

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Conference Call

### MINUTES

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Wendy Smith

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Steve Stokley

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Rachel Veilleux / Brenda Roby

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

Wellness & Emotional Support For Youth Online

Michelle Parks

Trustee

Carol Bryden  
Jennifer McCann

Principal Representatives

Cynthia Blair  
Colleen Cogghe  
Daniella Mancusi  
Stacy Shepley

Board Advisors

Lisa Demers  
Brendan Deery  
Janet Boyle  
Chris Preece  
Lisa Thompson-Power  
Sara Vadovic

Guests:

Regrets: Kim D’Hooghe, Ryan Allaer

Absent: Michelle Parks, Jennifer McCann, Cynthia Blair

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION BY** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Tracey Haddy to adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED**

C. Review of Minutes from January 13, 2020

**MOTION BY** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Steve Stokley to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2020 meeting.

**CARRIED**

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Mental Health Update 2018-2019 - Plan for 2019-2020

Chris Preece

- Chris provided an update on both past and present activities for the 2019 - 2020 school year.
- Mind Up is a social emotional learning program appropriate for students in grades Kindergarten-Grade 8. The program is delivered upon teacher request.
- The team is supporting Google Classrooms and doing Mind Up in the Google Classrooms for teachers who have made the request.
- The team continues to provide targeted prevention virtually such as 1:1 or small groups. This is done by taking principal referrals through classroom teacher requests.
- The team is reaching out to families and offering mental health support as requested by the family.
- The team contributed to the Learning Hub for classroom teachers to use and to the Parent Hub for families to use at home.
- Well-being will unveil a *Mental Health Literacy 101* next week. It was created by Mental Health Ontario for all teachers in the province to access and use.
- The team is creating learning modules for staff training purposes. The modules will be housed in the Safe Schools site at the Board. Topics will include things like: anxiety, depression, trauma, resiliency, and personal resiliency of staff.
- Last year the well-being team supported approximately 1300 students and over 900 sessions of Mind Up were delivered in our schools.

B. Mid-term Report on Special Education Objectives

Brendan Deery

- Brendan provided an update on the Special Education objectives as they were outlined for the 2019 - 2020 school year.
- All objectives have been started with progress being made, except the first objective that being the demonstration classroom associated with the Collaborative Support Team to enhance the use of Collaborative and Proactive Solutions and Shanker's Self-Reg. This objective has been postponed due to interruptions in this school year.
- Brendan elaborated on each of the remaining objectives sharing the highlights of the progress that has been made to date.

3. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter

Tracey Haddy

- Due to the pandemic, services being offered are uneven. In home services are essential but some homes will not allow anyone to enter for the purposes of support.

B. Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

Jessica Constancio

- CTC-CK is starting software for video conferencing to provide virtual support to families.
- Families can consult with therapists (OT, PT and SLP) while staff are working from home.
- School based therapist teams have reached out to all of the clients they support to offer continued service and support.

- C. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley
- All staff are working to support clients in the community and residential facilities.
  - The status of the summer programs is uncertain at this time due to the fact the referrals for the summer program come from schools, which are currently closed due to the pandemic.
- D. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Rachel Veilleux
- The Board is trying to work through new guidelines, which will support staff and families in the community at this time.
  - Gift baskets were provided to each of the homes as an offer of support.
  - They are trying to fully financially support all clients as best they can at this time.
- E. Community Living Wallaceburg Wendy Smith
- Their agency has had some staff diagnosed positive for COVID 19.
  - They are trying to maintain staff and clients as best they can virtually in this new way to do business.
- F. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim D’Hooghe
- N/A
- G. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
- Wondering if students can get their hearing equipment from the schools?
    - **Response:** It is best to contact the Principal of the school and/or a specialist teacher, who supports the student at school, to discuss what they need to support them while learning at home. Lauri Doig is a good contact person to contact for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - Wondering if teachers are able to use videos to support learning at home?
    - **Response:** A Memo is going out April 21 2020 regarding video and digital platforms to provide staff with additional instructions to use it safely in the best interest of everyone involved. There will be instructions to direct parents to the Learn at Home hub to see the guidelines.
- H. Wellness & Emotional Support for Youth Online Michelle Parks
- N/A
4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**  
N/A
5. **NEW BUSINESS**  
N/A
6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- A. Update on Special Education - Distance Learning Brendan Deery
- Brendan provided the update as to how we are trying to support the different sectors in the education model specific to the following teams: ABA, CST, SLP, Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Psychoeducational assessments.
  - Modules and/or Google Classrooms are being created for the purpose of staff training for EAs. Topics include: Creating and Implementing Social Stories, working collaboratively and proactively with students, working with students who require Speech Language services, better understanding students who are deaf and hard of hearing, understanding how psychoeducational assessments are developed and used to enhance learning. Additional modules and/or Google Classrooms are yet to be created and shared.
  - All teams are making continued efforts to communicate with school staff and families. We are maintaining protocol with regard to communication as it typically occurs. If a team member is directly involved with the child, then a connection with the family would be made. If involved with a student through the school staff, then a connection with the staff involved would be made.
  - Greenfield, the company associated with Lexia has provided free Lexia licenses to all school Boards in Ontario. SCCDSB secured 5000 licenses for all students from Kindergarten to grade 8 and for some secondary students.

- All teams contributed to the Special Education section of both the teacher Learning Hub as well as to the Parent Hub. The Special Education section deals with Learning Disabilities, Alternative Programming, ABA and Autism, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Assistive technology, Speech and Language services, and Self-Regulation at Home.

**B. Implementation of the After School Skills Development Program**

Brendan Deery

- This was a pilot funded by the Ministry of Education and has been extended to all school Boards in Ontario for 3 years.
- The guidelines indicate the program can take place throughout the course of the school day providing skill development occurs predominantly during non-instructional times.
- It is delivered by a BCBA. The focus is on Social Skills development using the Superflex program as developed by Michelle Garcia Winner and Stephanie Madrigal.
- There are 8 schools included in the program. The program will be implemented in two phases; four schools were to participate in phase 1 and then the remaining four schools in phase two.
- There are 12 students involved in phase 1 of the program, which ran for 6 weeks with two sessions per week. After observations of the students were complete, student specific goals were determined and shared. Parent consent was required for students to participate in the program.
- Phase 2 of the program in the remaining four schools has not been able to start due to distance learning.
- The students who participated in Phase 1 have been invited to continue in the program through the current distance learning. This is possible due to the fact the student observations have been completed and goals have been determined.
- The program will continue for the remainder of the 3 year funding period, after distance learning ends.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- As a Board, we are moving forward with distance learning.
- As a Board, over 2000 chrome books have been deployed to students who require this support for distance learning.
- As a Board, a number of iPhones have been collected/donated to be distributed to students who can use it as a hotspot to access distance learning.
- Construction of St. Angela Merici is on hold due to the pandemic.
- Since last meeting with SEAC, the employee contracts for both CUPE and OECTA have been ratified.
- Using the Good Samaritan Fund, almost \$10 000.00 has been donated to families in need. The Good Samaritan Fund has been contributed to by teachers on PA days, dress down days etc., and is used to support the families of SCCDSB.

**8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- N/A

**9. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

May 11, 2020

June 8, 2020

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Emotional Support for Youth Online Michelle Parks
- Youth Engagement Initiatives in School for Mental Wellness Chris Preece

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Wendy Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:37p.m.

**CARRIED**