

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

***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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L. Adjournment

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we wish to be keen and devoted servants.

*By Your grace, help us to nurture the lonely with
our companionship, feed the hungry and clothe the poor
with our relative richness; and seek out and include all
those who yearn for acceptance.*

We ask this through Jesus our brother.

Amen

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Conference Call

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--|
| Attendees: | Bruno Iannicca | Trustee - Chair |
| | Dely Farrace | Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative |
| | Heather Bialowas | Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative |
| | Myra Del Rosario | ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative |
| | Liza Dowson | Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative |
| | Lissette Gaylie | Easter Seals Ontario - Representative |
| | Janice Hatton | Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative |
| | Caroline Huxtable | Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative |
| | Christine Koczmar | Community Living Mississauga - Representative |
| | Lisa Papaloni | Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative |
| | Gian Luca Ferrari | Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils |
| | Debbie Hammond | Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative |
| | | |
| Regrets: | Luz del Rosario | Trustee - Alternate Chair |
| | Thomas Thomas | Alternate Trustee |
| | Herman Vioria | Alternate Trustee |
| | Airene Cunanan | Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative |
| | Shanna Walsh | Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Alternative |
| | Kevin Hickey | VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children - Representative |
| | Pam Boniferro | Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative |
| | Andrea Isaac | OECTA Elementary - Alternative |
| | | |
| Staff: | Sabrina Baiana | Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Tammie Cameron | Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Joanne Dean | Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision |
| | Marisa De Oliveira | OECTA Secondary - Representative |
| | Kellie Donaher | Association of Professional Student Services Personnel |
| | Christiane Kyte | General Manager, Clinical Services and Spec Education |
| | Cairine MacDonald | Superintendent, Family of Schools |
| | Cristine Pergotski | Association of Professional Student Services Personnel |
| | Michael Schaus | OECTA Elementary - Representative |
| | Jacqueline Toste | Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Claudia Kline | Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary |
| Recorder: | Katherine Magee | Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services |

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 - C. Koczmaro
3. Land Acknowledgment – C. Kyte
4. Approval of Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, January 25, 2023

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, JANUARY 25, 2023, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Psychology Month; C. Kyte

Superintendent Papaloni introduced C. Kyte, General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education.

C. Kyte gave a presentation for February is Psychology Month. She explained the work that psychologists do in the schools, including supporting mental health. They help parents and students to support family and school partnerships. She discussed the poster that the psychologists created to bring awareness to their services and resources. She presented a video prepared by the psychologists regarding building resiliency in children and youth.

2. SIP; R. Commisso, J. Toste

Superintendent Papaloni introduced J. Toste, Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs.

J. Toste updated the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding. The funding is put in place to help students with extraordinarily high needs. It partially offsets the costs for the school board. She discussed the types of claims, number of claims and amounts received per eligible students. We are currently awaiting feedback from the Ministry regarding approval of this year's claims and funding.

Lisa Papaloni asked for clarification as to what situation would require a claim. Superintendent Papaloni answered by providing an example of a high needs student, requiring additional staff supports.

C. Budget

Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that the Trustee budget public consultation will be on Wednesday, April 26th if there are any questions that anyone wants to raise. He stated that the budget has not been finalized yet, it will only be approved after the consultation with different interest groups.

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Bruno Iannicca talked about his visit to Father Michael Goetz Secondary School. He was very impressed with the student council for including Special Education students in the Valentine's Day activities. He discussed the Young Rider's program happening on August 26th, encouraging all parents to sign their children up for this. He also discussed the slowing enrolment decline. A decline in enrolment affects the amount of grants that we receive. He mentioned the calls/questions he receives about the procurement process. His staff will be giving a presentation around March to help answer questions. He mentioned the possibility of a video regarding human trafficking to educate parents and students on warning signs to look for. Trustee Bruno Iannicca gave an update on the number of outstanding Chromebooks. He explained that immunization shots are not mandatory, since there was a miscommunication about this, which has now been resolved. He mentioned that there will be a field report coming out in April or May from Administration and Finance to determine what can be done at certain fields, depending on costs. He talked about Elementary Voice, where the Elementary Student Council President will provide suggestions for improving Elementary schools. He mentioned the motions put forward to the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association for technology, Municipal election issues and continued tutoring funding. Lastly, he mentioned the questions he is receiving regarding continued remote learning. Once he receives direction from the Ministry of Education, he will then make that decision.

L. Gaylie asked if the Young Rider's program has an accessible bus so that students with differing abilities can also participate. Trustee Bruno Iannicca inquired through the Associate Director and came back to say that they will connect with STOPR to see if this can be put in place in the future.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

H. Bialowas, Down Syndrome Peel Region reported that March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day. She reminded everyone to wear bright, fun clothes to participate.

L. Gaylie, Easter Seals Ontario reported that the month of March is dedicated to raising awareness and support for children and youth with physical disabilities, to improve their lives and create a more inclusive, accessible and equitable society. Initiatives include the Paper Eggs Campaign and other initiatives can be found on their website.

C. Koczmar, Community Living Mississauga reported on February is Inclusive Education Month. Inclusive Education Canada's website highlights how schools can be inclusive of all students, as well as ways for everyone to get involved.

L. Dowson, Ontario Association for Children with Communication Disorders, shared a community resource for a conference on March 4th hosted by the Youth Alliance of Intersectional Justice. The conference is called Community Conversations, Innovations in Education Equity, Anti-Abilism and Leadership. The conference is now free for anyone interested.

C. Huxtable, Epilepsy South Central Ontario reported on March 26th is Purple Day which is Epilepsy Awareness Day. She reminded everyone to wear purple to participate.

F. Work Group

1. Review Timeline for Special Education Plan; S. Baiana

Superintendent Papaloni introduced S. Baiana, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs to review the timeline for the Special Education Plan. S. Baiana thanked all who had already provided feedback and reminded everyone that the deadline to provide feedback is Friday, February 17th. There was a link provided. The next stage will be the implementation phase where the board staff will review and implement updates to collaboratively work towards the final version of the 2022 - 2023 Special Education Plan, to be presented in April.

L. Gaylie asked for a sentence to be added to the Special Education Plan, describing the Special Education Advisory Committee, to ensure that the committee is better differentiated from staff to encourage more families to get more involved with their local SEAC. Superintendent Papaloni agreed and thanked her for the input.

Lisa Papaloni asked how the feedback is processed. S. Baiana answered that the feedback must be in compliance with the Ministry of Education, and the input will be captured in the Special Education Plan whenever possible or, if it is better suited to a different report, it will be included there instead, depending on Ministry guidelines.

G. Information and Correspondence

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

C. Koczmar asked to include into the previous minutes her reason for wanting the meetings to be virtual, to allow for better inclusivity. Superintendent Papaloni answered that the minutes will be adjusted to add this extra detail. She also mentioned that the hybrid model is not possible. ICT is working towards making the boardroom hybrid in the future. Currently, there is a smaller room that can be hybrid, but it is currently under construction.

C. Huxtable asked regarding the snow day closures. There was a great deal of confusion regarding whether schools and PIP programs were closed and what happens when students show up. It interrupted consistency and structure. Superintendent Papaloni responded that it was an unusual situation, since students showed up and parents dropped students off even though the schools were closed. She will ensure that in the future greater communication goes out prior to a weather event, with clearer instructions.

L. Dawson asked about the IPRC process. The Special Education Plan states that the student needs to be presented at a school team meeting before being considered for a referral to an IPRC meeting, but the Ministry of Education website states that a parent can request an IPRC meeting. She said that the process was frustrating and confusing, and asked why it differed from the Ministry process. Superintendent Papaloni explained that there is a guideline for parents around the IPRC process, with the Special Education Consultant guiding the families through this process. Within the Ministry's structure, each board adapts that process to help ease the process for parents. She offered to discuss where the process didn't work for her.

C. Koczmar asked if she can make a motion to have the meetings online only for the remainder of the year. Superintendent Papaloni mentioned that the Ministry is requesting that meetings go back

to all in-person, but she will find out if this applies to the SEAC meetings also. She will send an email by March 1st to update the committee.

D. Farrace asked to have a discussion with the committee to find out how everyone felt about online meetings. M. Del Rosario agreed that to be inclusive it's nice to have hybrid, but it is hard to hear the conversation with it, but she also appreciates the in-person meetings for more connection. G. Ferrari mentioned that the hybrid model isn't perfect currently because there are issues with sound. He would be fine with online until the hybrid model issues were fixed. H. Bialowas stated that hybrid is nice, but she enjoys the opportunity to be in-person because she misses the personal contact. L. Dowson likes the option for hybrid, so that she can attend online when she works late. She also agreed that in-person is also nice. D. Farrace asked if those who didn't comment have a preference. She appreciated the perspective that some people like to be in-person to be able to communicate with each other. She appreciated the discussion. C. Koczmaro added that she works with vulnerable people and prefers online in order to be inclusive and allow all to attend. D. Farrace asked what happens after Superintendent Papaloni finds out what the Ministry requires. Trustee Bruno Iannicci stated that if virtual is allowed, it would have to be voted on. The hybrid model does not work well, there are sound issues and has limitations. Superintendent Papaloni said that with current technology, there are issues with hybrid. But she will investigate any other options. Lisa Papaloni suggested a phone-in option, such as a conference line. Superintendent Papaloni will ask ICT. C. Koczmaro asked to define hybrid. Superintendent Papaloni said that hybrid is to have the video meeting as well as the in-person meeting. C. Koczmaro asked what the meeting options were in the previous vote. Superintendent Papaloni answered that since the hybrid did not work well, the voting options for the remaining meetings had been all in-person, all online or alternating between in-person and online. Hybrid was not one of the options. C. Koczmaro asked if it's the Ministry or the board that requires meetings to be in-person. Superintendent Papaloni re-stated that it is the Ministry that requires meetings to be in-person, and she will be finding out if this encompasses the SEAC meetings. C. Koczmaro asked if we can have the March SEAC meeting online, until we resolve this issue. Superintendent Papaloni said that she will still need to find out if there is a requirement for SEAC to be in-person before this can be decided. L. Gaylie suggested that the meetings can be at the board, but with everyone using their laptops, then people can join online only if they would like. Superintendent Papaloni said that this has been tried and there is too much feedback and will not work. G. Ferrari confirmed that the laptops echo off of each other and this does not work.

L. Gaylie mentioned that when some boards do not have enough support staff or nurses, the students with Special Needs cannot attend school. Superintendent Papaloni said that maybe during the extreme situations during Covid this might have happened very rarely, but this is not the situation at all.

G. Ferrari asked the title of the grant that was discussed earlier in the presentations. Superintendent Papaloni said that it was the SIP, the Special Incidence Portion funding.

C. Koczmaro asked if there was a new date set yet for the PROGrant which was cancelled back in January? Superintendent Papaloni answered that the author is still not able to present, therefore a new date has not been decided yet. We will wait to hear back from the author.

J. Questions asked by Public

K. Future Meetings

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee, February 15, 2023

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

L. Adjournment

Moved by

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:30 P.M.

CARRIED

Easter Seals Ontario Paper Egg Campaign



**Friday, March 17, to Friday,
April 7, 2023**

\$2 Can Help Hatch Great Things for Easter Seals Kids

The 2023 Paper Egg Campaign for Easter Seals Kids arrives at participating retailers across Ontario from **Friday, March 17, to Friday, April 7, 2023.**

Write your name on the egg, and it will be prominently displayed in the retail store, showing your commitment to Easter Seals kids. Since 2000, the Paper Egg Campaign for Easter Seals Kids has raised over \$8.7 million for Easter Seals Ontario.

Help support Easter Seals kids by purchasing a colourful paper egg for only \$2.

You can purchase your Paper Eggs at:



Make a lasting impact in the lives of children and youth with physical disabilities by supporting the Paper Egg Campaign. Your donation will equip them with the essential mobility and accessibility equipment they need to thrive, including wheelchairs, walkers, braces, and communication devices. You will also be opening doors to new experiences and possibilities by helping more kids attend Easter Seals Ontario's fully accessible summer camps, where they can challenge themselves, build independence, and make unforgettable memories. Join us in creating a brighter future for these deserving young people.



March Is Easter Seals Month 2023

Easter Seals Ontario is proud to dedicate the month of March to raising awareness and support for children and youth with physical disabilities through our annual campaign: March Is Easter Seals Month (MIESM).

Easter Seals Ontario is a charitable organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth with physical disabilities. We aim to create a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable society where kids with physical disabilities are valued, respected, and given the opportunities to reach their full potential. For 76 years, our annual month-long MIESM campaign has helped make progress toward achieving these goals by promoting understanding of the challenges and experiences of Easter Seals kids and families.

This year, we are shining a light on the stories, perspectives, and contributions of individuals with physical disabilities. During the month of March, we will launch various initiatives and activities in local communities and across digital platforms that raise awareness and support for our cause. By participating in MIESM, we can make a direct impact on the lives of Easter Seals kids and create a better future for all individuals with physical disabilities.

With the launch of MIESM, we will announce our 2023 Provincial Easter Seals Ambassadors as youth representatives for the campaign and the organization. Now in its 76th year, the Provincial Easter Seals Ambassador program continues to provide a platform for kids with physical disabilities to share their journeys and develop the skills to effectively use their voices to advocate for themselves and others. Through their advocacy, they can empower even more kids with physical disabilities to pursue their dreams and make their mark on the world.

Join us this March to help create a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable society for children and youth with physical disabilities. You have the power to make a difference. Spread awareness about the campaign by following Easter Seals Ontario on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter at @EasterSealsON, or show your support by making a donation or registering an Easter Seals fundraising team at MarchIsEasterSealsMonth.org. By coming together, we can give more Easter Seals kids the opportunity to live their best lives.