



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43 - Kemptville, Ontario - K0G 1J0  
Phone: 613-258-7757 Toll-Free: 1-800-443-4562 Fax: 613-258-7134  
www.cdsbeo.on.ca



## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, March 30, 2022 Microsoft Teams – 6:02 p.m. to 8:04 p.m.

### **SEAC Members:**

**Sue Wilson, (Chair)**

*Trustee*

**Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair)**

*Lanark County Support Services*

**Karen McAllister**

*Trustee*

**Tom Jordan**

*Family and Children Services of Lanark,  
Leeds, and Grenville*

**Rob More**

*Rural FASD Support Network*

**Kim Peterson**

*Member at Large*

**Nicole Taylor**

*Autism Ontario - East Region*

**Kimberly Gill**

*Children's Aid Society of the United Counties  
of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry*

**Natasha Scott**

*Child and Youth Mental Health Services  
Cornwall Community Hospital*

**Amanda Petch**

*Alternate, Autism Ontario - East Region*

### **Board Resource Staff:**

**Heather Gerber**

*Superintendent of School Effectiveness*

**Renee Rozon**

*Principal of Special Education*

**Kariane Schinzel**

*Administrative Assistant to  
Superintendent Gerber*

### **Guests:**

**Pam Dunk**

*Behaviour Crisis Consultant, CDSBEO*

**Laurie Reesor**

*Vice-Principal, St. Mary, Carleton Place*

**Walter MacDonald**

*Principal, St. Matthew CSS, Cornwall*

**Angela McNamee**

*Principal, St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond*

**Karen Carriere**

*Principal, St. Mary, Carleton Place*

**Trudy Scott**

*CUPE*

**Rhonda Peterson**

*CUPE*

**Sharon Roche**

*CSC Representative,  
Holy Cross & St. Michael CHS, Kemptville*

**Charlene Davidson**

*CSC Representative,  
St. Joseph CSS, Cornwall*

**Tara Dickson**

*Parent, St. Mary-St. Cecilia*

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

*n/a*



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## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

### Roll Call

Absent: n/a

## 2. Land Acknowledgment

Principal Rozon acknowledged the Land.

*"Please take a moment to reflect about the land you are on, with all its beauty, as we respectfully share our land acknowledgement. Today, we gather in all different parts of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario – some of us on the Mohawk territory of the Haudenosaunee people, and others on the unceded, traditional Algonquin territory of the Anishinaabe people. We respect the land and its people, including all Indigenous people who have walked in this place."*

## 3. Opening Prayer

Principal Rozon led the group in opening prayer.

## 4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Tom Jordan CARRIED

## 5. Receiving February 23, 2022, Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on February 28, 2022.

### Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Amanda Banfield CARRIED

## 6. Presentation: Student Re-Engagement Follow up with Principal Panel

*Pam Dunk – Behaviour Crisis Coordinator*

*Walter MacDonald - Principal, St. Matthew CSS, Cornwall*

*Angela McNamee - Principal, St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond*

*Laurie Reesor – Vice-Principal, St. Mary Catholic School, Carleton Place*

Our Board hired two Re-Engagement Consultants to:

- Reach out to students and their families, who have not attended school, have had inconsistent attendance, or have disengaged from their learning.
- Connect students with ongoing supports in the school community to build on their strengths and respond to their individual interests and needs.
- Keep students engaged in learning, connected to their school, and motivated to achieve their learning goals.



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## **Principal Panel- Laurie Reesor – Vice-Principal, St. Mary Catholic School, Carleton Place**

- Discussed the mental wellness focus for student and staff re-engagement using three initiatives:
  - Relationship based approach to teaching: the Third Path-Staff Book Study
  - An online Program – ‘Go Zen’: Promote and Teach Mental Wellness Strategies
  - Discovering Our Unique Strengths: School Activities Highlighting and Celebrating Strengths
- A portion of each staff meeting is dedicated to mental well-being. The focus on mental wellness strategy such as gratitude, mindfulness, mattering, and having purpose.

## **Principal Panel - Walter MacDonald - Principal, St. Matthew CSS, Cornwall**

- Discussed the challenges of re-engagement: mental health, transient/homelessness, addiction, eating disorders, isolation, suicidal ideations, severe anxiety, reduction, or discontinuation of community supports, lack of structure and routine since 2019, parental support, transportation, early start time.
- Interventions and Supports: Formed a ‘Return to Learn’ Committee - creating a safe environment, identifying one significant trusted adult to confide in, student voice, weekly student success meetings, weekly case conferences with students and families, special assignment student success teacher, gradual return to learning, and strategic multi agency approach.
- The special assignment student success teacher is assigned a portfolio of 10-12 students that are at the greatest risk of not completing their courses. The teacher is dedicated to getting those students re-engaged, no matter what the cost may be; some examples: may need to sit with them in class, call them in the morning to wake them up, and/or pick them up, and put incentives in place.
- The student success teacher creates a binder for each of these students which includes their successes, pictures of them when their happy and/or doing something great, and pieces of their work that they’re very proud of.

## **Principal Panel - Principal, St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond**

- Utilizing various clubs, activities and events, students are being engaged in non academic activities so that they continue to feel that they belong to the school.
- A student success team meets once a week and plays a key role in supporting school wide efforts to improve outcomes for students who are struggling with the secondary curriculum and may be at risk of not graduating.
- Direct supports to these students are provided to approve attendance, engagement, mental wellness, and achievement rates.
- The student success team ensure that students are supported.
  - One staff member will be assigned to be the student’s Champion and consult to the Student Success team on a weekly basis to report on the student’s progress.
  - As a team, next steps are considered, and action is taken.



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## 7. Association Updates

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

#### **Report update:**

- Recruitment initiative has been implemented by Provincial Networks on Developmental Services as a province wide effort to increase the workforce in Developmental Services.
- Although many restrictions are no longer in effect for much of the province – we are still under Emergency orders until the end of April. This includes but is not limited to masking, physical distancing, cohorting and essential community activities only.

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

#### **Report update:**

- The Rural FASD hosted Katherine Thompson who shared the evidence based Self-Advocacy Efficacy Scale she developed for Ontario students. This self-administered scale which uses six easy questions to help students determine how to effectively advocate for themselves and measure whether they have the four necessary skills to do so.  
[https://youtu.be/-51U\\_8mwvos](https://youtu.be/-51U_8mwvos) She spent over a year researching and developing and is in the process of publishing.
- We were also joined by LFK NDP candidate Drew Compson who shared his perspective as someone who has mobility and accessibility challenges. While it is specifically designed for school setting, Drew commented on how valuable a tool it could be for him.
- The Rural FASD Support Network thanks Montague Township for inviting us to come as a delegation to council and provide an update on our past year. We also thank the Municipality of North Grenville for providing a community grant, once again this year, for our peer mentoring programming.
- The Environmental Scan and Gap Analysis Report by Brooklyn Robinson has now finished the rough draft and is in the process of final editing. Carleton University is working with us to explore various publishing avenues and will be posted on our website soon.
- Our training module for mental health clinicians is now complete. This 3-hr module includes information on identifying FASD characteristics for referral process, a complete international research scan of effective mental health practices, and a description of key support services required to achieve overall positive outcomes. The module is presented live by a retired Educational Admin, a psychology student, and a mental health clinician/researcher.



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- We are also happy to support Planet Youth's endeavor in lowering youth substance usage in Lanark County as we believe FASD prevention is just as important as FASD Support and look forward to their report release this summer.
- We also thank Andrew Jahn for his June 4 benefit concert at St. Francis Parish in Smiths Falls supporting the youth of the Rural FASD Support Network.
- Finally, we thank the University of Ottawa for changing their Teacher Education Program in the Inclusive Education course to now include a section specifically on FASD and using research from CanFASD. Congrats to Lowri, one of our members, in facilitating that change through her research and advocacy.

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

### **Report update:**

#### **Professional Development**

- Many staff members recently participated Supporting Mental Health of Youth in Foster Care: Parental Monitoring and Positive Foster Caregiver Relationships, hosted by Dr. Morgan Cooley.
- Dr. Morgan Cooley is an Associate Professor in the Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University. Her research focuses on foster parenting and family life, youth mental health, and training for foster parents and child welfare professionals. She is interested in developing the evidence base of foster parent and child welfare training as a means of improving the well-being of children and families in foster care.
- This presentation discussed relevant research background for promoting positive mental well-being for youth in foster care through parental monitoring and positive relationships between youth and their foster caregivers.
- Specific monitoring strategies were discussed, as well as recommendations for helping foster caregivers to build relationships with youth in their care.  
More information can be found at: <https://www.partcanada.org/resources/webinars/supporting-mental-health-of-youth-in-foster-care-parental-monitoring-and-positive-foster-caregiver-relationships?q=%3Fp%3D1%26d%3Dall%23listing>

#### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

- Guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recognizes that the injustices and prejudices fueled by racial discrimination take place every day. Observed annually on March 21, it commemorates the day police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.



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- In Canada, this date is an opportunity to reflect on the fact that while progress has been made, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities and religious minorities in Canada continue to face racism and discrimination every day. It is also a day to re-commit our efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination, injustice, systemic racism and hate to ensure a world where everyone is respected, safe, and has equitable access to contribute meaningfully to all aspects of society.
- You can find out more information on the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/federal-anti-racism-secretariat/international-day-elimination-racial-discrimination.html), from <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/federal-anti-racism-secretariat/international-day-elimination-racial-discrimination.html>
- You are also invited to listen to this podcast to learn more on ways in which cognitive biases can perpetuate systemic racism:  
[Eh Sayers Season 2 Episode 1 - Created Equal \(27 mins\)](#)

## **Smith Falls Office Construction Updates**

- Renovations at our Smith Falls Office are almost complete. Many improvements have been made to reduce energy consumption while improving worker (especially on the second floor).

## **Autism Ontario, East Region – Nicole Taylor** **Report update:**

- THE SNOWMOBILE RIDE FOR AUTISM was a huge success for our area! We raised over \$11,000.00 and had over 43 participants. Many gift certificates were given back to the families & group homes locally. We did a mini contest asking those families to post something positive they had done with their children over the holidays and had a great response with many beautiful pictures of families playing with children outdoors playing hockey, building igloos, skating and sledding. These families were then able to choose two gift certificates as a prize for sharing. The local group homes were given gift certificates from local restaurants so they could enjoy a social outing as well as some activities.
- We are already planning for THE FLOTILLA FOR AUTISM which is on July 23rd, 2022 (Rain date July 24th, 2022) which also benefits local families with children/adults on the Autism spectrum.
- Last month we had various kits available to families such as tie dye kits, sun catcher kits, cookie kits and “made with love” homemade signs.
- We’re excited to share that our Celebrate the Spectrum campaign for World Autism Day is going live. Beginning today, we’ll share how our community can join us in celebrating the leadup to World Autism Day on Saturday, April 2, 2022, and throughout the month of April across the province.



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- Our website, [celebratethespectrum.com](http://celebratethespectrum.com), is the portal for our community to learn how they can get involved and share their celebrations with us. The website contains the following calls to action and resources:

#### Getting Involved – for Schools, Parents, Self-advocates, and Supporters

- Educators, Administrators and Support Staff can access our educational toolkits which include activities and educational videos and browse our printable awareness resources.
  - Enter the Design Your Flag Contest for the chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card!
  - Share our Celebrate the Spectrum poster with your school.
  - Submit a video to contribute to a special project we're working on to Celebrate the Spectrum for World Autism Day.
  - Wear tie dye and show your support for people on the spectrum on Friday, April 1 for schools (one day before World Autism Day) or Saturday, April 2. Be sure to post individual and team pictures, tag Autism Ontario, and include the hashtags #CelebrateTheSpectrum and #WorldAutismDay2022.
  - Write an article for Autism Matters magazine and share your school's story of community, acceptance, and inclusion – and what Celebrate the Spectrum means to you.
- Getting Involved – for Donors
    - Host your own World Autism Day 2022 third-party fundraisers and register your fundraiser
    - Donate to Autism Ontario
  - Getting Involved – for Municipalities
    - Connect with their local Autism Ontario Region or email [celebratethespectrum@autismontario.com](mailto:celebratethespectrum@autismontario.com).
  - Campaign Materials - for use in the community with individuals, families, schools, municipalities, donors, and partners
    - Educational Toolkits – Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary: [celebratethespectrum.com/toolkits](http://celebratethespectrum.com/toolkits)
    - Awareness Resources – Ten Facts About Autism, What Autism Is Not, Celebrate the Spectrum School Poster, Welcome to Autism Ontario - these can be shared widely: [celebratethespectrum.com/resources](http://celebratethespectrum.com/resources)



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## **Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Hospital – Natasha Scott** **Report update:**

- CYMHS continues to see an influx of referrals of children and youth with complex/urgent mental health needs in addition to referrals for children ages 0-6.
- Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) and Adult Mental Health Services in addition to other adult services are being recommended to parents who are experiencing stressors during the pandemic and where the youth is not agreeing to counselling services.
- School referrals have increased since the last report. We continue to see an increase in 1Call 1 Click referrals to our agency.
- Three mental health counsellor postings have closed, and we are currently reviewing the applicants and setting up interviews (1 for CYMHS; 2 for Day Treatment Program).
- Some mental health therapists on our team have received Emotion-Focused Family Therapy training specifically to address eating disorders. Our hope and plan are to run groups later in the year (more to come on this). Supervision for these groups is currently being explored.
- Current wait times for services are between 5-6 months. Rapid response cases are being assigned typically within a month. Urgent cases are immediately assigned.

## **Children's Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G – Kimberly Gill** **Report update:**

- Concentrating on the strategic plan, have had community consultations with community partners, youth, families, foster families, resource families, and staff. We will hopefully roll out the new strategic plan in the next couple of months.
- Business continues as usual in terms of our referrals.
- Staff training taking place as we are almost at a full compliment of staff.





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## 8. Department Update – Principal of Special Education, Renée Rozon

- Professional Development sessions took place last week for all Special Education Resource Teachers to review the requirements around the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Process.
- The Special Education Department will be sharing their expertise by providing optional Professional Development called “Worthwhile Wednesdays”. These sessions will take place over 6 consecutive Wednesdays before and after school and are available to all staff. Topics chosen were based on feedback from previous PD Day surveys and include:
  - Navigating the waters of SEA (Specialized Equipment Amount)
  - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
  - Tips to Support Students in Following Directions
  - Facilitating collaboration between Special Education programs through TEAMs
  - Increasing positive behaviour in the classroom
  - Setting up a Classroom for Calm and Engaged learners
- Recently onboarded two mental health counsellors.
- We are working on SERT and EA staffing for the 2022-2023 school year and are happy to share there will be no decrease in allotment.
- We are currently receiving more information regarding funding from the Ministry for next year and are looking at staffing accordingly.

## 9. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – Section Review:

- Section 4 – Identification, Placement and Review
- Section 6 – Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

## 10. Correspondence Received

n/a

## 11. Motion to Excuse Regrets:

n/a

## 13. Next SEAC Meeting

The next meeting of the CDSBEO Special Education Advisory Committee will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.



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Topics for Presentations for 2021-2022 school year:

Presentations	Date
<b>Student Re-engagement</b>	Wednesday, Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
<b>Executive Functioning</b>	Wednesday, Sept 29, 2021
<b>Behaviour Management Systems</b>	Wednesday, Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Notre Dame Greenhouse Project &amp; CPCO ‘Making a Difference, Trauma-Informed Support’</b>	Wednesday, Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	Wednesday, Jan 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<b>Vision and Hearing</b>	Wednesday, Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022
<b>Student Re-Engagement follow up presentation with Principal Panel</b>	Wednesday, Mar 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022.
<b>The Joy of Being part of a School Board: From a Staff Perspective</b>	Wednesday, Apr 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<b>CDSBEO Funding/Staffing</b>	Wednesday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<b>Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services</b>	Monday, June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<b>Supporting Exceptional Learners Through Technology</b>	Wednesday, Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022

**14. Good News Sharing**

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

**15. Closing Prayer**

Principal Rozon led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

**16. Motion To Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Tom Jordan CARRIED



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## CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Chair, Trustee	Vice Chair, Lanark County Support Services	Trustee	Rural FASD Support Network	CYMHS -Cornwall Hospital	Family and Children Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville	Member at Large	East Region of Autism Ontario	CAS-SD&G	Total
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P	x		-	-	5
September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
October 27, 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
November 24, 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
January 26, 2022	P	x	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	7
February 23, 2022	P	P	P	P	x	P	x	P	P	7
March 30, 2022	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	9
April 20, 2022										
May 25, 2022										
June 6, 2022										
August 31, 2022										

*(5 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*