

**AGENDA**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 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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**A. Routine Matters**

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**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

- 1. Multi-Year Strategic Plan; M. Vecchiarino
- 2. SEAC Goals; S. Baiana; R. Commisso
- 3. Financial Services Presentation; B. Hester, G. Arangio; D. Santucci; J. Cherepacha
- 4. Uplifting Days of Significance - Survey Results; R. Commisso

**C. Budget  
NIL**

**D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

**E. Information/Reports from Community Associations**

**F. Work Group**

- 1. Entry into DPCDSB; J. Toste, L. Pincente

**G. Information and Correspondence**

**H. Communication**

**I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members**

**J. Questions asked by Public**

**K. Future Meetings**

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

**L. Adjournment**

God the Father,

You have chosen us to be the channels of blessings;

In the name of your Child,  
who became one like us.

In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
who has given us wisdom and strength.

Creator of the Cosmos, of eternity and time:

Be with us in this time.

Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

Be with us in this place.

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far:

Be with us in our hearts.

Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer, God of here and now:

Stay always within our lives.

Amen.

**MINUTES**

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Call**

Attendees:	<p>Bruno Iannicca Dely Farrace Heather Bialowas Airene Cunanan Myra Del Rosario Liza Dowson</p> <p>Lisette Gaylie Caroline Huxtable Christine Koczmar Lisa Papaloni</p>	<p>Trustee - Chair Brampton Caledon Community Living - Representative Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative Easter Seals Ontario - Representative Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative Community Living Mississauga - Representative Alternate Representative LDAPR</p>
Regrets:	<p>Luz del Rosario Thomas Thomas Shawn Xaviour Laurie-Anne Clark Celeste Encila Janice Hatton Leslie Silvestri Nancy Vrbaneck</p>	<p>Alternate Trustee Alternate Trustee Trustee Representative Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Alternative Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative ABC Association for Bright Children - Alternative</p>
Staff:	<p>Sabrina Baiana Sharon Chambers Rosanna Commisso Peter Cusumano Clementine D'Souza Pina Grosso Christiane Kyte Cairine MacDonald Cristine Pergotski Michael Schaus Jacqueline Toste Debbie Hammond</p>	<p>Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Chief of Social Work General Manager, Clinical Services and Spec Education Superintendent, Family of Schools Association of Professional Student Services Personnel OECTA Elementary - Representative Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative</p>
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. Land Acknowledgment

Land Acknowledgment - Superintendent Papaloni

3. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer - D. Farrace

4. Approval of Agenda

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, September 21, 2022

**THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Business

L. Gaylie requested a change to the November and December meeting formats. She asked if November could be virtual and December could be in-person, to allow for a Christmas gathering in December. Trustee Bruno Iannicca took a vote and no hands opposed the change of format for the next two meetings.

**B. Presentations and Staff Reports**

1. Inclusivity/Ableism; M. Coutinho

M. Coutinho, Principal of Equity, presented on Inclusivity. She discussed identifying barriers in education in order to eliminate disproportionate outcomes for students. She explained that equity work is rooted in our faith and our principles as a Catholic community. The Equity Department works in four main areas. M. Coutinho discussed the work being done in the areas of Professional Development, Policy, Student and Community Voice and Data.

Questions were asked of M. Coutinho. Was the way people communicated with Special Needs students addressed? M. Coutinho said that this is an issue that is addressed in workshops and it is in an accepting, positive environment. How is the data collected for surveys? M. Coutinho said that it can be from students if they are able to complete the surveys, but otherwise from parents if the student cannot complete them on their own. What questions in the census are regarding special needs? M. Coutinho said there are many,

including questions on belonging and inclusivity. Do all staff have to take professional development to improve inclusivity? Many sessions are mandatory, and others are invitational. Are ERWs involved with the PD sessions? Yes, they have regular mandatory PD sessions as well as extra opportunities. Comments regarding inclusivity were about having a homeroom classroom at the start of the day that wasn't contained because contained classes are segregated, and parents are pushed into them for their children. How can these messages be shared with mainstream students? Our consultants and teachers are involved with PD to learn how to share this. Are there presentations to students? Equity teams present to students. Will we be reducing segregated classrooms? Superintendent Papaloni said that it is up to the parent to have their child in mainstream or contained classrooms. Is an inclusive classroom the first choice? Inclusion is always the first choice. But specialized program options are provided to the parent. The Ministry requires us to provide the spectrum of options. The most inclusive environment is the preferred choice, followed by partial integration and then fully self-contained placement. If they are in a fully self-contained placement, they are provided with many opportunities for inclusion. This is regularly reviewed and integrated. This feedback will be taken back to the team. What are the other options instead of segregated classes? Superintendent Papaloni said that the choices are with the parent. The students are not forced into a segregated class. We have to offer this option, but the mainstream is open and available. How can special needs students stay in the mainstream classes but have the extra supports? They have the options to specialize according to their needs.

2. Home/School Communication; S. Baiana

Superintendent Papaloni introduced S. Baiana, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs, to present Home School Communication methods. She showed a few examples which are used in the classroom. The communication method is customized to the needs and the voice of the student and is jointly determined between the teacher and home. Parents are encouraged to discuss them with the teacher and, if they are not satisfied with the communications, they can discuss it with the principal. Teachers have these forms available to them through a resource portal as well as ongoing communications.

3. Uplifting Special Events/Days; R. Commisso

Superintendent Papaloni introduced R. Commisso, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs, to present Special Events. R. Commisso reminded the SEAC members to submit any dates of significance for their organizations, as well as any details of annual awareness days, in order to present these events.

**C. Budget**

NIL

**D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

Trustee Bruno Iannicca addressed the question from the previous SEAC meeting, which asked if there are any provisions for students of siblings that ride on the special needs bus to ride together? The Superintendent of Transportation responded that if the sibling is going to the same school, and is eligible for bussing, then they may ride together. They may not ride with the sibling if they are not eligible. There is an appeal process if the parent is denied. Trustee Bruno Iannicca addressed the question of promoting inclusivity for special needs students. Superintendent Papaloni talked about

the programs at Holland Bloorview called Program Inclusion that were forwarded by L. Dowson. It is approved by the Ministry of Education and has great modules that we will be implementing. Trustee Bruno Iannicca also mentioned having a parent of a special needs student as a representative on school council. Staff will look at this proposal to measure benefits. Another question he brought up was having special needs students on school teams. He said this will also be investigated and he will report the findings. Also, he requested that the opening prayer precede the land acknowledgment. Lastly, he mentioned implementing that the custodians should be included in the graduation ceremonies.

#### **E. Information/Reports from Community Associations**

1. Canadian Down Syndrome Week; H. Bialowas

H. Bialowas, representative for Down Syndrome Association of Peel, presented the Canadian Down Syndrome Awareness Week on October 23 to 29. It is celebrating and showcasing the abilities of people with Down Syndrome who are in the workforce. DSAP will be holding an auction on November 5<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for their speech and reading program.

2. Easter Seals Ontario; L. Gaylie

L. Gaylie, representative for Easter Seals Ontario presented Celebrating 100 years of Advocating for Children with Disabilities. Easter Seals will have a fund-raising event for the Peel Region called the Brampton Hockey Classics on November 2 to 4. The Centennial Celebration will be on November 28. March is Easter Seals Month. National Accessibility Awareness Week is May 28 to June 3, and Red Shirt Day is May 31.

#### **F. Work Group**

1. SEAC Goals; S. Baiana

Superintendent Papaloni introduced S. Baiana, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs, to present the SEAC goals. S. Baiana mentioned the upcoming presentation for November's SEAC meeting where Superintendent Vecchiarino will talk about the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. A formal review and feedback for the board's Special Education Plan will be held in January. Financial statements for Special Education will be provided in April, where members of SEAC can provide input. SEAC Goals are Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive and Trust and promote and support Special Education in Dufferin-Peel.

2. PRO Grant Events

a. Updates; S. Baiana

Superintendent Papaloni introduced S. Baiana, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs, to discuss Parent Reaching Out Grants. S. Baiana mentioned the new date for "See Me For Me: A Message of Inclusion", January 19, 2022. A copy of author Dana Geall's book will be provided to participants

b. Sacraments; J. Toste, E. Moniz-Baptista

Superintendent Papaloni introduced J. Toste, Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs, and E. Moniz-Baptista, Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs, who discussed the PRO Grant event Sacramental Preparation on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. All participants will receive Adaptive Preparation Kits. J. Toste presented an overview of the evening's events.

**G. Information and Correspondence**

## 1. Follow-Up Items; Superintendent Papaloni

Superintendent Papaloni discussed the questions regarding the Summer Transitions Program and the barriers to participating. She said that this was offered to all new students to grade 9, but returning students were not always able to attend due to staffing shortages. More staff would enable more programming availability. The other question discussed was the waitlist for psychological assessments. This information is being gathered and should be available in the new year.

**H. Communication****I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members****J. Questions asked by Public****K. Future Meetings**

November 16, 2022

December 7, 2022

January 25, 2023

February 15, 2023

March 22, 2023

April 12, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 14, 2023

**L. Adjournment**

**Moved by**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:44 P.M.**

**CARRIED**