



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Board Office, Kemptville

6:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Dave Conners (Vice Chair), Autism Ontario  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Heather Brown, Best Buddies  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children of Ontario  
Diane Bartlett, Easter Seals Ontario  
Amanda Banfield, Lanark County Support  
Services  
Lorraine Fenn, Member-at-Large  
Rob More, LLG FASD Working Group  
Shelley More, LLG FASD Working Group  
(Alternate)  
Filipa Saraiva, Easter Seals Ontario (Alternate)

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School  
Effectiveness  
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special  
Education  
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special  
Education

#### **Approved Regrets with notification:**

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living

#### **Regrets without notification:**

Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large

#### **Guests:**

Janet Carioni, Citizen Advocacy  
Cassie More  
Skylar More  
Jacob More

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and welcomed all members and guests.

### **Opening Prayer**

Sue Wilson led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Prayer for All*".

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

**II. Approval of Minutes – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Motion:**

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Lorraine Fenn

CARRIED

**III. Association Updates**

**Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen**

No update at this time.

**Best Buddies – Heather Brown**

**Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:**

Annual conferences have wrapped up. They were a huge success with more than 500 students attending across Canada!

**New Initiatives:**

- Best Buddies have started a new expansion campaign focusing on British Columbia and Alberta.
- Working on creating an internship program (we are establishing guidelines and creating the documentation now).
- Preparing for Christmas Carol (this year's Sleeping Beauty event in Toronto). Seven active schools in the Board.

**Autism Ontario – Dave Conners**

The annual Christmas party was held last week.

The committee is meeting in January to plan for next year's social activities. These have been in high demand and Autism Ontario needs more volunteers so they can open them up to more families.

**Easter Seals – Ontario – Diane Bartlett**

No update at this time.

**Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield**

The new Executive Director for Lanark County Support Services was announced, Heidi Bedor.

LCSS is planning for their All Agency Christmas Party on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It is being hosted by the Carleton Place Life Skills & Activity Centre.

**Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols**

No update at this time.

**Lanark Leeds Grenville FASD Working Group – Rob More**

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

Kingston Mini FASD Symposium – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

LLG Work Group – December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Ottawa FASD Group – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

New Initiatives:

- Belleville launched their FASD Parent Support Group on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.
- MPP Kiwala has had several conversations this month with key stakeholders and is promising new announcements soon.
- The November 6-9 Child Bright, KBHN NeuroDevelopment Conference was the first time researchers, funding partners and parents were brought together regarding Autism, MD and FASD as well as other Brain related disabilities.

Other Information:

UBC researchers have found a DNA marker for FASD and currently in development on using it as a diagnostic tool particularly in the North and rural areas. Researchers have found a link between FASD, sleep difficulties and vitamin deficiencies. Media stigma continues to be the largest obstacle for those living with FASD and their caregivers.

**IV. Department Update**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> we brought together our teachers of multiple exceptionality classes to share and talk about “*Enhancing the Possibilities*” for their students. The day consisted of teachers sharing the amazing things that are happening in their classrooms through pictures, videos and stories. We focused on environment and the importance of creating calm, caring learning spaces for students. Teachers also learned about EPIC, an app to assist students with reading. They also looked at “pic collage” as a tool to document student learning. A TEAM site was created so teachers could continue to share ideas and resources throughout the year.

The Leaders in the Middle held in November, brought together members of CDSBEO school math teams including SERTs, and DI teachers to share their thinking and to reflect on how they are supporting students in Mathematics. Clips of students doing and talking about math

were highlighted. The Special Education Department focused on student thinking and using strategies and tools to move students along the math continuum.

Four regional math days began in November and will end the first week of December. In these sessions, the Special Education department supported school teams to examine student thinking and math learning by watching videos of struggling students in their classrooms “doing math”. Through the problem solving model teachers are looking at student work, discovering student’s strengths and needs and providing strategies and tools to support math learning. Some of these strategies include using non-permanent surfaces, powerful prompts, alternative furniture and assistive technology. We are building momentum with our Mathematical Learning for All draft magazine. The final magazine will be released for all staff at the April PA Day.

Sue Wilson asked if SEAC could view the “*Math Figuring Fridays*” video in the future.

A Ministry review will take place on November 30<sup>th</sup>, at the section program at Pope John Paul II, Hammond.

**V. Presentation: FASD Workshop from Citizen Advocacy**

Rob More introduced Janet Carioni from Citizen Advocacy. Janet gave a comprehensive overview of FASD. She shared the history of Citizen Advocacy and provided information about the experience of the representatives. The goals of Citizen Advocacy are education, community development, community navigation, research and evaluation of that research. Citizen Advocacy is funded through various agencies in Ottawa. Janet talked about the stigma of FASD and how it is portrayed in society. She explained how this complicates diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Janet emphasized that FASD is not 100 percent preventable and stated the importance of understanding the implications of brain damage but to remain hopeful. She presented some facts and myths about FASD. She talked about the prevalence of FASD and the population most effected.

Janet shared some of the challenges people with FASD face (confabulation, sensory system difficulties, sleep issues, emotional regulation, etc.) and how to support people with FASD (External Brain-people, technology, networks, routines, scripts, visual cues etc.). She also shared common strengths and success stories of people with FASD.

In conclusion, Janet shared some resources schools have been using that have been effective in supporting children with FASD.

Sue Wilson thanked Janet for her informative presentation.

## **VI. Correspondence Received**

- Community Living Ontario – A Million Possibilities: Solo Ocean Row 2017

Colin Sanders is rowing the Atlantic Ocean by himself, but he won't be alone. Students and classrooms are invited to tap in to see the voyage. Video will be taken daily to share with classrooms. Correspondence will be shared with schools.

## **VII. New Business**

- Filipa Saraiva has been approved by the Board to sit on SEAC as an alternate for Easter Seals Ontario until elections.
- Diane Bartlett requested a presentation for Self-Determination for middle school grades by Community Living.
- The SEAC meeting in January, 2018 will be a double meeting.

## **VIII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received**

### **Motion:**

Motion to excuse Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living.

Moved by: Heather Brown

CARRIED

## **IX. Next SEAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 6:00 p.m.

## **X. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

## **XI. Closing Prayer**

Sue Wilson led the group in the Board prayer.

**XII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Lorraine Fenn

**CARRIED**

**CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking**

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	VOICE *military deployment/on leave	Assoc. for Community Living	Autism Ontario	Best Buddies	FASD	ABC	Easter Seals – Ontario	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large - LB	Member at Large - LF	<b>Total</b>
August	P	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		<b>8</b>
September	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P		<b>8</b>
October	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	<b>10</b>
November	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P		P	<b>9</b>
January													
February													
March													
April													
May													
June													

*(6 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*