

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 4, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm

Virtual: meet.google.com/icp-zxar-gdr

Chairperson: Laura Di Ianni
Blakely

Recorder: Vicki

Members: Joshua Glover, Adam White, Chantal Bouillon, Vicki Blakely, Corrie McInroy, Daniel Piggott, Della Stewart-Figueira, Jennifer Angelo, Julianne Charette, Justin Kroezen, Laura Di Ianni, Melissa Featherstone, Richard Driscoll, Sean Heuchert, Theresa Godin, Jeannie Armstrong

Absent: Eric Hansen, Galen Eagle, Grace Murphy, Darren Kahler, Teri Smith, Joel Sloggett, Kasey Sager, Kevin MacKenzie, Nora Shaughnessy

A. Call to Order

1. Land Acknowledgement - Laura Di Ianni
2. Opening Prayer - Della Stewart-Figueira
3. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Trustee Report as it relates to the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association and the Catholic Student Leadership Awards

4. Approval of the agenda

Motion: Adam White
Second: Melissa Featherstone
That the Accessibility for All Committee Meeting Agenda of Thursday, May 4, 2023 be approved with additions.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes from the February 2, 2023

Motion: Joshua Glover
Second: Chantal Bouillon
That the Minutes of the February 2, 2023 Accessibility for All Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business arising from the minutes
 - a. There was none.

B. Information and Discussion Items

1. Trustee Update - Joshua Glover

Trustee Glover provided an Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association Annual General Meeting update - where trustees were provided an overview of the Grant for Student Needs (GSN), learning recovery fund and the end of the tutoring program. The money previously allocated to the tutoring program will be reallocated with different expectations. The transportation funding formula is being revised, focusing on provincial labour. The Early Reading Fund has been announced. No updates in regards to accessibility, but safe and clean schools were addressed. The OCSTA priorities will focus on increasing multi-year funding in support of the learning recovery, faith development and special education funding. Trustees can bring motions forward at the annual general meeting, something for the committee to be mindful of.

The Catholic Student Leadership Awards were held last night. The event was phenomenal, highly attended, with great food and a wonderful reception. It would be a good opportunity for special needs students to be celebrated going forward.

2. **Accessibility Grant** - Anchoring Accessibility & Inclusion through Relationship and Belonging: The Third Path ([supporting final recommendations of the AODA's K-12 March 2022 Report](#))
 - a. **Update and Feedback from participating schools:** Julianne Charette, Principal, St. Catherine's; Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Lead; T. Benjamin, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor; C. Chan-Reynolds, Board Psychologist; L. Di Ianni, Vice-Principal of Special Education Services

Laura Di Ianni discussed the grant process and outcome for the Supporting Students with Disabilities Grant that PVNCCDSB received. The presentation highlighted The Third Path professional development being offered and the delivery methodology. The professional development has taken place in three phases, Phase 1: Building Awareness, Phase 2: Preparation and Phase 3: Implementation. The pilot schools have been divided into regions, providing learning at a retreat-like experience using such locations as Hiawatha First Nation, Ganaraska Forest Centre and Trent University First Peoples House of Learning.

Accessibility is more than our physical space. Phase 2 offered restorative practice training and universal design for learning understanding. Universal design for learning addresses the physical space but accommodates in so many other ways.

Principal of St. Catherine CES, Julianne Charette discussed her school's experience with The Third Path professional development. St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School is a large school in Peterborough with dual stream, English and French Immersion. The training reinforces that all kids have the right to learn in the way they learn, to be successful. This opportunity came up, based on how can this learning support students in french immersion that may have learning difficulties and not have the only strategy be to move them to the English stream. The team was chosen with like minded individuals who have a strong influence on their peers. Only 1 student has moved from French Immersion to English track this year. That's significantly different from previous years. Previously if a student was diagnosed with a learning challenge it was usually treated as "they shall" move to English. Now, changes are in place to support the student in French. Regardless of the language of instruction, the accommodations need to be in place either way, working to support the students. One of the biggest impacts has been the circles training. The staff have enjoyed it, and have seen positive outcomes from it.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) - Principal Charette shared the love of UDL - and how they have leveraged the principles of UDL for all their students as part of their school improvement plan. Today the students are having a talent show and looking around the gym, the kids had what they needed to participate and be included. Some had noise cancelling headphones on, others with lap lizards, some sitting in the hall with the ability to see the stage. It all leads back to the third path - safety, relationship building. It's been transformative for the team and the seeds that they have planted throughout the school.

Feedback from the professional development was reviewed with positive feedback: location offsite, circles giving everyone a voice, and the idea of facilitators promoting well-being and learning as educators were all examples provided.

Mental Health Lead, Jennifer Angelo added that universal design for learning combined with the Indigenous pedagogy through the Medicine Wheel promoted inclusivity.

PVNCCDSB is looking to re-apply for the grant to continue learning and/or engage the schools that have not participated yet.

Consultant Adam White - spoke to and fully endorsed re-applying to the grant. He discussed that as someone with a visible physical disability, he wished this professional development could have been implemented into his school growing up. Growing up the attitudinal and social barriers were often the strongest barriers, and how this training is adding so many tools to educators' toolboxes to support students.

3. Environmental Accessibility for vision needs in our schools, in relation to our multi-year plan - Theresa Godin

Theresa Godin, in discussing with Richard Driscoll, Manager of Facilities, about a few items in our schools, quickly discovered that all of the vision features needing to be implemented into our schools will now be required into public spaces as per the AODA by 2025. Implementation will start right away for buildings with students that require this, and then will move forward with a plan to update all schools across the board. Many of these are paint related, requiring hours of painting, including colour contrasting paint between double doors.

The Ministry of Education will be auditing schools and working on updating the formula in regards to cost. At the end of June PVNCCDSB will be reviewed. When reports are received, they will be shared with the committee. Schools have to be audited every 5 years. This year we will have 10-12 schools that are due for an audit. From there facilities will review what capital requirements are needed and the cost of getting them compliant. PVNCCDSB needs approximately \$20 million in accessibility updates. The Ministry will likely extend the deadline to be compliant by 2025, due to funding shortages.

4. **Department Plans and Updates:** in reviewing the updated [2022-2023 Multi-year Accessibility Plan and Compliance Report](#) and the [IASR requirements](#) particular to your specific departments, updates from stakeholders:
 - a. Plant
 - i. Universal Washroom is being installed at 120 St. Mary CES Campbellford. Anytime plumbing is changed/updated an universal washroom must be installed. Any painting projects this summer will implement the recommendations Theresa Godin, Itinerant Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision has provided.
 - ii. Trustee Glover asked about the accessibility plan for the students moving from St. Elizabeth CES to St. Stephen CSS. Plant advised that any washrooms in the porta pack are not required to be universal but there is one required in the main building, which St. Stephen CSS is compliant with.
 - b. IT
 - i. All of the websites are still beyond the 4.2 (2 points above) education benchmark.
 - c. Transportation
 - i. No accessibility updates other than we are saying goodbye to Joel Sloggett, CAO of STSCO tomorrow. Roy Meringa will begin in the role as CAO Monday. He has over 30 years of experience and has accessibility experiences through his previous work. PVNCCDSB is excited to welcome him.

- ii. Next year is our last year with our current agreement with our bus operators. We will incorporate our accessibility policies into the RFPs as we work towards new contracts.
- d. Special Education
 - i. Special Education Resource Teacher professional development will include Special Transportation Requests. Specialized Equipment Allotment Report due in May to the Ministry of Education.
- e. Human Resources
 - i. No updates - compliant with Human Resource Policies.
 - ii. Compliant in the recent desk audit executed by the Ministry.
- f. Health and Safety
 - i. None
- g. Communications
 - i. None
- h. CUPE
 - i. None
- i. OECTA
 - i. None

C. Conclusion

1. Next Steps
 - a. National Accessibility Awareness Week - sub committee working away celebrating the week (first of June)
2. Future Meetings
 - a. Tentative Accessibility for All Meetings 2023-2024:
 - i. Thursday, October 12, 2023 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - ii. Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - iii. Thursday, May 9, 2024 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
3. Closing Prayer - Joshua Glover
4. Adjournment
 - Motion: Melissa Featherstone
 - Second: Della Stewart-Figueira
 - That the May 4, 2023 Accessibility For All Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Carried