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## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020  
BOARDROOM/VIRTUAL

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/qmm-omus-twy?authuser=0>

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

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TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY MAEGAN YOUNG, (705) 748-4861 ext. 1213
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### Members:

Arlene Godby (Chair), Laura Dianni, Mandy Hamu, Annie Johnston, Emmanuel Pinto, Helen McCarthy, Kelly Smigielski, Sandra Scott, Shawna Belcourt, Claire Paterson

**Guests:** Donna Goheen, James Mellon, Jennifer Angelo, Mandy Hamu

**Administration:** Laurie Corrigan, Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Laura Dilanni, Steve O’Sullivan

**Recorder:** Alexa Purves

**Absent:** Melissa Gillespie

### A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer: Arlene Godby

2. Land Acknowledgment: Arlene Godby

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.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

Carried

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted

5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

R.A. That, Melissa Gillespie be excused from attendance at the October 15, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.  
Emmanuel and Claire

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the Sept 17, 2020 and October 15, 2020 Meeting.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

Laurie Corrigan reported that the board website has now been updated to include two video links that assist with website navigation, located near the accessibility and translation links on the upper right of the website.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Arlene Godby)

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning (*Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Learning/ Special Education*)

In the last month another period of transitioning for our families who have opted to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Virtual School or to return to school has taken place. Approximately 700 transitions have occurred, most of which have resulted in students returning to their home schools.

Approximately 200 students moved to the STAVCS, and most of them in secondary school. There are now approximately 800 students in virtual secondary school and 1500 in elementary virtual school.

These include 325 students on IEP's in elementary school, 163 which are identified. It includes 360 IEP's in secondary school, which includes 232 identified. SERTS in home schools will continue to help support their students virtually including IEP review, Identification Placement and Review, and the scheduling of special education support staff to assist those students who have opted to learn virtually. Support of a central special education consultant has been appointed as well to support learners in the virtual school.

A reprieve from the Special Incidence Portion process by the Ministry of Education has been given this year. Funding is expected to take place on the basis of previous and new claims. Further information will be coming.

Training of staff new to the virtual school has also included training in supporting exceptional learners virtually. Technology has been distributed or collected depending upon the needs of the students and families who are opting to learn virtually.

At present, Holy Trinity Catholic SS has reported one case of COVID. The individual who is ill is at home isolating and will return to school when they have recovered.

The school will remain open. Staff and students who are NOT directly advised to stay home are deemed low risk and should continue to attend school and self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at the current time.

Finally, a new Director of Education has been appointed. Joan Carragher will assume the position in January of 2021. Joan is currently Superintendent of Human Resources and was previously Superintendent of Special Education and Peterborough Family of Schools. SEAC extended congratulations to our new Director.

### 3. Update from Trustees:

The trustees welcomed new Director of Education, Joan Carragher. Emmanuel updated SEAC about the Equity and Inclusive Education Directional Policy. It is Caring and Safe Schools Week at PVNC Catholic.

## C. Discussion Items:

### A. SEAC Meeting Presentations

1. Be Well Strategy Review, Jenifer Angelo and Mandy Hamu
  - i. A short discussion of the presentation took place. SEAC members were asked to complete the survey to obtain feedback on the [BE Well Strategy](#) which is being renewed this year.
2. Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-discrimination with Steve O'Sullivan and Donna Goheen
  - i. A discussion of the presentation took place

### B. Information Items:

1. Reports from SEAC Committee Members:  
[Autism Ontario November 2020 Report](#)

### A. Old Business:

- a. None

### B. New Business:

In light of the pandemic and auditory connectivity problems, a motion was made - to hold future SEAC meetings virtually until Covid-19 allows in person meetings again.

Motion carried

For the 10<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting, Laurie was asked to identify and report back meeting possibilities for the January meeting.

**G. Next Meeting:**

**1. 2020-2021 Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – Transitions Elementary to Secondary and Post-Secondary

Thursday, February 18, 2021 – School and Community Collaboration

Thursday, March 25, 2021 – Mental Health Strategies and Support for Students

Thursday, April 29, 2021 – Role of EA Facilitator and Itinerant EA's

Thursday, May 27, 2021 – Teacher of the Blind

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – Role of the Special Education Consultant

Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, and Special Education Plan Review

10th Meeting PD/TBD

Location: Board office and virtually

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement: Laurie

Closing Prayer: Laura Dilanni

**H. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Arlene Godby

2. Adjournment

Kelly and Clare, Motioned