
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Virtual, Microsoft Teams – 6:00pm to 7:25pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	September 27, 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>	<i>Present</i>
Karen McCallister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	<i>Present</i>
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
Susie Trotter <i>Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital</i>	<i>Present</i>
TOTAL	6/7 – Quorum Achieved
SEAC Member Alternates	September 27, 2023
Kaitlyn Bissonnette <i>Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G</i>	<i>Present</i>
Sue Wilson <i>CDSBEO Trustee, Alternate</i>	<i>Present</i>

Board Resource Staff	September 27, 2023
Heather Gerber <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	x
Angela McNamee <i>Principal of Special Education</i>	<i>Present</i>
Sarah Price <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	<i>Present</i>
Guests	September 27, 2023
Norma McDonald <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	<i>Present</i>

Leah Taylor <i>CDSBEO, Special Education Consultant</i>	<i>Present</i>
Rhonda Peterson <i>CUPE</i>	x
Trudy Scott <i>CUPE</i>	x
Carrie Onstein <i>Career Services, Brockville</i>	<i>Present</i>
Ryan Billing <i>Career Services, Brockville</i>	x
Diane Garvin <i>St. Mary CHS Parent</i>	<i>Present</i>

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Superintendent Norma McDonald acknowledged the Territory.

3. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Norma McDonald led the group in opening prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Nielsen added the collaboration of the November 2023 MACSE Form to the Agenda, this was included under new business.

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

5. Receiving of approved Minutes from Wednesday, August 30, 2023 SEAC Meeting.

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on September 14th, 2023. Chair Nielsen motioned to receive the minutes as presented.

Moved by: Karen McAllister *CARRIED*

6. Transition Planning, Grade 12 to Community – Presented by Leah Taylor, CDSBEO Special Education Consultant

- Post secondary transition meetings are an essential aspect in preparing for life after high school for parents, school teams and students who are beginning to map out their individual future pathways and post-secondary options. Transition planning can begin as early as Gr. 7. The 3 pathways to graduation from high school in Ontario are: The 30-credit Ontario Secondary School Diploma (which includes compulsory courses and electives), Ontario Secondary School Certificate (14 credits, compulsory and electives) and the Certificate of Accomplishment.
- The Ontario government passed the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act. The new act requires

individuals with a Developmental Disability in Ontario who require services from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to apply to a government application and funding entity, which provides services and support to promote the social inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities. Families and individuals can apply as of 16 years old.

- A starting point in planning and preparing for post-secondary pathways is Person Centered/Directed Planning
 - Self-determination planning (set own goals, self-advocating and working to reach goals) contributes to positive results in areas like employment, education, community living and an improved quality of life.
 - School teams have access to several web-based resources to assist with Person Directed Planning.
 - Resource 1: Youth ConnectABILITY platform. School teams can share this with families and students. This resource provides an ample number of resources – including Person Directed Planning. The resources available will help them in their person-centered planning stages through templates that are there to help students engage in finding their interests, finding out where their strengths lie, accessing their own voice and helping them plan for their future.
 - Resource 2: Do2Learn. Within this website, students and teachers can explore activities (e.g., interest quizzes) and assessments that will guide the students through job preparation. (e.g., looking for employment).
- Once students have been working on their future goals through self-determination steps, there are several possible transition pathways for students.
 - High school to community – There are many great resources for school teams to investigate services available to families that they can use to help plan for the future (e.g., Beyond 21 in Cornwall).
 - High school to College – In discussion with the student and families, high school teams facilitate transition planning including student campus visits, especially to local colleges such as Algonquin College and St. Lawrence College.
 - CICE (Community Integration through Co-operative Education) at St. Lawrence College is a two-year certificate program (including field placements) in many areas of concentration ranging from Early Childhood Education, Culinary Arts, Esthetician, Hospitality, and Construction.
 - CAL (Centre for Accessible Learning) at Algonquin College is committed to ensuring students have equal access to all educational opportunities. Their goal is to provide the necessary accommodations and support to help students meet their essential course or program requirements.

- High School to Apprenticeship – School teams also facilitate in-school and outside of school co-ops. Students can practice skills in a supportive environment and then when ready, they can attend in-school or out of school placements. Students have the opportunity to explore various opportunities of interest to them in a supportive and step-by-step learning environment.
- We have had many CDSBEO graduates who have chosen different post-secondary pathways with the support of their school team, families and community partners.

7. Association Updates

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

- No formal report.
- Had a MCSS result review presented to their team this morning. Education for children in their region scored high and they thanked CDSBEO as a contributing partner in that achievement.

b. Rural FASD Support Network – *Cathy Bridson*

- Over the last few months, Rural FASD group has been working on attending various events in the area to promote Rural FASD as well as promoting the Perth Polar Bear plunge. Rural FASD are the 2024 recipients.
- Appreciation was extended to MPP Scott Reid who donated \$25,000 to the organization in December.
- A website has been built to support the Polar Bear Plunge Fundraiser: www.polarplunge2024.ca.
- Rural FASD will be attending the 2023 CanFASD conference in Saskatoon this fall.

c. Children's Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G – *Natalie Cameron*

- No formal report.
- Shared a good news story in which CDSBEO's Co-operative Education and Adult and Continuing Education programs are supporting one of their clients in achieving their diploma. This is a testament to the partnership built between the Board and CAS of SD&G.

d. Easter Seals Ontario – *Anna Lafrance*

- N/A

e. Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital – *Susie Trotter*

- No formal report.
- Thanked the Committee for welcoming her as a member.
- Thrilled to provide information and insight into the programs that they have to offer throughout future SEAC meetings.

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

- The Special Education Department, and the Safe Schools department have undergone re-organization. The Student Support Workers - SSWs, high school Itinerant ABLE Workers - IAWs, and Mental Health Counselors are under the umbrella of Safe Schools, and the Reading Intervention Teachers, who were under the combined umbrellas of Curriculum and Special Education, have migrated over to the Special Education Department.
- The Special Education consultants have been busy onboarding, new Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and providing training for all Special Education Resource Teachers, and Special Education Classroom Teachers around updates to the Special Education module of Aspen, which is our student information system. Last week, nine before and after school IEP/IPRC workshops were offered to the system.
- IEPs will be sent home to families by October 17, 2023.
- The four additional Reading Intervention Teachers have been deployed to the system. The role consists of assisting Special Education Resource Teachers and Kindergarten to grade 2 Classroom Teachers with: - the facilitation of CDSBEO encoding, decoding and phonemic awareness diagnostic assessments which support a structured literacy approach; - the planning and implementation of reading interventions; and 'at the elbow' support of structured literacy instruction (along with our Speech Language Pathologists)
- CDSBEO has embarked on a 10-school tier 3 reading pilot, offered through Toronto Sick Kids called Empower Reading. Special Education Resource Teachers were provided a two-day training workshop to enable them to provide this reading intervention program in their schools. It comprises of very structured strategies and techniques for students in grades 2-5 to utilize in decoding words. Once the program is up and running, the hope is to have the SERTs present to the committee.

9. New Business

- a. Membership Status – Susie Trotter, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Hospital.
- b. SEAC collaborated in the communication form to be submitted to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE).
- c. Presentation Notification – Tracy O'Brien, Superintendent of School Effectiveness to present the new PPM 124 regarding Community Involvement in Secondary Schools at the October 25th, 2023, SEAC meeting.

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

10. Correspondence Received

- a. MACSE Communication Form

11. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

- Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
- Anna Lafrance, *Easter Seals*

Moved by: Tom Jordan *CARRIED*

12. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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 30 th , 2023
Transition Planning, Grade 12 to Community	Wednesday, September 27 th , 2023
PPM 124 – Community Involvement Hours in Secondary Schools	Wednesday, October 25 th , 2023
Structured Literacy – Through the Lens of Reading Intervention Teachers	Wednesday, November 29 th , 2023
Cornwall Police Force, Community Liaison Officer	Wednesday, January 27 th , 2024
Mindful Educator Practice	<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>
Trauma Informed – Supporting Students through a Special Education Lens	<i>To be determined</i>
Kids in Care	<i>To be determined</i>