
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
Virtual, Microsoft Teams – 6:00pm to 6:58pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	August 30, 2023
Donna Nielsen (Chair) <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	<i>Present</i>
Natalie Cameron (Vice-Chair) <i>Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G</i>	x
Kaitlyn Bissonnette <i>Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G</i>	<i>Present</i>
Karen McCallister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	<i>Present</i>
Sue Wilson <i>CDSBEO Trustee, Alternate</i>	x
Tom Jordan <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	<i>Present</i>
Cathy Bridson <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	<i>Present</i>
Anna Lafrance <i>Easter Seals</i>	x
TOTAL	5/8 – Quorum Achieved

Board Resource Staff	August 30, 2023
Heather Gerber <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	<i>Present</i>
Angela McNamee <i>Principal of Special Education</i>	<i>Present</i>
Sarah Price <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	<i>Present</i>
Guests	August 30, 2023
Brenda Reil <i>CDSBEO, Principal of Curriculum</i>	<i>Present</i>
Rhonda Peterson <i>CUPE</i>	<i>Present</i>
Ryan Billing <i>Career Services, Brockville</i>	<i>Present</i>

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Principal Angie McNamee acknowledged the Territory.

3. Opening Prayer

Principal Angie McNamee led the group in opening prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Donna Nielsen added the retirement of Natasha Scott, Child and Youth Mental Health Services which was included under new business.

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

5. Receiving of approved Minutes from Monday, June 5th, 2023 SEAC Meeting.

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on June 16th, 2023. Chair Donna Nielsen motioned to receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

6. Summer Learning Program Presentation by Brenda Reil, Principal of Curriculum

- CDSBEO Summer Learning Program SK-6 program was hosted in-person at 12 CDSBEO sites. 406 students registered, with the highest enrolment in primary classes.
- The Council of Ontario Directors of Education and the Ministry of Education continued to support and coordinate development in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy with the Elementary Summer Learning Program. This year, the goal continued to be focused on enhancing Literacy and Numeracy skills. The learning and skill building of students who participated in the Summer Learning Program was supported through rich learning experiences and community outings.
- The CDSBEO Summer Learning Program aligned well with the goals outlined in the CDSBEO Multi-Year Strategic Plan, particularly the tenet of Learning. The Summer Learning Program acknowledged our commitment to support all students and prepared them for a variety of learning experiences that would enhance their learning as we move into the fall of 2023.
- Students who participated in the program were supported by teachers, Educational Assistants, the CDSBEO Curriculum Department, Religion & Family Life Department, Indigenous Education Department and Special Education & Mental Health Department.
- Pre and post assessments were completed for each student. This data was used to track each student's individual development prior to and after completing the Summer Learning Program.

- In the area of numeracy, primary students showed a 10.8% average increase.
- In the area of numeracy, junior students showed a 12% average increase.
- In literacy, there was a 7% increase in paragraph writing tasks for Gr.4-6 students.
- In literacy, there was a 5.6% increase in Junior literacy reading comprehension.
- For primary students, there was a 6.4% increase in their short vowel literacy assessment and a 5.4% increase in their consonants assessment.
- To celebrate the learning at the end of the program, all teachers provided an anecdotal report to students and parents. The Progress Report outlines the areas of strength, areas of need, and possible follow-up for home schools to consider in the fall. This information was passed along to the Principal and the future teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- Brenda opened the floor for questions and comments. The success and implementation of this year's Summer Learning Program was praised by the Committee.

7. Association Updates

- a. **Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan**
 - No formal report
 - Happy to be back and partner with the CDSBEO.
- b. **Rural FASD Support Network – Cathy Bridson**
 - No formal report.
 - Taking part in several events through the summer (e.g., fairs) and bringing awareness to FASD.
 - The main fundraiser planned for 2024, as of yet, is the Perth Polar Bear Plunge which is taking place on New Years Day. Funds from this initiative will go towards the FASD Support Network.
- c. **Children's Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G – Kaitlyn Bissonnette**
 - No formal report.
 - Able to facilitate 3 homecomings over the summer. Three Indigenous youth made connections with their nations and these youth were sent to their home area to meet family and learn their culture.
 - Hosting weekly Indigenous youth groups, some of the summer highlights for these children were building a sweat lodge, participating in traditional ceremonies, etc. These youth groups are offered to all Indigenous Youth that CAS SD&G are involved with.
 - Continuing on with many REACH meetings.
- d. **Easter Seals Ontario – Anna Lafrance**
 - N/A

8. Department Update – *Angie McNamee, Principal of Special Education*

- CDSBEO is excited to work with our community partners for the 2023-24 school year.
- Staffing Changes in the Department were presented. These included updates of positions that have been filled and positions that are open in which interviews are being held for permanent and LTO positions.
- Summer Transition Program – Took place at 3 CDSBEO schools (Bishop Macdonell, St. John CHS, and St. Matthew CSS). These transition programs supported the return to school for youth in our Special Education Programs or youth that require complex care.
- CDSBEO Learning Fair took place on Aug 29, 2023. The Special Education Department offered workshops that promoted resilience and that supported students in navigating the challenges of life. S-LPs presented on using the UFLI manual to support the structured literacy approach. Other CDSBEO departments also joined in by offering workshops and other learning experiences.
- A SEAC recruitment email was sent on August 30, 2023. This membership email was sent to all CDSBEO agency partners regarding the nomination of a local rep and an alternate to join SEAC for 2023-24.
- An email was sent on August 30, 2023, to all CDSBEO Principals asking them to nominate a school council member who would share the monthly SEAC minutes with their Catholic School Council members.

9. New Business

- a. Resignation Notification – Autism Ontario – Nicole Taylor.
- b. Resignation Notification – Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital – Natasha Scott.
- c. New Member – Susan Trotter, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall, to be considered and nominated to be part of the SEAC Committee. This will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the next board meeting on September 18, 2023. Motion made by Chair Donna Nielsen to accept the nomination.

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

10. Correspondence received

- a. MACSE Meeting Highlights – March 14, 2023
- b. MACSE Annual Report, Fiscal Year End – March 31, 2023

Principal Angie McNamee reviewed the highlights with the Committee.

11. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

- Anna Lafrance, *Easter Seals*
- Natalie Cameron, *Children’s Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G*
- Sue Wilson, *CDSBEO Trustee Alternate*

Moved by: Karen McAllister *CARRIED*

12. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, September 27th, 2023

Territory Acknowledgement & Prayer to be prepared by Tom Jordan.

13. Good News Sharing

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

14. Closing Prayer

Principal Angie McNamee led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

15. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

Topics for Presentations for 2023-2024 school year:

TOPIC	DATE
Summer Learning Program	Wednesday, August 30th, 2023
Transition Planning, Grade 12 to Community	Wednesday, September 27th, 2023
Mindful Educator Practice	Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
Structured Literacy Update	<i>To be determined</i>
Living with FASD, Student Presentation	<i>To be determined</i>
Psychology of Mattering	<i>To be determined</i>
Health Unit	<i>To be determined</i>
Cornwall Police Force, Community Liaison Officer	<i>To be determined</i>
Trauma Informed – Supporting Students through a Special Education Lens	<i>To be determined</i>
Kids in Care	<i>To be determined</i>