

The Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Trustees/Members Shawna Belcourt, Kylee Baker, Jenny Leahy, Clare Paterson

Guests Della Stewart-Figuera, Linda Gendron, Jennifer Angelo/Meghan Catton

Absent/Regards Tiffany Thicksen, Kathleen Tanguay

Administration Jonathan Di Ianni, Karen Spenceley  
Recorder Ashleigh Faulkner

1. **Call to Order**

a) Land Acknowledgement - Clare Paterson

b) Opening Prayer - Karen Spenceley

c) Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Clare Paterson seconded by Shawna Belcourt that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting agenda of September 26, 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried

d) Declarations of Conflicts of Interest  
There were none.

e) Excusal from Attendance  
Kathleen Tanguay

f) Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2024

MOTION: Moved by Shawna Belcourt, seconded by Clare Paterson that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting Minutes of June 13, 2024 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

g) Business Arising from the Minutes  
There was none.

## 2. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

- a) Remarks: Chairperson, Kylee Baker  
Kylee welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  
- b) Remarks: Superintendent Jonathan Di Ianni  
Superintendent Di Ianni welcomed the group. Thanked Shawna for her time as Chair and thanked Kylee for taking on the role of chair for SEAC.  
Still working with the Ministry, other Boards in regards to the letters that we had sent. He then welcomed the group back and the presenters for today's meeting.  
Planning for the current year in Special Education. A number of memos have been shared with information and professional development for staff. Staff have been busy visiting the schools to support students and school staff. BMS training, PPR training coming up this Friday for the PA Day.
  
- c) Update from Trustee: Jenny Leahy  
Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association (OCSTA) Regional meeting last week. Met with other Boards to discuss common topics. The Provincial Trustee Association does a great deal of advocacy with the Ministry to get more funding for Boards. Transportation funding is a concern, this is not funded for separately and this is something the Province is also aware of. Supply coverage continues to be an obstacle but hopefully this will be mitigated by various things being put in place. Our Board has various camps in the summer that help students with transition back to school (Summer Mental Health, ASSDP).
  
- d) Summer Program Presentation - Jennifer Angelo/Meghan Catton  
The Board received funding for summer programs. This year we were allowed to broaden what we offered as the funding opened up the staff that we could utilize in the programs- Social workers, SLP's, EA's, and SERT's. Strong Kids camp, allowed kids to have a fun camp experience and learn methods of how to handle stress. This program ran for 4 weeks throughout the summer at various locations. There was a lot of positive feedback from the families after the camp was completed.  
Start Strong, transition to secondary school. This program was structured for students who may be experiencing extra stress or anxiety about transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9. All students were between 8-11, nominated by the SERT and had a diagnosis of Autism. This program ran for 2 weeks. Educators, 2 Speech Language Pathologist, and Autism Support Worker were available to support the program. There was a lot of positive feedback and students were able to connect socially between schools, retain skills and students showed growth and confidence by the end of the week.

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

c)

Shawna Belcourt - In partnership with 5 Counties, they hosted a TrailBlazer Group for medically complex kids. The group was able to visit Wind Reach Farms and also had a visit from the Peterborough Petes. There were a variety of day trips, including fishing, horseback riding, cat world, and a beach day.

Clare Paterson - We had 36 children from the infant development program enter schools this year. Referrals for play therapy and mental health programs slowed for the summer but have increased as school started.

**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	

Superintendent Di Ianni reviewed some ideas for topics for the 2024-2025 school year and is looking for input from the group. If there are any additional ideas or presentations you would like to bring to the SEAC Committee, please share with

- b) MACSE Collaboration Due October 15, 2024. If there is additional input you would like to have on that document, please share with Ashleigh and we will combine to create the final letter.
- c) Shawna Belcourt, brought forward a name of a possible new member. Ashleigh will follow up.

**6. Next Meeting:**

- a) Thursday, October 17, 2024 1 p.m. - Boardroom
- b) Selection of Members.
  - I. Territorial Recognition - Clare Paterson
  - II. Opening Prayer - Jonathan Di Ianni
  - III. Closing Prayer - Shawna Belcourt

**7. Conclusion:**

- a) Closing Prayer: Jonathan Di Ianni
- b) Motion for Adjournment  
 MOTION: Moved by Shawna Belcourt seconded by Jenny Leahy that the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of September 26, 2024 be adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Carried