



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

The mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and Church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education, which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

Committee Members:

Sharon Hobin, Chair, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 2 & 8
Christine Koczmar, (Vice-Chair), Community Living Mississauga
Luz del Rosario, Trustee (Alternate), Brampton Wards 2, 5 & 6
Bruno Iannicca, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 7
Thomas Thomas, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 5
Myra Del Rosario, ABC Association for Bright Children
Nancy Vrbaneck, ABC Association for Bright Children (Alt.)
Dely Farrace, Brampton Caledon Community Living
Janice Hatton, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter
Airene Cunanan, Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter (Alt.)
Lisette Gaylie, Easter Seals Ontario
Nisha Lewis, Canadian Mental Health Association/Peel
TBD, Epilepsy Halton Peel Hamilton
Veronika Okrugic, VOICE/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children
Maria Demata, VOICE/Peel Parents for Hearing Impaired Children (Alt.)
Leslie Silvestri, Learning Disabilities Association of Peel region
Heather Bialowas, Down's Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network
Celeste Encila, Down's Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network (Alt.)
Pam Olivieri, CCCSC, Member at Large
Andrew Pawlak, Member at Large

Rosie Della-Spina, Recorder

Staff:

David Amaral
Tilia Cruz
Wayne Brunton
Cathy Bova
Tina De Vellis-Carino
Kylie Richardson
Jason Pratt
Glenda Brown
Christiane Kyte
Debra Lean
Lisa Romano-Dwyer
Marilyn Minnick
Shannon Pompili Bosco
Sabrina Baiana
Tammie Cameron
Rosanna Commisso
Jacqui Toste
Michael Schaus
Deborah Hart
Rosalie Mittica
Kimberley Crhak
Laurie Eschli
Kellie Donaher

AGENDA

A Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – “We would like to acknowledge that this is the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, and thank them for being stewards of this land.”
3. Opening Prayer – What Would Jesus Do? (*attached*)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, October 11, 2017 – (*attached*)
6. Previous Business

B Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Financial Services Update; Superintendent J. Cherepacha, B. Hester, I. Fitz, G. Arangio
2. Learning and Achievement, Provincial Assessments – B. Kipfer, T. Cruz
3. The Animals of the 150th Anniversary – video created by a student

C Budget

D Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees

1. Update regarding Board website
2. Update SEAC Goals 2017-2018; M. Minnick, S. Pompili Bosco

E Reports from Community Associations

F Work Groups

G Information and Correspondence

H Communication

I Questions asked of, and by Committee Members

J Public Questions

K Future Meetings

December 6, 2017	February 14, 2018	April 11, 2018	June 13, 2018
January 17, 2018	March 7, 2018	May 16, 2018	

L Adjournment

What Would Jesus Do?

O Loving God,
may we your children
learn to share what we have,
offer what we can spare,
and go out and act to make this world
a friendlier, more welcoming
and comfortable place for all.
Guide us in your mercy, O Lord.
We ask this through your loving Son,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.



**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Committee Members:

Sharon Hobin, Chair, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 2 & 8
Christine Koczmar, Community Living Mississauga
Luz del Rosario, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11
Thomas Thomas, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Wards 5
Bruno Iannicca, Trustee (Alternate), Mississauga Ward 7
Myra Del Rosario, ABC Association for Bright Children
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Sabrina Baiana
Tammie Cameron
Rosanna Commisso
Jacqui Toste
Deborah Hart
Michael Schaus
Rosalie Mittica
Pamela Boniferro
Kellie Donaher
Laurie Eschli

REGRETS: C. Encila, L. Gaylie, V. Okrugic

ABSENT: N. Vrbaneck, N. Lewis, A. Pawlak

MINUTES

A Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
The meeting was called to order at 7: 07 p.m. by Chair Hobin. Regrets were noted, guests welcomed, member and staff changes were noted and attendance was taken.
2. Chair Hobin read, as part of our By-Laws, under Routine Matters: Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – *"We would like to acknowledge that this is the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, and thank them for being stewards of this land."*
3. Opening Prayer – *A Prayer for Thanksgiving...*
Chair Hobin led us in prayer.
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by P. Oliviera:

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – SEAC Meeting September 13, 2017

Moved by L. Silvestri:

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

A draft letter to the Ministry of Education referencing the dissolution of the Special Needs Strategy Committee overseeing the Integrated Rehab proposal was handed out and reviewed by SEAC for input. An addition was made requesting that SEACs across the province have input in any decisions to be made. T. Cruz went on to read the exact words of the addition.

Motion by D. Farrace

TO SEND THE LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN REFERENCE TO THE DISOLUTION OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY SUB COMMITTEE AS AMMENDED.

CARRIED

B Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Greetings and Opening Remarks; D. Amaral, Associate Director – Instructional Services
Associate Director Amaral thanked SEAC and staff for the work being done for all students and in particular students with diverse learning needs. D. Amaral assumed the position of Associate Director on August 1, 2017 and gave background on his career in the Dufferin-Peel CDSB. Through the Special Education lens, he reminded us of ‘Inclusion, Inclusion, Inclusion’ and referenced the Truth and Reconciliation Report through which we are learning about the challenges with Indigenous communities and working to mend relationships. Indigenous communities and language do not have a word for exclusion because the concept is foreign and does not exist. Also guided by Jean Vanier, we are human and therefore have a sense of belonging to each other. Through the work of T. Cruz and Instructional Superintendents, we consistently up lift and are mindful of the voice of students with diverse learning needs and it is our moral obligation to serve them to the best of our ability. D. Amaral also noted the evidence of the work done through our PRO Grants and wished us continued success.
2. Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle 2016-2019; M. Vecchiarino, Superintendent Strategy, Policy and Global learning
Superintendent Vecchiarino reviewed the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle – 2016-2019 (CBILC). The CBILC is staff’s response to Trustees’ Strategic System Plan 2014-2019, which highlights trustees vision for the system over 5 years. The core priorities: Catholicity, Catholic Learning Environment, Catholic Community Engagement, Parish-Home-School Relations, Stewardship of our Physical Environment, Technology and Sacredness of our Environment align with the Ministry of Education’s four goals for education in Ontario: Achieving Excellence, Ensuring Equity, Promoting Well-Being, and Enhancing Public Confidence. Implementation and monitoring of the CBILC uses a four-phase improvement learning cycle consisting of: Reflect and Assess Needs, Plan, Act, and Assess. Superintendent Vecchiarino explained the CBILC 2017-2018 for each priority. Questions were taken and responses provided.

C Budget - NIL

D Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees

1. - Start-up has been very busy. Challenges with bussing continue but we are working through it. We are tracking schools that are still having issues but things are getting better. Trustee del Rosario reported that in some areas, students are crossing major intersections. Parents were asked for support to make students safe and the outcome was that any intersection over 70km/hr, students should not be crossing.
 - On September 5 2017, St. Daniel Comboni, a new elementary school in Brampton, opened its doors. Trustees have spent many evenings attending school open houses. There are at least 3 schools celebrating their 50 year anniversary.
 - Chair of the Board, M. Pascucci and Vice Chair, S. Hobin met with the Minister of Education and the Cardinal. Some of the topics discussed were: that Dufferin-Peel is not in a deficit position; we are meeting all the requirements for class size, teacher student ratios, that we have a stable enrolment and are projected to grow; excellent transitions for students of schools that closed; Senior Executive salaries have been frozen for 7 years and it is time for them to be given compensation for their work; newer schools are built with up to date technology and that there should be some kind of funding formula to bring the older schools up to date; a 3 year technology grant that we have been working with over the last 3 years has now been drastically reduced and we are developing a plan on how we will work through this; a curriculum review is taking place with EQAO being part of the review (they urged the Ministry to continue with EQAO but to consider the timing and how it is assessed but not get rid of it as it is a good tool to measure how our students are doing); there was discussion on the top-up grant which was stopped along with the expectation of Boards to close schools and over the summer a moratorium was passed on closing schools and still no top-up grant; more funding for Special Education is required so the Board can meet the needs of students and the continuous growth of students under Special Education; the class sizes for full day kindergarten classes average 30 – 32 students per teacher and DECE but the minister said an announcement is coming to reduce the numbers to 29/class. An invitation was given to the Chair and Vice-Chair to come back anytime.
 - A report on Kindergarten Play Environment was given at Faith & Program and all the playgrounds for the Kindergarten classes have been re-done. There was 7.8M funded by the FDK envelope and 2.1M renewal funding.
2. L. Eschli reported Dufferin-Peel is being given \$10,000 for PRO Grant 2017-2018. The 5 initiatives included in the application are: Faith Formation and Sacrament preparation, Math Literacy, Assistive Technology school to home, Transitions to JK and to post secondary/community, and mental health awareness strategies.
3. Feedback from Consultation; M. Minnick, S. Pompili Bosco
Marilyn reviewed the feedback through a visual. The responses and comments were very positive and suggestions were noted. We continue to be an inclusive board, however, it was suggested we capture the inclusivity a little more in the Special Education Plan and more information needed for students transitioning from school to the community. Marilyn also reviewed some of the suggestions made to the plan to make it more user friendly.
4. Update regarding Board website; T. Cameron
Tammie reviewed some of the Board website changes to Special Education Advisory Committee. SEAC Minutes are posted on the website under the General Board meetings. Under 'Upcoming Events' news/flyers from Associations will be posted as they are made available.

E Reports from Community Associations

1. Community Living Mississauga update by C. Koczmaro
The 12 Annual Autism Night will be held on October 28, 2017. Please visit their website at www.clmiss.ca for more information and tickets.
2. Learning Disabilities Association Peel Region update by L. Silvestri
October is Learning Disabilities Awareness month. Learning Disabilities Ontario is running online workshops on Parent Advocacy once a week for 7 weeks starting October 16, 2017. Please visit www.ldao.ca for more information and registration.
3. Brampton Caledon Community Living update by D. Farrace
Fall Workshops are running starting October 19, 2017. Please visit their website at www.bramptoncaledoncl.ca for more information and registration.
4. Autism Ontario Peel Region by A. Cunanan
Families are invited to come out for a family swim at River Grove Community Centre; also monthly support group meetings are held in Brampton. For other special events taking place please visit www.autismontario.com for more information.

F Work Groups

1. SEAC Goal Setting; T. Cruz, M. Minnick, S. Pompili Bosco
The SEAC Goals align with the CBILC and a template of goals set last year was handed out. Members and staff broke into groups to put in their ideas for the goals for 2017-2018. For any additional feedback, Rosie will send members the template and were asked to send feedback to R. Della-Spina no later than October 31, 2017.
2. PRO Grant Initiatives; M. Minnick, S. Pompili Bosco
Members and staff partnered up into groups to discuss upcoming Parent Engagement initiatives. Staff were attached to each initiative and members were asked to spread out to join one of the initiative groups to discuss the PRO Grant initiative and provide ideas.

G Information and Correspondence - NIL

H Communication - NIL

I Questions asked of, and by Committee Members

C. Koczmaro asked what the protocol is for renting space at schools? T. Cruz said that all requests for renting space must go through the Planning Department. Notices are sent out to non-profit organizations through the Planning department.

J Public Questions - NIL

K Future Meetings

November 15, 2017	December 6, 2017	January 17, 2018	February 14, 2018
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L Adjournment

Moved by P. Olivieri:

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:20 PM.

CARRIED