

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

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	H. Adams, K. Bryden, D. Legris, S. Gatti, J. Man (via teleconference), E. Morgillo, F. Tyndall, N. Welch
Association Representatives:	M. Oyston
Administration:	M. Fedrigoni, L. Lausic, T. D'Acunto
Regrets:	A. Cabraja, F. DiMarco, D. Flynn, J. Fragnelli, D. Giuliani, J. Richard, S. Suppa, J. Wigston
Recording:	C. Brinias
Guests:	A. Savonarota, St. Elizabeth CHS alumni

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

2.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

3.0 Moment of Inspiration

Recently I had the pleasure of receiving a wonderful e-mail from a past day treatment client who had attended our Choices Day Treatment program. This was a youth with significant mental health challenges and a family in distress. The family shared with me that with the support of the Kinark team and the YSSB this young man who is now 17 graduated from Joan of Arc CHS and is now working full time in a local retail store. The parent shared that she would never of believed this was possible and was overjoyed at the progress that son had made -she want to thanks our agency and the YSSB for their support and persistence. "you all made such a difference in my son and our families lives -thank you".

4.0 Approval of Agenda June 10, 2019

Motion – Agenda approved (Tyndall / Morgillo)

5.0 Approval of the Minutes May 6, 2019

Motion - Minutes approved (Gatti / Legris)

6.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2019:07 – **September 2019**

7.0 Information Items

7.1 Student Services In-Service Calendar

- October 2019

7.2 Board Agenda

- October 1, 2019

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 Ecoles Catholiques Centre

8.2 Providence Conseil Scolaire Catholique

9.0 Presentations / Discussions

9.1 Learning Disability Awareness Month

Helga Sirola, Executive Director, presented the highlights of October being Learning Disabilities Month by recognizing Tina D'Acunto who received the V.I.P. Award for 2019. Anthony Savonarota, alumni of St. Elizabeth CHS and graduate from York University shared his high school journey and achievements. He is a member of the Champions Program where he speaks to Learning Disabilities students.

See PowerPoint Presentation attached

9.2 Reena Summer Employment Partnerships

Linda Lausic, Coordinator of Special Programs (Secondary) outlined the YCDSB and REENA partnership. This is the second year of YCDSB's partnership with Reena through the SET program. Reena is an organization that was established in 1973 by a small group of parents of children with developmental disabilities as a practical alternative to institutions. In 1977, Reena began receiving funding from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

See PowerPoint presentation attached

9.3 SEAC Goals

- **Prioritize 2019-2020 SEAC Goals**
- **Ideas for Presentations to SEAC**
 - o Special Education Part 1 – Theory Meets Practice – TBD
 - o York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Presentation – TBD
 - o Trustee Presentation – What Do They Do – TBD

10.0 Business Arising

11.0 Action Items

12.0 Association Reports

Down Syndrome Association of York Region

- 15th Annual Buddy Walk will take place on November 3, 2019 beginning at their new location 90 John West Way, Aurora, Ontario. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. and the Walk begins at 11:00 a.m.

Early Intervention Services (EIS)

- EIS is in the process of discussing the transition to school process with families entering the YCDSB in the Fall of 2020 to help ensure a smooth transition from EIS to the YCDSB. This process includes describing to families school options, classroom expectations, and details to complete a notification to the YCDSB. Families in the new year are encouraged to attend a YCDSB parent information evening to learn more about the Board. In late winter, families attend Early Facilitation visits so that school staff see and hear about service needs and in early spring, families attend transition to school meetings when they describe their child's strengths, needs, and strategies with school staff. Before school begins, the family is encouraged to share a full report from EIS, which includes a summary of services, their child's strengths & needs, and helpful strategies.

Learning Disabilities of York Region

- LDAYR celebrates October LD Awareness Month, with Champion Voices available for guest speaking roles. Registration for programs and services are ongoing.

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

- Technology Summer Camp – November 11, 2019
- SEAC Banner – November 11, 2019
- ABA Implementation Plan – December 9, 2019
- Ontario Autism Program – January 13, 2020

14.0 Next Meeting: December 9, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at Eagles Nest, 10,000 Dufferin Street, Maple, Ontario.

15.0 Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Legris / Adams)