

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 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.

Pages

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Opening Prayer 3
3. Land Acknowledgment
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, November 16 - Amended and December 7, 2022 4
6. Previous Business
7. Terms of Reference 12
8. Election for Vice-Chair

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Programs at St. Oscar Romero School; J. Boily
2. Mental Health and Well-Being Presentation; P. Callender, S. Bernier

C. Budget

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

F. Work Group

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

G. Information and Correspondence

1. SIP Funding Letter From the Durham District School Board 13
2. Updates From the Superintendent; Superintendent Papaloni

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

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

OPENING PRAYER:

*In this place, in this new year,
We become quiet and still in the presence of the sacred.
Loving God, you understand the need for silence amid the bustle of life.
Bring peace into our souls,
And let all we do in this gathering be done in love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.
Amen*

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Attendees:	<p>Bruno Iannicca Myra Del Rosario Heather Bialowas Airene Cunanan Gian Luca Ferrari Liza Dowson</p> <p>Lissette Gaylie Christine Koczmar</p>	<p>Trustee - Chair ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Representative Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders - Representative Easter Seals Ontario - Representative Community Living Mississauga - Representative</p>
Regrets:	<p>Luz del Rosario Thomas Thomas Shawn Xaviour Dely Farrace Celeste Encila Janice Hatton Leslie Silvestri Nancy Vrbaneck Caroline Huxtable Lisa Papaloni</p>	<p>Alternate Trustee Alternate Trustee Trustee Representative Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Alternative Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative ABC Association for Bright Children - Alternative Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Alternative</p>
Staff:	<p>Sabrina Baiana Claudia Kline Rosanna Commisso Tanya Galway Tammie Cameron Clementine D'Souza Pina Grosso Laura Pincente Lucy Papaloni Cristine Pergotski Jacqueline Toste Debbie Hammond Julie Cherepacha Max Vecchiarino Brian Hester Guy Arangio Domenic Santucci</p>	<p>Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs Chief of Psychology Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Chief of Social Work Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services Association of Professional Student Services Personnel Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative Executive Superintendent, Finance, CFO and Treasurer Superintendent, Equity, Policy, Strategy, Research Superintendent, Financial Services Manager, Budget Supervisor, Grants and Revenues</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. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer - Logan Dowson

3. Land Acknowledgment

Land Acknowledgment - Liza Dowson

4. Approval of Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, October 19, 2022

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, OCTOBER 19, 2022, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Multi-Year Strategic Plan; M. Vecchiarino

M. Vecchiarino, Superintendent, Equity, Policy, Strategy, Research, discussed the Multi Year Strategic Plan for the board, which guides the annual operational plan, the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle. He explained the five core values of this plan, which are Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive and Trust. M. Vecchiarino detailed the goals for 2022 - 2023 for each of these values. Action Steps, data sources were presented, as well as approaches to the Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle. L. Gaylie asked about the MYSP, whether policies will be created to help eliminate ableism? M. Vecchiarino said that the MYSP is a representation of the Trustees' vision for the school board. It is an expectation that teachers ensure that students are not marginalized. He will also take it back to add this to the policies. L. Gaylie said that data collected in the schools should include ableism. She requested consideration of having an inclusive homeroom. L. Dowson asked about increasing staff with disabilities and including them in the Strategic Plan decision making process. M. Vecchiarino agreed that representation is important for validation. This is one of the goals of a MYSP. He will take this back to ensure this happens more often.

2. SEAC Goals; S. Baiana; R. Commisso

S. Baiana, and R. Commisso, Coordinators, Diverse Learning Needs, asked the committee to complete a survey regarding the development of SEAC Goals. The five SEAC goals were outlined, along with action steps for Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive and Trust.

3. Financial Services Presentation; B. Hester, G. Arangio; D. Santucci; J. Cherepacha

J. Cherepacha, Executive Superintendent, Financial Services, CFO and Treasurer, opened the presentation with the Budget Planning Cycle, and discussed proposed 2022-2023 budget. She outlined the estimated budget deficit of 42.1 million dollars, due to the boards Long Term Disability commitments. G. Arangio, Budget Manager, discussed the total board projected enrolment. He also discussed the total operating grants and expenditures, with 90% of the overall expenses being Salaries and Benefits. The Learning Recovery Funding was overviewed. The challenges faced by the board were discussed. B. Hester, Superintendent, Financial Services outlined the 2021-2022 Year End Financial Statements, as well as the financial recovery program. Expenditures for Special Education were explained, including the per pupil allocation. Estimates for 2022-2023 were provided. C. Koczmar asked about the reason for the reduction in the Multidisciplinary Teams, as well as how the deficit was lowered even with the decreased enrollment. J. Cherepacha said that the change in deficit is caused by many factors, such as staffing changes, Long Term Disability costs, but increases in Grants and funding has helped decrease the deficit, as well as less LTD costs this year. B. Hester added that this estimate may still change as the year progresses. Regarding the Multidisciplinary Teams, B. Hester replied that the Ministry provides these amounts and we do not have control over them. C. Koczmar asked if Special Education services have been impacted by the drop in deficit. J. Cherepacha replied that there is support from the Trustees for the over-spending in that envelope. No reductions have been proposed for this. Ministry Grants and funding are the only reasons that changes may happen. L. Dowson asked why the enrollment is decreasing, if it might be due to lessening supports for Special Education? J. Cherepacha replied that the biggest factor for families leaving the GTA is due to higher cost of living. L. Dowson asked about the \$1 Million funding for students with special needs and how it was allocated. J. Cherepacha said that there are guidelines for how it can be spent. L. Dowson asked if parents can receive this information on how it was spent. J. Cherepacha said that the plan was presented in June, and updates are provided throughout the year. This will be sent out to the SEAC committee to review. L. Dowson asked if additional staff hired through funding will be lost if funding is lost. J. Cherepacha replied that yes, if funding is not renewed, those additional positions will be lost as well. L. Dowson asked about what the Special Incidence Portion involves. B. Hester said that the SIP is for students who require two or more staff to support them. L. Gaylie asked if the 27 FTEs were funded by the Learning Recovery Fund. J. Cherepacha said that some were supported by this fund. C. Koczmar asked what the Tutoring Fund was. J. Cherepacha said it is a one-time Ministry funding to address learning gaps caused by Covid.

4. Uplifting Days of Significance - Survey Results; R. Commisso

R. Commisso, Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs, shared the survey results for the Uplifting Days of Significance, highlighting the specific days and events provided by the committee. She asked for any additional information to be provided.

C. Budget - NIL

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Bruno Iannicca reported on the potential CUPE strike, stating that there is a plan in place to ensure that the Chromebooks are deployed in case of a strike. He also discussed the many issues around masking, and that we will follow the Ministry mandate. Finally, Trustee Bruno Iannicca discussed the concerns over declining enrolment due to the cost of housing in this region.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

F. Work Group

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

J. Toste, Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs, introduced the upcoming Entry to School session on January 12th, 2022. This event is to help transition students with diverse learning needs and also welcome these new families into our community. L. Dowson asked if IEPs are discussed during this session. J. Toste said that this is a general information session for students entering into our system. This is not for IEPs, since the focus is just the transition. L. Dowson asked if there are IEP sessions. S. Baiana responded that there are no current sessions focused just on IEPs, these are supported through the schools, and family of schools consultants. Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked how families find out about this session. J. Toste explained that this information is circulated through our Administrators, Family of Schools consultants, flyers, committees, community organizations, daycares as well as the news release from our communications department. R. Commisso also added that our registration page will also have the link for this session. L. Dowson said that diagnosis can take a long time, so families waiting for diagnosis can receive more resources to assist them. R. Commisso said that we do try to do this, as well we encourage our schools to let parents know.

G. Information and Correspondence

H. Communication

I. Questions Asked of, and by, Committee Members

C. Koczmaro asked if we have received a response to the SEAC Letter to the Minister regarding extending the age limit for attending school. Superintendent Papaloni responded to say that we have not yet received a response. C. Koczmaro asked to receive a copy of the presentations from today. Superintendent Papaloni answered yes. C. Koczmaro asked Trustee Bruno Iannicca if the SEAC community can assist with the Chromebook deployment. Trustee Bruno Iannicca replied that he will bring it forward at the next board meeting if they can get assistance from parents. C. Koczmaro asked if the tutoring funding will be presented at a future meeting. Superintendent Papaloni said that once it is in place it will be brought to SEAC. L. Gaylie asked if families and their children will be invited to the December Advent mass and gathering. Superintendent Papaloni answered yes, this will be forthcoming as soon as we have all the plans in place. L. Gaylie offered to have her son Luc as cantor at the mass. L. Dowson asked if there could be more information sessions on IEPs and IPRCs to help parents learn more about the process. Superintendent Papaloni said we can explore the possibility of having a session through the PROGrant funding. She will see if a survey can be sent out to the communities to see what interest there would be for this. C. Koczmaro asked if the December in-person meeting could also be virtual. Superintendent Papaloni stated that the boardroom is not set up to enable this. We had tried that for the September meeting and it did not work properly.

J. Questions asked by Public

K. Future Meetings

L. Adjournment

Moved by Heather Bialowas.

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

CEC - Boardroom

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Attendees: | Bruno Iannicca | Trustee - Chair |
| | 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 |
| | Caroline Huxtable | Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative |
| | Lisa Papaloni | Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Alternative |
| | Leslie Silvestri | Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative |
| | Gian Luca Ferrari | Member At Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils |
| Regrets: | Dely Farrace | Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative |
| | Luz del Rosario | Trustee - Alternate Chair |
| | Herman Vilorio | Alternate Trustee |
| | Thomas Thomas | Alternate Trustee |
| | Airene Cunanan | Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative |
| | Celeste Encila | Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Alternative |
| | Janice Hatton | Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative |
| | Christine Koczmaro | Community Living Mississauga - Representative |
| | Nancy Vrbaneck | ABC Association for Bright Children - Alternative |
| Staff: | David Amaral | Associate Director, Instructional Services |
| | Lucy Papaloni | Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services |
| | Tammie Cameron | Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Sabrina Baiana | Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Rosanna Commisso | Coordinator, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Joanne Dean | Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision |
| | Clementine D'Souza | Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners |
| | Pina Grosso | Chief of Social Work |
| | Christiane Kyte | General Manager, Clinical Services and Spec Education |
| | Cairine MacDonald | Superintendent, Family of Schools |
| | Tanya Galway | Chief, Psychology |
| | Laura Pincente | Consultant, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners |
| | Jacqueline Toste | Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs |
| | Sharon Chambers | Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary |
| | Peter Cusumano | Principal, Vice Principal Association, Secondary |
| | Cristine Pergotski | Association of Professional Student Services Personnel |
| | Debbie Hammond | Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Representative |
| Recorder: | Katherine Magee | Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services |

SEAC Advent Mass 6:30 p.m.

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment - Superintendent Papaloni
3. Approval of Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes, SEAC Meeting, November 16, 2022

THAT THE MINUTES OF SEAC MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2022, BE APPROVED WITH REVISIONS.

CARRIED

5. Previous Business

- a. Learning Recovery Funds Report

Superintendent Papaloni mentioned that the Learning Recovery Funds Report was emailed to the committee. This can be reviewed, with questions brought back to the next committee meeting.

- b. Tutoring Grant Expenditures Report

Superintendent Papaloni mentioned that the Tutoring Grant Expenditures Report was emailed to the committee. This can be reviewed, with questions brought back to the next committee meeting.

- c. Equity and Inclusive Education Policy 12

Superintendent Papaloni followed up regarding a question asked at the previous meeting about the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy, if there was a policy around ableism. She indicated that Policy 12 does include ableism. Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that the policy is regularly updated.

- d. IEP Processes from Associations

Superintendent Papaloni mentioned that we are researching the IEP Processes received from Associations, and we will update the committee in January. L. Dowson asked if PROGrants can be recorded for those who cannot attend. L. Papaloni said we will look into that.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports**C. Budget****D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt****E. Information/Reports from Community Associations****F. Work Group****G. Information and Correspondence**

L. Silvestri informed the committee that she will be retiring at the end of the year. Trustee Bruno Iannicca thanked her for her years of service.

L. Gaylie of Easter Seals Ontario asked if the school board could recognize Red Shirt Day on Wednesday, May 31st, 2023, and National Accessibility Week on May 28th to June 3rd, 2023.

L. Silvestri of Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region has information for parents about funding for through BINGO Psychological Assessments. Other organizations are encouraged to contact LDAO for further information.

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

Lisa Papaloni asked if there was any further information regarding the Holland Bloorview videos. Superintendent Papaloni answered that this is still in progress and we will report on this in January.

J. Questions asked by Public**K. Future Meetings**

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

Moved by L. Silvestri

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:29 p.m.

CARRIED

Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.) - 2022

CHAIR:	Bruno Iannicca	
VICE-CHAIR:	TBD	
RESOURCE STAFF:	PRIMARY: Superintendent of Special Education and Learning Services	L. Papaloni
	ADDITIONAL: Superintendent of Schools	C. MacDonald
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. The Committee shall be made up of one (1) representative of the local (Ont. Reg. 464/97) associations, not to exceed twelve (12), in the area of jurisdiction of the Board, as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board. One alternative for each representative appointed from the local associations as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board.</i><i>2. Two members from among the Board's own members as appointed by the Board.</i><i>3. One alternate for each of the Board's members as appointed by the Board;</i><i>4. One or more additional members as appointed by the Board who are neither representatives of a local association nor members of the Board or another committee of the Board.</i>	
TRUSTEES:	B. Iannicca, Chair, L. del Rosario, Alternate Chair, T. Thomas (Alternate), H. Vioria (Alternate)	
OTHERS:	<i>Special Education Administration, General Manager of Clinical Services and Special Education, Chiefs of Service, Senior Child & Youth Practitioner, Coordinators, Consultants, one representative from each of: Principal/Vice Principal Associations, Elementary & Secondary, OECTA Elementary, OECTA Secondary, Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Worker Association, APSSP (Association of Professional Student Services Personnel).</i>	
MONITORING:	Associate Director, Instructional Services	D. Amaral

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Ont. Reg. 464/97, from *The Education Act*)

The committee will:

- (1) make recommendations to the Board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the Board;
- (2) participate in the Board's annual review, under Ont. Reg. 306/90 of the Special Education Plan;
- (3) participate in the Board's annual budget process under Section 231 of the Act, as that process relates to special education; and
- (4) review the financial statements of the Board, prepared under Section 252 of the Act, as those statements relate to special education.

REPORTS TO:	The Board
MEETINGS:	Usually once a month on the first Wednesday following Faith and Program Committee Meeting, September to June – 7:00 p.m.

November 22, 2022

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

Re: Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Durham District School Board's (DDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), to follow up on our letter to you of February 3, 2022, regarding funding of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP).

We once again would like to remind you that, in the spring of 2018, the previous government announced an increase to the SIP claim funding of \$11,016.00, bringing that funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the previously-announced increase would be clawed back. Currently the funding received from the Ministry is \$28,803.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,803.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education decision to claw back that increase, given that the true costs of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than the allocated amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant is \$58,870. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be at a cost of \$117,740 plus. The Ministry of Education's SIP amount covers approximately 24.2 percent of the true cost to support a student with significant learning needs. The DDSB covers the remaining 75.9 percent of the cost from other Special Education and operational grants.

The budget gap at the DDSB between Special Education revenues and expenditures for the last three years has averaged 5.6%. However, in the 2021-2022 school year alone, the DDSB allocated \$6,699,588 more than was given in Special Education Grants to Special Education services. Some of the revenue the DDSB has used to fund this gap is the Local Priorities Funding, which, as you are aware, is not guaranteed annual funding from the Province.

Furthermore, when you take into account the claw-back of the SIP funding increase in 2018, combined with the reallocation of the Special Education Per Pupil Amount, this resulted in a net **decrease** in funding and a further increase in the DDSB's Special Education deficit. In 2017, the Auditor General highlighted that the Ministry of Education's "[f]unding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review."



Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

Our SEAC is extremely concerned about the direction funding for special education is taking. Inadequate funding of Special Education puts our most vulnerable children at risk by cutting the services that they need to be successful. Our entire system is strained when school boards are required to take revenues from other areas to meet its statutory commitment to children accessing Special Education services.

We urge the Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly. We further request, once again, that the Special Education funding model be reviewed and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eva Kyriakides".

Eva Kyriakides

SEAC Chair

Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Hon. Patrice Barns, MPP
Hon. Matthew Rae, MPP
Hon. Marit Stiles, MPP

