



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Microsoft Teams – 6:00 to 7:50 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark  
County Support Services  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community  
Hospital  
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network  
Tom Jordan, Family and Children's Services  
of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville  
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network  
(Alternate)  
Cathy Knapp-Fisher, Family and Children's  
Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville  
(Alternate)

#### **Approved Regrets with notification:**

Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark  
Children and Youth

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School  
Effectiveness  
Renee Rozon, Principal of Special Education  
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special  
Education

#### **Guests:**

Johanna Whalen, Parent, Mother Teresa,  
Russell  
Trudy Scott, President – CUPE  
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. Sue welcomed Renee Rozon to SEAC as Principal of Special Education. Sue went on to say that Renee had joined a very dynamic, dedicated team of members who are there for the betterment of all students within our Board and we look forward to working in partnership with you and wish you success in your new role.

### **Opening Prayer**

Renee Rozon led the group in a prayer entitled, "A Prayer for Lenten Grace".

**I. Approval of Amended Agenda – Section VIII**

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

**II. Sharing January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Minutes**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Motion:**

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Amanda Banfield

CARRIED

**III. Presentation: Sharing Changes in the Child-welfare System – Tom Jordan, Cathie Knapp-Fisher**

Cathie Knapp-Fisher thanked the Board for their support over the years. She asked committee members to ask questions and comment on the content. Cathie shared the history of child welfare including, the 60's scoop which is now helping us to understand what is happening today with our indigenous population. Child, Youth and Family Services have changed over time because of poor outcomes for children. Today Child, Youth and Family Services are putting the child's voice at the forefront.

In the year 2020, child welfare was re-designed with the mantra that "child welfare is everybody's business". The new design is based on five pillars with the rights and voice of the child and family at the centre. PREVENTION in collaboration with the community is highlighted.

The agency is trying to change their mindset through anti-oppressive and anti-racist practice. They understand the importance of kinship and are working with all supports involved. FCSLLG has an over-representation of indigenous children and youth. All staff have had training in equity and are committed to changing the nature of their work. Educators and police are the biggest reporters but need to understand that kids do not do well in care. There are alternatives to foster care and by connecting with family members and community supports, the children taken into care can be limited. The signs of the safety practice model is based on building meaningful relationships based on family need, focused on the child's safety, and respects the families beliefs and values that parents are the experts of their own lives. All families have signs of safety and the agency respects the family's cultural identity. By building the framework together with parents they begin to understand how to keep their children safe.

The five pillars include:

- Strengthening family well-being and early intervention.

- Quality of care – training for caregivers.
- Strengthening youth supports – stable and life-long connections, now supporting children over 21, a new group created to support youth transitioning.
- Improving stability and permanence – improving the adoption experience for all.
- System accountability and sustainability – an efficient and effective system that is financially sustainable.

#### **IV. Association Updates**

##### **Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield**

- TSS is functioning in a virtual capacity – building and maintaining relationships with participants and their families/caregivers, providing ongoing employment supports to currently employed participants as needed. Support is provided virtually, assisting individuals and families in crisis, attending annual planning meetings and participating in transition planning.
- TSS continues to be available as a resource to schools and families to better understand the adult system and assist in navigating the adult system and life-long planning.
- Re-opened for in-person supports February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

##### **Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More**

###### Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – Audrey MacFarlane Lakeland Centre for FASD – Rural Diagnostic model

###### New Initiatives:

- Elizabeth Holmes has been hired to serve as Youth Programming Coordinator, focusing on peer mentorship for girls and women with FASD.
- AGM held with four new directors elected including Ashley Delle Palme, a woman with FASD.
- Beckwith Tech Camp will be hosting a spring session starting in April on Lynx Coding. Instructors will be three young ladies ages 16, 14 and 11, who come from CDSBEO and OCSB.
- Hosted Pateresa Winter on February 20<sup>th</sup>, who presented on the evidence-based transitional planning model from Northern Alberta and NWT for people with FASD.

###### Other Information:

- Our new brochure has been released showing the programming and services we are currently providing.
- Due to over 70 families currently being served by the FASD worker for the counties of Leeds-Grenville and Lanark, MCCSS has approved funding for the hiring of a second worker. Mariah De Longhi remains the Leeds-Grenville worker and Shannon Russell is the new Lanark worker from Kids Inclusive.
- Citizen Advocacy has changed its name to ABLE2 and Nancy Lockwood, Program Manager has left. Manon Kelso is the new manager for SDG and Prescott-Russell FASD workers.

**Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey**

- Moved back to more in-person care.
- Back in schools to provide clinical services.
- All groups are virtual, and parents are finding this works well.
- Lots of suicidality coming through.
- The Ministry is allowing carry over of temporary funding for COVID. This will provide an additional master therapist and a nurse two days a week.
- Waitlists are at a manageable level now.
- Youth Justice facilities closing April 30<sup>th</sup> – blow to the community.
- Met with Dianne Gauthier, Behaviour Crisis Consultant to review pathway for infants and toddlers.

**Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan**

**Current Initiatives:**

- Published and released our Statement on Equity in the Fall of 2020.
- Supported and promoted Bell Let’s Talk Day on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Continuing to promote Black History Month 2021.
- Celebrated Pink Shirt Day on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Other Information:**

- Effective February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit advised that our area has returned to the “Green – Protect” COVID-19 status.
  - Therefore, our Brockville and Smiths Falls offices are open to the public.
  - Carleton Place and Perth offices are open to the public by appointment only.

**V. Department Update**

Plan in place to create a flyer to share with families and schools around invisible disabilities.

Increasing EA allocations in several schools.

Speech/Language Pathologists (Julie McDermid, Tiffany Kalsi and April Hackett-Helmkay) who previously presented to SEAC on The Reading Brain, have also recently presented to the Board and PaTTAN’s State Lead for Literacy organization on The Reading Brain. Responses very positive.

Currently gathering information from schools and reviewing to help determine the educational support that will be required next school year.

Collaborating with agencies regarding the Transition Supports Grant to determine how best this money can be spent to support our students from now until the end of June.

This Wednesday, Janet Carioni, Occupational Therapist, will be providing FASD training at CHEO to the newly created FASD assessment clinic team. The FASD assessment clinic will provide a tremendous and much needed service for our families within CHEO’s catchment

area. The CHEO FASD assessment clinic has not yet been announced publicly, but information will be shared when it is launched and accepting referrals.

Lori Murphy, Specialist Teacher of the Deaf, will be providing professional development hosted by OSSTF to EAs and ECEs in the OCDSB. She will share how to effectively support students as part of a school-based team and will include information about hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive technology and social and educational implications of students who are deaf.

Jeff Goodfellow, Cindy Scott, Vicki Storaas and Heather Bovey completed Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training for 76 participants which included administration, teachers, EAs and ECEs. We may offer training again in the Spring as it is in demand.

The consultants along with Krista Kiiffner completed PD on the IPRC process on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with 62 participants. Upcoming PD opportunities will include: Transition Planning on March 24<sup>th</sup>, and the SEA Process and Transfers – April 21<sup>st</sup>. This PD is being offered at 8:15 a.m., and again at 2:30 p.m. to accommodate everyone's schedule.

A newsletter from the Department was recently sent to schools. This will be attached to the SEAC minutes.

Superintendent Gerber welcomed Renee Rozon to her new role as Principal of Special Education.

We are in the process of updating the SHINE documents.

A video was created to highlight our Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP). Heather Gerber will share this video with the Ontario Association of School Board Leaders for Education and Community Partnership Programs.

All Vice Principals are completing practicums for the SEA AQ for Leaders course. Heather Gerber highlighted a practicum from Notre Dame CHS where the multi-exceptionalities class is partnering with Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) shop class to build a greenhouse. This practicum will be showcased in the September 2021 CPCO magazine. Heather Gerber will also contribute an article on Trauma for this edition of the CPCO magazine.

## **VI. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2021**

The following sections were shared:

- Section I – Introduction/Consultation Process
- Section III – Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies
- Section V – Educational and Other Assessments
- Section VII – Provincial and Demonstration Schools

- Section XIII – Coordination of Services with other Ministries or Agencies
- Section XIV – Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings

Superintendent Gerber shared the changes made to the above-noted sections in the annual report.

## **VII. Business Arising from Previous Meetings**

- Letter to the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce – regarding Bill 172

The letter has been sent to the Minister of Education.

## **VIII. Correspondence Received**

- Durham District School Board SEAC letter re Online Learning Supports / Universal Design for Learning
- Email for Assistance on Sharing PAAC on SEAC Survey Results – shared by Heather Gerber on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

## **IX. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received**

### **Motion:**

Motion to excuse Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

## **X. Next SEAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m. The presentation topic will be Dual Credit.

## **XI. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

## **XII. Closing Prayer**

Renee Rozon led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

**XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

**CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking**

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Cornwall Community Hospital	Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth	Family and Children Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville	Assoc. for Community Living *Resigned September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Member-at-Large (vacant)	<b>Total</b>
August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	P	P	P	P		P				<b>5</b>
September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	P	P	P		P	P				<b>5</b>
October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	P	P	P	P		P				<b>5</b>
Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P		P			<b>6</b>
Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			<b>7</b>
January 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P		P			<b>6</b>
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P		P			<b>6</b>
March										
April										
May										
June										

*New 4-year term of office effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.  
 (4 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*