

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

S.E.A.C. Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Google Meet Code: meet.google.com/xsk-rbmq-dxc Phone Numbers: (US)+1 402-732-7307 PIN 857 873 025#

Attendance: Rose Burton Spohn, Joe Chilelli, Theresa Coccimiglio, Lorna Connolly Beattie,

Irma DiRenzo, Lori Ivey, Sherri Kitts, Tina Newell, Jacques Ribout,

Gary Trembinski, Rosanne Zagordo

Student Trustees and Guests: Lucas Marano, Adam Morgenstern, Tanya Running, Tanya Vommaro

Regrets: Sandra Turco, Jared Lambert

	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
1.	PRAYER FOR SEAC • Welcome Jacques Ribout • Google Meet support	 Board prayer was said by all. Google Meet features were outlined as this was our first Google Meet meeting. 	Rosanne Zagordo Joe Chilelli	
2.	ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (January 27, 2021)	Minutes were accepted.	Lori Ivey Tina Newell	

			
3.	AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES		
4.	GUEST(s): REPORTS • SMC Trustees • Tanya Vommaro • Tanya Running	 Third quadmester has started at SMC. There have been many student council events, with the theme Show Your Love. Events such as dress down theme days and Valentine Bingo were planned. Student Council events in March are being planned and are free. Ms. Pelletier is in the process of setting up transition to secondary meetings with the elementary panel. These meetings are for students transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9 and have an IEP or have been through the IPRC process. Integrated Transition Planning (ITP) meetings are scheduled in April for students who are 14+ who have an Intellectual Disability or Autism. ILS classes have not been too busy due to some covid protocols which have restricted their visits in the community. A video is being developed about the Speciality Programs offered at SMC by the ILS teachers and student council. Tanya Vommaro is a parent of a child with special needs who is currently in highschool at SMC. Her son has complex medical needs who relies completely on his caregivers. In the elementary school Tanya was pleased with the caring support her son was provided. She participated in regular IPRC meetings that helped to strengthen his circle of care. She has had consistent EA support who has been provided with updated PD and medical instruction for her son. She is currently looking at services that extend beyond age 21 once her child graduates. Tanya Running is a parent who spoke about her 	Lucas Marano Adam Morgenstern Tanya Vommaro
		son as he was diagnosed early with mild ASD. She talked about her son's EA support that slowly was faded back as he gained independence. She talked about the transition to secondary school	Tanya Running
		meetings and how that helped him to transition to	

		 secondary and answer any questions the family had. Moving forward, it would be helpful for new parents of children with special needs to have opportunities to attend meetings explaining special education terms, school supports and services as they relate to the IEP. 	
5.	MINISTRY UPDATES	 The ministry sent out an admission package to the Provincial School for any students who may need to attend for needs related to vision, hearing or learning disabilities. Targeted testing in schools for asymptomatic covid testing on a weekly basis will begin for students and staff. We are supplied a vendor for asymptomatic students who will pilot our region and work alongside our health unit. It will be voluntary and the least invasive kind. Consent is required. There is talk of a temporary certificate of qualification for candidates who are in their second year of Teachers College. Revised screening tool has been issued. If they have one symptom now, all the members of the family need to stay home. This will have a dramatic impact on our schools and classrooms New PPM 165 for new teacher hiring practice needs to be developed by March 31. March break has now been moved to April 12-16, 2021 from March, 15-19, 2021. PD day has been moved from April 30 to March 19, 2021. 	Rose Burton Spohn
6.	SEAC BUSINESS • Letter from CDSBO • Letter from DDSB	Letter from Catholic District School Board of Ontario has outlined their support for Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This proposed legislation will require all boards of education throughout Ontario to develop policies and guidelines with respect to FASD and require the Ontario College of Teachers and ECE programs to provide training with respect to FASD.	Rosanne Zagordo

		Letter from Durham District School Board states that as staff and students in Durham District School Board and the rest of the province pivot again to remote learning, members of SEAC would like to encourage the Ministry of Education to strengthen its commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) by ensuring provincial online learning resources, and platforms used to access said resources, are accessible to all students. As well they would like to remind the Ministry that there is an urgent need to update and continue to ensure that previously-created content remains or becomes accessible	
7.	BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD •		
8.	SUPERINTENDENT AND COORDINATOR'S REPORT PD day Feb. 5, 2021 Virtual Learning CCAT and Lexia MH update	 EAs, Kim Lepore and Melinda Boulard presented at the Board meeting on Wednesday February 17, 2021. On our February 5, 2021 PA day, EAs enrolled in an 10 hour online course offered through the Geneva Centre- Sonderly titled Introduction to Autism. Enrollment in the Virtual school has gone up. This includes an additional classroom being added and 10 EAs. Small group instruction is occurring through the use of break out rooms in Google Meet. The Special Education Department has been involved in the virtual academy,which includes self regulation lessons, virtual counselling, consulting and training with Assistive Technology. CCAT results are being sent to the schools which provide a lot of information surrounding a students learning profile. This information can be used on multiple levels for schools. Lexia is a reading program that provides personalized instruction and used for ELL and students suspected with an LD. Curriculum dept and Special Education are piloting the program 	Joe Chilelli Rosanne Zagordo

		 and supporting schools with PD and licence access. Mental Health updates include the peer supervision model to support our counsellors. They have also completed a course through Children's Mental Health Ontario. Erin Turpin, the new student and family counsellor who is temporarily replacing Sara Lepore, has transitioned very well. St. Paul has benefited from Erin's new schedule as it supports SSP and the student body at St. Paul. Karissa Campbell, Student and Family Counsellor, put on a virtual game day at St. Basil. The Mental Health, written by Jared Lambert was shared this month. 	
i	North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)	No report at this time.	Sherri Kitts
ii	AUTISM ONTARIO SSM CHAPTER PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (I. DiRenzo)	 Self Regulation, the community of practice is having a book study. Staff from Special Education are participating in the book study. 	Irma Direnzo
iii	ALGOMA FAMILY SERVICES (T. Coccimiglio)	 AFS is in its 11 month working from home with a rotating schedule for staff. They offer face to face, virtual and phone meetings to clients. Taming sneaky fears, 4-7 is for clients only. PsychoEducational group for Anxiety and depression is being offered. Dr. Ulzen is coming Mar 1-4, 2021. 	Theresa Coccimiglio
V	ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH (L. Ivey)	.APH is predominately virtual.	Lori Ivey
Vİ	THRIVE – WELL BEING COMMITTEE (T. Newell)	 THRIVE is primarily virtual with clients, then they have priority scales for some clients to come into the centre.THRIVE is offering support for Respite support and Training for Respite workers. FREE Training for Parents & Caregivers To Help Find The Best Respite Worker (kidsthrive.ca) We Are Offering FREE Training for New Respite Providers (kidsthrive.ca) 	Tina Newell

viii	COMMUNITY LIVING ALGOMA (J. Ribout)	 Access to high speed internet, needs to be equitable across the board, along with assistive devices. 	Jacques Ribout
Х	MEMBER-AT-LARGE – FOCUS ON FAITH (L. Connolly Beattie)	 THRIVE has been in touch with Sault College students about working as a respite worker. 	Lorna Connollly Beattie
xi	TRUSTEES REPORT Sandra Turco- Chair, Gary Trembinski- Vice Chair	No report at this time.	Sandra Turco Gary Trembinski
9.	Notes:	Adjournment at 5:50 pm	Lori Ivy Gary Trembinski

Minutes by: Rosanne Zagordo

Next Meeting: March 31, 2021

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.