



# Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### S.E.A.C

### Minutes

**Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2019**

**Place: Board Office - Mtg. Room 2**

**Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Attendance:** Rosanne Zagordo, Theresa Coccimiglio, Suzanne Pleau, Tina Newell, Lorna Connolly Beattie, Irma DiRenzo, Sherri Kitts, Rose Burton Spohn, Paula Valois, Jared Lambert, Vicki Kearn, Jared Lambert, Lori Ivey

**SMC Student Trustees and Guests:** Anthony DeLorenzi, Lucas Marano

**Regrets:** Joe Chilelli, Sandra Turco, Gary Trembinski, Marty Young

AGENDA ITEMS		ACTION	WHO	WHEN
1.	PRAYER FOR SEAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAC prayer was said by all.</li> </ul>	All	
2.	ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (September 25, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were accepted.</li> </ul>	Sherri Lori	
3.	AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nick D'Amato was in attendance to share his role with the Board. He is the Special Education Consultant who supports the EAST schools on a weekly basis and visits the NORTH schools on a needs basis.</li> </ul>		
4.	GUEST(s): REPORTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Trustees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMC is hosting a special education basketball tournament. Specific student questionnaires have</li> </ul>	Anthony Lucas	



		<p>East. He serves as a link to the Special Education Coordinator and supports the system initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jared Lambert, is our new Mental Health Lead for the Board. He oversees, the way Mental Health is intervened and handled at the board level including certain initiatives. He has a lot of involvement with community partners and school teams. He has a staff wellness approach and has started an emotional wellness newsletter that is sent to all staff. This newsletter will be sent to SEAC as well.</li> </ul>		
5.	MINISTRY UPDATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no reports/updates at this time.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p>SEAC BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC meetings</li> <li>• Behaviour Team Referral Form</li> <li>• SBRS- OT/PT/Speech</li> <li>• BMS- New Trainers</li> <li>• Wellness Coach-EAST</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC meeting in November will be hosted by Laurie MacEachern, principal of Holy Name of Jesus in Hornepayne.</li> <li>• The behaviour team referral form was reviewed.</li> <li>• THRIVE will begin taking referrals for OT/PT and Speech December 1, 2019</li> <li>• Lorrain Belanger is the Wellness Coach for the East Schools.</li> <li>• SEAC meeting in January will be hosted by Fil Lettieri, principal of St. Basil in Sault Ste Marie.</li> </ul>	Rosanne Zagordo	
7.	BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD			
8.	<p>SUPERINTENDENT AND COORDINATOR'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQAO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In primary and junior literacy, our students with special needs outperformed the province (direct comparison)</li> <li>• A better comparison might be to look at the gap between all HSCDSB students and those with special needs and compare to the province.</li> <li>• For example, in primary reading and writing, the gap would be 18% and 9 % respectively. For the province the gaps are 25% and 22%. This shows we have done a good job in closing the gap for our students with special needs (relative to the province)</li> <li>• Our Boards gap achievement gap between all students and students with special needs was</li> </ul>	Rose Burton Spohn	

		<p>better than the province in all categories and all grade levels except academic mathematics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both at the board and provincial level, students with special needs did not fare as well.</li><li>• Writing is a real strength for us, especially at the junior level, where the full benefits of assistive technology are realized.</li><li>• Something odd happened at the secondary academic level. This may be related to students or parents who selected the incorrect stream.</li><li>• Next steps include working closely with our numeracy team who are providing targeted support.</li><li>• It is important to recognize that the scores for students with special needs will typically be lower, as they encompass students with varying exceptionalities, including those working on modified or alternative programs.</li><li>• How do we account for our gap closing for students with special needs? Accommodations vary from student to student, but some include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of assistive technology</li><li>• Accommodations such as large print or audio version</li><li>• Additional time, providing a quiet area to write.</li><li>• Use of scribes</li><li>• Preexposure to testing situations so students know what to expect -reduce anxiety.</li><li>• Provide time to build relationships with adult scribe so students feel comfortable</li><li>• Preparations occur all year – our students particularly benefit from the use anchor charts for writing</li><li>• Practice with inferencing and making connections</li><li>• Providing some problem solving frameworks</li><li>• Practice with multiple choice type questions</li></ul></li></ul>		
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9.	ASSOCIATION REPORTS			
i	North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natalie Barry and Diane Roach are filling in for Sherri Kit. Marney Yourchuk will be in attendance for the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Sherri Kitts	
ii	AUTISM ONTARIO SSM CHAPTER PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (I. DiRenzo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 4-7 there will be an ultra informative . workshop The website will be sent out to Rosanne to forward to SEAC and others.</li> </ul>	Irma Dizenzo	
iii	ALGOMA FAMILY SERVICES (T. Coccimiglio)			
iv	SSM DOWN SYNDROME SOC. (S. Pleau)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 1-7 is National Down Syndrome Day.</li> <li>TED talk by Karen Gaffney has been recommended.</li> </ul>	Suzanne Pleau	
v	ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH (L. Ivey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition meeting was held today at APH for new students with special needs moving to the school board. HSCDSB will be attending transition meetings starting January 13-17, 2020.</li> </ul>	Lori Ivey	
vi	THRIVE – WELL BEING COMMITTEE ( T. Newell)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEO of THRIVE, Christianne Monico has resigned.</li> <li>Susan Vanagas Cote has agreed to step in for a short while until a new CEO is hired.</li> </ul>	Tina Newell	
vii	COMMUNITY LIVING ALGOMA			
x	MEMBER-AT-LARGE (P. Valois)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paula may be planning a visit to St. Joseph school. She said the librarian at that school is a welcoming provides a positive and inviting place to work and learn. The librarian runs a girls groups. There are roughly 60 students who attend St. Joseph School</li> </ul>	Paula Valois	
xi	MEMBER-AT-LARGE – FOCUS ON FAITH (L. Connolly Beattie)			
xii	TRUSTEES REPORT (G. Trembinski)			
10.	NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjournment @ 6:05 pm</li> </ul>	Suzanne Pleau	

			Sherri Kitts	
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Next Meeting: November 27, 2019

Place: Board Office - Meeting Room 2 (SKYPE with Holy Name of Jesus Principal, L. MacEachern)

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Teleconference #      Toll Free:                    1-866-602-6731  
Conference ID:                    4626234

\* Please submit Association Report one week prior to scheduled SEAC meeting.