



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 25th, 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 Boyer, Member-at-Large
Lorraine Fenn, Member-at-Large
Rob More, LLG FASD Working Group
Shelley More, LLG FASD Working Group
(Alternate)

Approved Regrets with notification:

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special
Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education
Kara Casey, Psychological Associate

Guests:

Lisa Smith, Vice Principal, St. John Bosco
School, Brockville
Andrea Cunningham, Teacher
Lucie Dods, Teacher
Julie Moore, Teacher
Andrea Ellis, Teacher
Dawn Griffith, Early Childhood Educator /
Parent
Wendy Barrett, Parent
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
Stephanie McAllister

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

Dr. Hawes led the group in a prayer entitled, "*In the Presence of a God*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lorraine Boyer

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – September 27th, 2017

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on October 5th, 2017.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Heather Brown

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Best Buddies – Heather Brown

Best Buddies is preparing for their annual Leadership Conferences attended by roughly 380 students and held in eight cities. The organization is also looking into starting an internship program for students at the high school level (more details to follow).

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

Upcoming Events:

Event	Date and Time	Location
Michael's craft and pizza party	Sunday, Oct 29 th , 2017	Cornwall – Michael's store
Holiday lights wagon ride	Saturday, Nov 18 th , 5-6 PM	Delta, Ontario
Upper Canada Chapter – Holiday party and swim	Sunday, Nov 19 th , 12-4 PM	Cornwall aquatic center
Trampoline Club	Saturday, Dec 2 nd , 6-7 PM	Kingston, Ontario
Cooking Club	Saturday, Dec 9 th , 4-6 PM	Brockville, Ontario

For more information, visit the Upper Canada Chapter Facebook page or

Email: UCCAutismOntario@gmail.com

Easter Seals – Ontario – Diane Bartlett

New Initiatives:

Seven (7) people have expressed an interest in becoming volunteers with the Easter Seals SEAC program and five (5) candidates are in the application and screening process.

Blog postings – In the past six (6) weeks, the following articles have been posted on the [Easter Seals Kids at School](#):

- Starting High School, Tips for Parents
- Student Tips for Successful Transitions
- Volunteers Needed for SEAC
- How Parents Can Help Children and Teens to Build Friendships

- Sick Kids Good to Go Transition Resources
- Transition Information Fairs
- Easter Seals Strategic Planning Surveys

Strategic Family Survey – Easter Seals Ontario is in a strategic planning process and a survey has been developed to invite family input on current programs and services, as well as potential areas for expansion.

Service Providers' Survey – A similar survey is being shared by e-mail with therapists, social workers, case managers and others who support children and youth with disabilities and the link will be e-mailed to all SEAC members for sharing.

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

No update at this time.

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 PAG – Saturday, November 4th, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.
- Neuro-Developmental Annual Conference – Toronto – November 6-9, 2017
- LLG FASD Subcommittee Meeting – October 27th, 2017

New Initiatives:

Citizen Advocacy Ottawa will be submitting an expression of interest to the province in creating Parent Support Groups in the area. LLG FASD Subcommittee is working on the details of what our local Parent Support Group will need.

The following article from FASD ONE Education Department lays out what a child impacted by FASD looks like in the classroom and more importantly, how to anticipate when supports will be needed during the day. <http://www.fasdontario.ca/cms/service-areas/education/>

Adopt4Life, a local organization which supports adoptive parents, is having a photo contest for all adoptive families. For more information, go to:

<http://www.adopt4life.com/openness-photo-contest-2017>

Other Information:

Local children impacted by FASD recently competed in the intermediate and senior cross-country meets.

Other children impacted by FASD recently baked and donated eight (8) dozen cookies to a local fundraiser for a family who had a house fire.

IV. Department Updates

Heather Gerber shared information about the Mathematical Learning for All Binder and the regional math sessions that were held with school teams. Regions gathered together to look at student thinking in math. School teams are collaborating to help all students show what they know and teams are using purposeful strategies to move students forward. Teachers are using manipulatives, technology and descriptive feedback to get at thinking. Heather commended the team for their work. Schools received a draft binder of the Mathematical Learning for All resources to support their new learning.

The 43rd Annual Meeting the Needs conference took place on October 24-25, 2017 at the NAV Centre, in Cornwall. The conference was co-chaired by CDSBEO and the Renfrew County District School Board. Nancy Hall and Marian Small were the keynote speakers and focused on students' future and how we can create thinkers.

Michelle Neville (CDSBEO Mental Health Lead) hosted two regional Community Partner Days; one on October 18th, 2017 at the Kemptville Board Office, and one on October 20th, 2017 at the Cornwall Board Office. Community Partners were invited to come together for the day to share information and best practices. A team from each of our schools attended to share Mental Health concerns and supports.

Our Board is one of ten school boards doing a research project with Andy Hargreaves and Denis Shirley from Boston College. The findings will be shared at the Leading from the Middle Symposium on Transforming Learning on November 2nd, in Toronto.

Dr. Hawes reported that she had talked with Glenda Stevenson, following her presentation. SEAC members who are on a leave are not considered to be active members and therefore are not included in the required quorum numbers.

V. Transition from K to Grade 1 – panel discussion

At the request of SEAC, a panel was brought together to discuss the transition from kindergarten to Grade 1.

The panel consisted of kindergarten teachers, Andrea Cunningham, Andrea Ellis and Julie Moore; Grade 1 teacher, Lucie Dods; an Early Childhood Educator, Dawn Griffith; a principal, Heather Gerber; and a psychological associate, Kara Casey for CDSBEO.

Kara Casey, Psychological Associate, began the panel by giving an introduction to the SHINE and SHINE ON documents. She focused on the tiered learning model and described how strategies that work for a few or most children, will benefit all children. She expressed the importance of recognizing that all of the strategies and thinking in these two documents benefit children of all ages and grades. The skills of self-regulation and resiliency are developing in kindergarten and are essential for students to be successful.

The panel responded to the following questions that were asked:

- What are the advantages of the kindergarten program?
- What skills are gained in kindergarten that support students through elementary and beyond?
- What tools and strategies help students transition smoothly from kindergarten to Grade 1?
- Does the kindergarten program prepare students academically for Grade 1?

The panel did an outstanding job of describing how children are supported and engaged in the Kindergarten programs which help them transition to Grade 1. We would like to thank the panel and SEAC for participating in a very interactive discussion on this very important topic.

VI. Correspondence Received

- Ministry of Education – Opportunity for Consultation

The Discussion Guide on School Board Governance Consultation was presented and questions were asked by SEAC members for each area. The issues in the consultation for education stakeholders included:

- Access to an integrity commissioner and trustee code of conduct
- Broadening the Director of Education qualifications and recognizing equivalent qualifications from other jurisdictions
- Student trustee election processes and terms of office
- Trustee honoraria formula
- Electronic participation in school board meetings.

SEAC members had a thorough discussion and asked many questions, most of which were focused on what our Board currently does. However, SEAC members provided feedback and recommendations on the student trustee section. They recommended that:

- The term of office for student trustees be for two years
- All Boards have two or three trustees
- Student trustees are able to vote at board meetings.

Dr. Hawes asked that any additional recommendations be forwarded to her by November 1st, 2017 as the responses are due back November 14th, 2017.

- Letter from Easter Seals Ontario – Nomination of Alternate Member for SEAC

Filipa Saraiva was nominated by Easter Seals Ontario as the alternate member for SEAC for the remainder of the 2017-2018 term.

Motion:

To appoint Filipa Saraiva as the alternate member for Easter Seals Ontario.

Moved by: Diane Bartlett

CARRIED

- PRO Grant

It has been confirmed that we did not receive the PRO Grant. An alternative plan may be to incorporate Mental Health & Addictions into a SEAC presentation.

VII. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Motion:

Motion to excuse Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living.

Moved by: Diane Bartlett

CARRIED

VIII. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 29th, 2017 at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 6:00 p.m.

IX. Good News Sharing

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

X. Closing Prayer

Dr. Hawes led the group in the Board prayer.

XI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Lorraine Boyer

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking (next page).

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	Total
August	P	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		8
September	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P		8
October	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	10
November													
January													
February													
March													
April													
May													
June													

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