

The Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Trustees/Members	Clare Paterson (Chairperson), Tiffany Thickson, Kathleen Tanguay
Guests	Linda Gendron, Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Tenesia Benjamin
Absent/Regards	Shawna Belcourt, Kylee Baker, Della Stewart-Figuera,
Administration Recorder	Jonathan Di Ianni, Karen Spenceley Ashleigh Faulkner

1. **Call to Order**

- a) Land Acknowledgement - Clare Paterson
- b) Opening Prayer - Jonathan Di Ianni
- c) Approval of Agenda
MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Tiffany Thickson that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting agenda of October 17, 2024 be approved as presented.
Carried
- d) Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
There were none.
- e) Excusal from Attendance
Kylee Baker, Shawna Belcourt
MOTION: Moved by Tiffany Thickson seconded by Kathleen Tanguay
Carried
- f) Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2024
Approval has been deferred to the next meeting
- g) Business Arising from the Minutes
There was none.

2. **Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

- a) Remarks: Chairperson, Clare Paterson for Kylee Baker
- b) Remarks: Superintendent Jonathan Di Ianni
Superintendent Di Ianni welcomed back trustee Tanguay, thank you to Trustee Leahy at the last meeting. Thank you to the Committee members for their contributions and energy to this committee. Welcomed Stephanie as a guest today with a recommendation further on in the agenda. Thank you to the presenters for today's meeting, Karen Spencely, Cynthia Chan Reynolds and Tenesia Benjamin. Superintendent Di Ianni reviewed the process of updating the Special Education Plan and thanked the Committee for contributions to the Special Education Plan.
- c) Update from Trustee: Kathleen Tanguay
The next Board meeting will be presenting the response to the Ministry. OCTSA was looking for input on the safety and wellbeing of children and special education. This was two of the four topics.
- d) SESIPSAW
Karen Spencely, VP of Special Education shared the Special Education Plan. Tied directly to our Catholic Education Plan (CBIPSAW) which includes the 3 pillars being creative, being well, being community. Each discipline within Special Education reviewed and determined what their targeted strategies would be and progress indicators to meet the goals. A common theme was supporting students and schools through a trauma informed lens.
- e) Building Brave, Equitable and Accessible Spaces Update
Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist and Tenesia Benjamin, Board Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor presented on the Building Brave, Equitable and Accessible Spaces Update. Professional Development conducted in multiple series. First series focused on building understanding of the Third Path, Trauma Informed Lens, and Regulation. The second series focused on concepts of restorative practices. In the following series, schools were invited to move into Implementation Planning stages. Many elements from the Third Path were included in Equity and professional development. Three sessions were held with the Equity Leads from each school, with larger schools able to have additional staff attend. Training topics included social location, identity affirming practices and care. We also planned identity affirming projects and programs that included Black history month and Asian Heritage month opening ceremonies.
- f) Special Education Plan Update
Karen Spencely, Vice Principal of Special Education presented to the Committee. Reflective of the Special Education at the Board, has to be reviewed annually and there are specific criteria that needs to be included. This plan can be found on the Board website.

From the presentations:

- I. What are the key learnings from the presentation?
- II. What do parents need to know?

- III. What options exist to get this information to parents?
- IV. How can SEAC support parents in this process?
- V. What can your associations/organizations add specifically to the learning today if any?
- VI. What should be sent out to families in the DID YOU KNOW from SEAC?

3. Information Items: (If there is any action/discussion that should be recorded)

- a) PVNCCDSB Board of Trustee Minutes and Agendas
<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/our-board/board-meetings/>
- b) Organizational Updates
Tiffany Thicksen provided an update on the removal of funding.

4. Old Business:

none

5. New Business:

- a) Tentative Meeting topics for 2024-2025 Special Education Advisory Committee:

Date	Topic
September 26, 2024	
October 17, 2024	
November 21, 2024	
December 12, 2024	
January 23, 2025	
February 20, 2025	
March 20, 2025	
April 17, 2025	
May 22, 2025	
June 19, 2025	

- b. **MACSE Collaboration Review**
The final report was shared with the Committee members. Superintendent Di Ianni shared a summary with the Committee.
- C. **Putting forward recommended action to the PVNCCDSB Board of Trustees to add one new member to the Special Education Advisory Committee.**
 - R.A. that Stephanie Powers Interim Executive Director Down Syndrome Association, be approved as a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the remaining term of the November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026.
 - MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay seconded by Tiffany Thicksen

6. Next Meeting:

- a) Thursday, November 21, 2024 1 p.m. - Boardroom
- b) Selection of Members.
 - I. Territorial Recognition - Kathleen Tanguay
 - II. Opening Prayer - Tiffany Thicksen
 - III. Closing Prayer - Jonathan Di Ianni

7. Conclusion:

- a) Closing Prayer: Karen Spenceley
- b) Motion for Adjournment
MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay seconded by Tiffany Thicksen that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of October 17, 2024 be adjourned at 2:11 p.m.
Carried