar

Inservices for **January 2015** were distributed

7.0 Correspondence

8.0 Presentations/Discussions

8.1 LDYAR Successful Practices

Helga Sirola and Stephanie Gatti from the Learning Disabilities Association introduced an initiative by the Intensive Support and Assessment (ISA) Program classroom at St. Brigid CES. Ms. Spano the ISA Teacher and students presented a class video they created and various fundraising activities conducted during the month of October Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. The ISA classroom raised \$500 for the Learning Disabilities Association.

8.2 Special Education Staffing (EA/EI/CYW)

Tina D'Acunto outlined the staffing practices for allotting EA, EI, CYW or SSW to schools supporting students with special needs.

8.0 Business Arising

8.1 SEAC Meeting Change – May 20, 2015

10.0 Action Items

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 Early Intervention Services has begun the early facilitation process and has joined the school board at two information evening sessions for parents

11.2 Down Syndrome Association created a new website with a SEAC tab on the home page addressing frequently asked questions, contact information, etc.

11.3 York Support Services attended the Early Facilitation Information Session on January 14 & 21 for parents of children with special needs attending JK in September 2015.

11.4 Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH)

At the provincial level, PCMH is working in partnership with the Ontario Centre of Excellence in Child and Youth Mental Health regarding the family engagement consultations and have consulted with 10 of the 14 Lead Agencies recently identified in the first phase of the system transformation.

At the local level, the York Chapter of PCMH is assisting Kinark, in its new role as Lead Agency; to facilitate their plans; to consult and engage with families; to inform the Community Mental Health and Core Services Delivery Plans due in March 2015. Thus far, we have identified barriers/facilitators to consultation and determined what modality to use to engage families most effectively. Kinark has been talking directly to service providers regarding family and youth engagement. A summarized plan for consultations has been put together and an invitation to families to attend town hall meetings will be drafted shortly. We hope to encourage participation from as many families as possible in York Region.

- 11.5** City of Vaughan is hosting a special education all day presentation at Valour Community Center in Woodbridge. See City of Vaughan website at "cityofvaughan.ca" to register or to find out more information.

12.0 Items for Future Agendas

- 12.1** Safety Program Curriculum – March 2015
- 12.2** EQAO Results & Climate & Exit Survey Data – March 2015
- 12.3** Special Needs Strategy Update – March 2015
- 12.4** Special Education Operational Review – April 2015
- 12.5** Educational Assistant Policy – April 2015
- 12.6** Mental Health Update – May 2015
- 12.7** Special Education Plan – May 2015
- 12.8** Student Presentations – June 2015
- 12.9** Special Education Budget – June 2015

- 13.0 Next Meeting: Monday, February 23, 2015 @ Catholic Education Center in Boardroom**

- 14.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 8:35 p.m.**