

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.

Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

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Opening Prayer

God our loving Father, You have loved us from before our first breath.

You gave up Your only Son for us as a sign of Your love.

May we Your children ever praise You with devotion.

Amen

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Conference Call**

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee - Chair
	Dely Farrace	Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative
	Luz del Rosario	Trustee Representative/ Alternate Chair
	Heather Bialowas	Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative
	Airene Cunanan	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative
	Myra Del Rosario	ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative
	Lisette Gaylie	Easter Seals Ontario - Representative
	Caroline Huxtable	Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative
	Christine Koczmar	Community Living Mississauga - Representative
	Lisa Papaloni	Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative
	Herman Vioria	Alternate Trustee
	Shanna Walsh	Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Alternative
	Gian Luca Ferrari	Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils
	Janice Hatton	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative
	Kevin Hickey	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children - Representative
Regrets:	Thomas Thomas	Alternate Trustee
	Liza Dowson	Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative
Staff:	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Sabrina Baiana	Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs
	Jacqueline Toste	Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs
	Pina Grosso	Chief of Social Work
	Laura Pincente	Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners
	Cairine MacDonald	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Debbie Hammond	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative
	Sharon Chambers	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary
	Marisa De Oliveira	OECTA Secondary - Representative
	Peter Cusumano	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary
	Cristine Pergotski	Association of Professional Student Services Personnel
	Pam Boniferro	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative
	Andrea Isaac	OECTA Elementary - Representative
	Katherine Magee	Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services - Recorder

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer - Lisa Papaloni

3. Land Acknowledgment

Land Acknowledgment - Katherine Magee

4. Approval of Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, November 16 - Amended and December 7, 2022

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 (AMENDED) AND DECEMBER 7, 2022, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

Superintendent Papaloni followed up on our plan for uplifting the modules on inclusion. She presented them to the Instructional Council and Supervisory Officers, and they are in favour of supporting the initiative to share the modules with principals. We are currently in the process of sharing them with the principals at the Supervisory meetings. This will be an on-going process to gradually release these modules.

Lisa Papaloni thanked Superintendent Papaloni for the great news and asked where this initiative will go in the future, after the modules are released. Superintendent Papaloni answered that these modules are very intensive and are intended for educators and parents. It will be determined once feedback is received.

7. Terms of Reference

8. Election for Vice-Chair

Trustee Bruno Iannicca requested nominations for Vice-Chair. L. Gaylie nominated D. Farrace for Vice-Chair. D. Farrace accepted.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Programs at St. Oscar Romero School; J. Boily

Superintendent Papaloni introduced J. Boily, Principal, St. Oscar Romero School.

J. Boily began by discussing the origins of St. Oscar Romero School and its role. He explained the stages of interventions to help struggling students succeed, while offering the students support and hope. He highlighted some of the programs at St. Oscar Romero School including the Learning Strategies Courses, School Within a College, Pace, New Direction, Sanctuary, Advantage, Positive Personal Change and Alternative. J. Boily mentioned the four pathways into the programs. The Sanctuary Application Review Team, Safe Schools - New Directions, Direct Registration and Application Review Team. The characteristics of these programs were presented.

D. Farrace asked if the majority of students in these programs have exceptionalities. J. Boily stated that he is not able to provide confidential information. He did say that IEPs are not necessary to enter these programs. There are some students with exceptionalities. D. Farrace asked where the funding comes from for these programs. Superintendent Papaloni said that funding comes from the Ministry as a separate envelope, not under Special Education, but specific funding for alternative programs.

C. Koczmar asked why someone with a mild intellectual disability would go to this program? J. Boily said that his school population is reflective of the whole school population of the board. They do not exclude anyone based on any learning disability. It is based on the individual student who may need extra support. C. Koczmar asked how many students attend. J. Boily said approximately 225 to 250 in all the programs inclusive. C. Koczmar asked about mentoring the student to return to their regular program. J. Boily explained that there is ongoing contact and communication with the home school throughout their stay at the program.

M. Del Rosario asked who can put forward the applications for review? J. Boily answered that it can be through by the student, parent, Guidance and the Mental Health Itinerant Teacher.

2. Mental Health and Well-Being Presentation; P. Callender, S. Bernier

Superintendent Papaloni introduced P. Callender, Mental Health and Well-Being Coordinator, and S. Bernier, Mental Health and Well-Being Lead to present on Student Mental Health and Well-Being.

P. Callender and S. Bernier showed a video on What is Mental Health. It discussed the difference between mental illness and mental health, as well as how to improve mental health.

S. Bernier explained their work with School Mental Health Ontario to help plan activities to promote school mental health. S. Bernier discussed the Mental Health and Well-Being Annual Action plan, to help monitor progress and effectiveness. P. Callender explained the tiers of supports provided, depending on the level of supports required by the student. She talked about some of the community connections to promote well-being. They showed a video from the Mental Health and Well-Being Champions called You Are Not Alone, that showed how they support their students. She mentioned the resources available to students and parents to help them cope with their concerns. Supports and strategies for students with differing abilities were discussed.

They presented an inclusion and anti-bullying video called Ian. S. Bernier stated that it was shown to all Elementary school students and that the video was followed up by activities for the students to help build friendship and inclusion.

D. Farrace asked if this video will be shown to students? P. Callender answered that the video was shared with all Elementary schools and shown to all Elementary students with follow up activities. This was part of the K - 6 lesson, which lasted an entire week.

L. Gaylie commented that it was an effective video showing integration and friendship, which she believes is lacking in schools.

C. Koczmaro asked if the committee can access the video? Superintendent Papaloni answered yes, it can be sent to the committee. C. Koczmaro also commented that segregation impacts the students and families. Integration is important for the student to have meaning in their lives.

L. (Lisa) Papaloni commented how great it would be if students rallied around students with differing abilities.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked if that video could be brought to the Trustees for the next Faith and Program meeting? Superintendent Papaloni said yes, with the approval of Executive Council. Trustee Bruno Iannicca said he will discuss it with the Associate Director.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca commented that it would help reinforce inclusivity if this video can be shown to all students twice a year.

L. Gaylie commented that the video with the student Mental Health and Well-Being Champions is a great program. She asked how students are being made aware of these Champions? Superintendent Papaloni answered that each school promotes these students within their schools.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that two of our schools were on CTV News Bell Let's Talk. The clips were very impressive. We are being recognized for our programs in our schools. Superintendent Papaloni said that we can send out the links to the news clips.

C. Koczmaro said that the clips were wonderful. She asked if the Ian video could be shown to Secondary schools also as part of the curriculum? Superintendent Papaloni said that it was provided as an option for Secondary schools to add into the curriculum.

C. Budget

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Luz del Rosario reported on the Entry Planning and Transitions for Students with Differing Abilities event. She said that it had a very good turn out and thanked the Special Education and Learning Services team. She said over 120 people attended.

She provided an update on total enrolment in our schools, with a year over year decline.

She discussed the reports she received on the Graduation Coach program. The coaches help support student achievement, learning and well-being, by reducing barriers. They act as mentors and advisors and encourage and support purposeful communication.

She mentioned that the Trustees are members of the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association, that represents Trustees and school boards at bargaining tables, as well as lobbying the government regarding concerns. They passed a resolution to be submitted to OCSTA regarding the voting in the last election, to ensure Catholic supporters are properly recorded. Another resolution which was passed was to ask the Ministry to continue technology funding. Lastly, a tutoring funding resolution was passed to ask the Ministry to continue tutoring funding.

The 2022 - 2023 revised operating budget is posted on their website. If there are any questions, to contact them.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

C. Koczmaro mentioned Community Living's contest What Does Inclusive Education Look Like to You, which helps celebrate Inclusive Education Month.

F. Work Group

1. Review Process for the Special Education Plan; S. Baiana, R. Commisso

S. Baiana, Coordinator, Special Education and Learning Services, asked for the committee to review and provide their input into the Special Education Plan by February 17th, 2023. The Special Education and Learning Services will then review that input. In April, the final Special Education Plan will be brought back to the committee, before being sent to the Director for signature and then presented to the Ministry.

S. Baiana explained the purpose of the Special Education Plan. It is a Ministry requirement to create a standard to ensure that exceptional students in Ontario all receive the best quality education possible. She explained the key components.

L. (Lisa) Papaloni asked if input is provided both individually and as a group? S. Baiana answered that it is provided individually, and then incorporated into the plan.

L. Gaylie asked if families of students with special education needs are being informed about this plan? S. Baiana mentioned that we can add it to the communication that goes out and is posted.

G. Information and Correspondence

1. SIP Funding Letter from the Durham District School Board

Superintendent Papaloni summarized the letter from the Durham District School Board, claiming to receive less funds than promised. Superintendent Papaloni asked if anyone would like to provide input or to write a letter, to let her know. Our board's claim was submitted to the Ministry and we are waiting to find out our funding.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked if we should wait to get the funding before we write a letter as well? Do we think we will not get the funding? Superintendent Papaloni said that she believes we will get the funding.

C. Koczmaro asked if the letter was stating that the per pupil funding had decreased? Superintendent Papaloni answered that it is with respect to the SIP funding, the per pupil funding was lower than what boards were told they would receive per pupil. The per pupil

funding increased, but not to the amount that they were promised. C. Koczmaro agreed we should wait to see if we receive the promised amount of funding.

D. Farrace agreed that we should wait to see what we will receive.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca said that we will wait, and once we find out our funding, we will present it in our Routine Agenda.

2. Updates From the Superintendent; Superintendent Papaloni

Superintendent Papaloni shared that, as requested by SEAC Easter Seals, Red Shirt Day has been included in the board events on our website.

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

L. (Lisa) Papaloni asked about the IPRC process, based on a parent that she knows, whose son was not recommended for an IPRC. Superintendent Papaloni recommended that the parent have a meeting with the principal of the school to express her concerns. The child needs to be formally identified first, through a psychological assessment. L. Papaloni asked what programs are available post-secondary for special education students? Superintendent Papaloni answered that the guidance counselor in the Secondary schools would help direct the students. There are options with universities and colleges, that the school would support students with.

C. Koczmaro asked if we can reconsider to have the SEAC meetings run virtually only for the remainder of the school year. Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked if we can ask ICT if we can run these meetings hybrid. Superintendent Papaloni said that she will find out if hybrid is possible yet and will let the committee know once she gets an answer. D. Farrace mentioned that there should be a vote to have all meetings virtually. Trustee Bruno Iannicca recommended to wait until Superintendent Papaloni investigates further and run a survey afterwards, if necessary.

D. Farrace mentioned that the parent looking for an IPRC doesn't need a psychological assessment, it can be just a doctor's diagnosis. Anyone can have an IEP. Also, she commented about the importance of transitions to college.

L. Gaylie asked for the link to the Dates of Significance on the website. Superintendent Papaloni said she will find it.

C. Huxtable shared that her daughter is transitioning from high school and her school has provided many programs through universities and colleges that support special education students. She said that she was given a Special Education and Learning Services binder, that provides a transition planning toolkit and portfolio to navigate the next three years, and where to go after the three years, with many options.

J. Questions asked by Public

K. Future Meetings

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

L. Adjournment

Moved by

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:50 P.M.

CARRIED