

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 **March 7, 2016** at Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 0M1 commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: H. Adams, S. Boswick, K. Bryden, S. Gatti, A. Infusino-Simonetta, D. Legris, T. McNicol, E. Morgilio, B. Sheppard P. Whittam

Association Representatives: F. DiMarco, M. Luccon

Administration: M. Battista, A. Cabraja, T. D'Acunto, G. Galloro, C. Leger

Regrets: K. Amenta, T. Ciaravella, R. Dunn, C. Ferlisi, D. Flynn, M. Mak

Recording: C. Brinias

Guests: Shelby Eisner, Ryerson University

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Approval of Agenda for **March 7, 2016**

Motion – Agenda approved (McNicol / Whittam)

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

Approval of Minutes **February 8, 2016**

Motion – Minutes approved (McNicol / Adams)

5.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2016:02 – February 23, 2016

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Board Agenda – February 23, 2016

6.2 Student Services In-Service Calendar for March 2016

7.0 Correspondence

8.0 Presentations/Discussions

8.1 Grade 9 EQAO Math Results

Diane Murgaski, Superintendent of Education: Curriculum & Assessment and Marcelle McShine Quao, Researcher provided a comprehensive presentation on Grade 9 EQAO Math Results.

See PowerPoint presentation attached.

8.2 Follow-up discussion to Ministry Special Education Funding Presentation

- Objective is to provide written feedback to Ministry
- SEAC members focused on 3 areas to brainstorm feedback to the Ministry
 - o Socio-economic factor based on research
 - o Research / Census data
 - o Other data sources for Ministry consideration

Action:

- **Kathy Bryden to summarize the feedback**
- **Paul Whittam to write the letter with feedback in mind**

9.0 Business Arising

9.1 Future Agenda Items – to be determined

9.2 Transition Night to take place on **May 18, 2016** at Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. SEAC to host transition night, and provide information at a SEAC Booth.

9.3 Parent Council Presentation – on hold

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Finalize Letter to the Ministry on the Special Education Funding Model

10.2 SEAC to address Board of Trustees meeting on March 29, 2016 to present 2016 – 2017 Budget input

Motion: (Whittam / Adams)

- Chair to summarize feedback from all SEAC groups for Ministry letter
- Paul Whittam to draft letter to Ministry with feedback from Chair and Co-chair.
- Chair to have authority to send Ministry letter

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 The Learning Disabilities Association of York Region has re-scheduled the **Mindfulness Everyday Conference** due to inclement weather. It will be held on **April 18** at the YCDSB Board Office. The next series of the **Strategies for Life Workshops** will begin on **March 30** at LDAYR for youth ages 17-20 years old. In addition, the next **Young Adult Support Group Forum** takes place on **March 23** At LDAYR for youth ages 19-25 years old. Lastly, a new workshop for parents **Embrace Your Authenticity** (registration at low cost) takes place on Saturday, **April 16** at LDAYR.

11.2 April 2, 2016 is World Autism Awareness Day. Please visit our website for local events and activities celebrating this event.

11.3 Attached is a page from the March 2016 Down Syndrome Newsletter “Jasmine’s take on Down Syndrome” that features a wonderful article by Jasmine Calabretta, a 13 year old Grade 8 student at our local York Catholic Elementary school. Please enjoy her self-written and presented speech that she delivered to her classmates and the entire school on her “take on Down Syndrome”.

11.4 The York Chapter of Parent for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH) has recently expanded its peer to peer support for families. In addition to the parent support group hosted by The

York Centre for Children, Youth and Families on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., a second parent support group is now being hosted by Kinark Child and Family Services at its Aurora location on the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. A new Chapter flyer is being prepared so that families are aware of the opportunity for meetings in more than one location on different nights of the week. A new schedule will be coordinated for September.

We also want community partners and core service providers to be aware that additional peer to peer support is available within the Chapter so that parents who have similar challenges can be navigated to this resource. All parents and caregivers in the community are welcome and families do not need to be receiving service through an agency in order to attend any of the meetings in either location.

12.0 Items for Future Agendas

12.1 Parent Council Presentation regarding building awareness of SEAC and its mandate.

13.0 Next Meeting: April 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Center,
320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1

13.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made (Whittam / Boswick)
Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.