



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2022

VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/yvy-qjri-rga

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson:

Members: Shawna Belcourt, Clare Paterson, Braden Leal

Guests: Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Jeff Hockett, Christine Haffie

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent: Arlene Godby, Clare Paterson, Helen McCarthy

A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Jeannie Armstrong

As we continue to learn together in these exceptional circumstances, I (we) would like to acknowledge, as we do at school, that this land on which we live and learn daily, is the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig (Mississauga) Anishnaabe. All of PVNC Catholic District School Board lies within the Williams Treaty territory and we are all Treaty people. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples of this land who continue to care for, and share their teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

2. Opening Prayer: Jeannie Armstrong

3. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Braden Leal

Seconded by: Sandra Scott

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

6. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Braden Leal

That Arlene Godby and Clare Paterson be excused from attendance at the May 19, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

7. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of April 21, 2022 Meeting.

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Braden Leal

That the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes held on April 21, 2022 be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Acting Chair – Shawna Belcourt

Wishing Arlene a speedy recovery. Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Attended the Kevin Chief event, very moving and heartwarming as well as funny; great event, thanked PVNCCDSB AND CPEC for hosting the event.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services –

Superintendent Armstrong offered thoughts and prayers to Arlene and her family as she recovers.

Things have been busy at PVNCCDSB; visits across the Board continue, beginning in the schools with CASA classrooms. Consultants have been working hard on allocations for next year while supporting schools. Special Education Professional Development was offered to Secondary CASA teams May 6. BMS training was also offered on the Secondary PD Day as well as Virtual Educational Assistant professional development. May 18 offered Right to Read Professional development to Special Education Resource Teachers throughout PVNCCDSB.

The Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualification course wrapped up

this past weekend. Superintendent Armstrong presented on the intersection of identity and special education, the focus by the Ministry of Education on destreaming K-12, and the impact of destreaming on racialized students, Indigenous students, students living in poverty and students with special educational needs. Guest speakers throughout the course included April Smoke - Education Offer for Alderville First Nation and Asante Haughton - Mental Health Advocate.

The revised Directional Policy 700: Equity and Inclusive Education was passed by Trustees Tuesday. PVNCCDSB has been working Dr. Niigaan Sinclair as an advisor to Equity policy, Indigenous Education and supporting Indigenous students with additional needs.

Department planning for the 2022-2023 school year is well underway and with professional development, collaboration and renewed partnerships as a focus and look forward to sharing this with SEAC in the following year.

Superintendent Armstrong asked Laura Di Ianni - Vice Principal of Special Education Services to speak to National Accessibility Week being held May 30 - June 4, 2022. Pope Francis spoke of the pandemic and how it has further highlighted the disparities, affected the most vulnerable and how inclusion should be the priority. This year's theme of NAAW is social accessibility and challenging attitudinal barriers connecting with PVNCCDSB's Being Community.

Superintendent Armstrong updated the Committee that the Ministry has announced they will not be moving forward with the PPM 81 draft downloading medical procedures onto Special Education Staff

3. Trustee Remarks

No report.

C. Discussion Items:

A. SEAC Meeting Presentation:

1. Right to Read Inquiry – Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds - Manager of Student Services/Board Psychologist, Jeff Hockett - Special Education Consultant

Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds and Jeff Hockett presented on the Right to Read Inquiry. The Inquiry states that all students not just students with reading disabilities have a right to read and that our education systems have a legal duty and responsibility to ensure barriers are removed under the Ontario Human Rights Code. The Right to Read Executive Summary can be found at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ghXemMMi5uYPUu5h4tLlv-Swqx5FGx5X/view?usp=sharing>

From the Inquiry there have been many recommendations including early universal screening, early intervention, evidence-based teaching, professional development, data collection and analysis, updating of Ministry identification categories, clear referral processes and funding for rural school boards.

Much focus has been given to the Science of Reading intertwining language comprehension and word recognition into skilled reading as demonstrated in Scarborough's Reading Rope. In response to the Right to Read Inquiry, tiered intervention through Core Instruction (tier 1), targeted intervention (tier 2) and intensive intervention (tier 3) will be applied through both program and special education.

Tier 1 and 2 will be delivered through classroom teacher using evidence-based instruction in structured literacy with a heavy focus on phonological awareness through class and small groups in kindergarten and primary grades. The Special Education Resource Teacher will be involved in delivering Tier 3 interventions through explicit teaching and phonological awareness skills and language development skills and in some cases decoding to students who have been assessed below their peers. Empower reading program will continue to be offered as an evidence-based resource for teaching decoding skills for students who have developed phonological awareness skills and is typically offered in grades 3 or 4 but can be offered earlier or later if needed.

Tier 1 and 2 will continue to be offered in junior and intermediate grades through the classroom teacher as a whole class and in small groups. The special education resource teacher will support students that have been assessed far below their peers through more intensive and explicit instruction in both small groups or individual interventions for both Tier 2 and 3.

At the secondary level, there should only be a small number of students not able to read words, but there are many that are struggling. These students are varying intelligence and comprehension abilities with capability of various academic pathways, but it is the responsibility and obligation of educators to ensure students are able to read words. Moving forward educators must be intentional in reinforcing development of literacy skills. These students must be identified so a plan to provide instruction can be implemented and supported involving all educators program and special education to put a plan into action.

Sagonaska Provincial Demonstration Schools is viewed as a Tier 4 intervention, being ideal for students identified as Communication: LD in grades 4 and up (application process for Sagonaksa can begin in grade 4) for students without behavioural or emotion needs that have received Tier 3 intervention and are still not reading. Sagonaska provides intensive reading intervention where the student attends the demonstration school for one school year.

Special Education collaborating with program services department to develop an action plan rooted in evidence-based research and follows the science of reading framed within

the tiers of intervention. This will include professional development for educators and staff and implementation of universal screening.

Discussion Items from the presentation:

The committee discussed the key learnings from the presentation. There was concern for how educators will identify students struggling with reading especially in higher grades, and flushing out underlying issues. Professional development will be offered to support teachers and give them the knowledge to help assess reading pieces without singling out students and deciphering between reading and behavioural challenges that may mask literacy. Want to ensure students don't feel othered that have been able to adapt and accommodate flying under the radar.

The question of what the Inquiry looks like in regards to French Immersion programming was discussed and where to focus first, French or English? French phonetics work very differently than English so there may be smaller groups working within classrooms. PVNCCDSB is still exploring what English interventions at French Immersion schools will look like, but the thought is around grade 2-3 through evidence-based instruction.

Discussion around how students fit reading intervention into their day without classroom work falling behind was discussed. The action plan in response to the Right to Read Inquiry is still in the planning phase at both system and provincial levels. PVNCCDSB is still planning with programs services reviewing screening tools, recommended resources, early intervention and prevention. In the interim, the Board is focusing on reducing gaps for grades 4-12.

A. Correspondence Items:

The following correspondence items were received for information:

1. Upper Grand District School Board - PPM 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings in 2021-2022: new Expectations
2. Near North District School Board - Online Learning Resources and Platforms
3. Superior-Greenstone District School Board - SEAC Virtual Meetings
4. Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board - Proposed Amendments PPM 81 Delegation of Controlled Acts to Non-Regulated Education Workers in Schools

B. Information Items:

1. Information items/updates were received as follows:

- a. PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>
- b. Autism Ontario - May Update (attached)
- c. Community Living Trent Highlands
 - i. May Report (attached)
 - ii. E-Bulletin

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/CLTH-E-Bulletin---Issue-1--2022.html?soid=1111489023037&aid=Jk367FVDpEE>

C. Old Business:

1. Checklist – from PAac on SEAC Discussion

Motion: Sandra Scott

Second: Braden Leal

That the PAaC on SEAC Discussion be deferred to the June 16, 2022 meeting.
Carried

2. PPM 81 Draft Letter - downloading medical procedures onto Special Education Staff – SEAC to review (attached)

Motion: Sandra Scott

Second: Braden Leal

That the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Letter from SEAC in regards to PPM81 as presented.

Carried

3. [Special Education Services: A Guide for Parents/Guardians](#) for SEAC Review

There was a brief discussion of the Parent Guide. The Committee was happy with the information provided to families. PVNCCDSB wants to animate the guide and will continue to update as needed.

4. Motion Tracking:

Motion Date	Subject/Status
February 17, 2022	PPM 172 FASD motion to draft letter
April 21, 2022	PPM 172 FASD draft letter approved as presented
April 21, 2022	PPM 81 Proposed Update Downloading medical procedures onto special education support staff - letter drafted ready for review by SEAC

D. New Business:

None noted.

D. Next Meeting:

1. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers
 - a. Territorial Recognition: Jeannie Armstrong
 - b. Opening Prayer: Shawna Belcourt
 - c. Closing prayer: Sandra Scott

2. 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

6:30-8:30 pm	Virtually
Date	Topic
June 16	Special Education Plan Review

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Laura Di Ianni
2. Adjournment

Moved by: Sandra Scott

Seconded by: Braden Leal

That the meeting held on May 19, 2022 be adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Carried