

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:30 P.M.

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held this date in the Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby.

ROLL CALL:

Claudine Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
Craig Cameron, Member At Large
Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) (SEAC Chair)
Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
Hanah Nguyen, Easter Seals Ontario

Trustees: Donna Edwards Christine Thatcher

Staff: Superintendent Andrea McAuley
Chief Psychologist Steve Graffi

Recording Secretary: Diane Kent

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Welcome Guests:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests: Michelle Monk Secondary Representative and Kelly Kennedy SEAC Alternate for Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders.

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

3. Regrets:

Regrets:

- Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
- Imran Syed, Elementary School Representative
- Christine Thatcher, Trustee

Absent:

- Claudine Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter

4. Approval of Agenda:

That the agenda for February 20, 2020 be approved.

MOVED BY: Hanah Nguyen

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

4. b) Election of the Vice- Chair:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed committee members that Trustee Christine Thatcher had another school engagement tonight. They did discuss the election of SEAC Vice-Chair, and it was agreed upon for Trustee Donna Edwards to put forth her name. The presenting of the Board Report will be shared between Trustee Donna Edwards and Trustee Christine Thatcher.

Chair Eva Kyriakides called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Trustee Donna Edwards nominated herself for Vice-Chair of SEAC. Seconded by Kathy Kedey. Chair Eva Kyriakides asked for any other nominations and then she closed the nominations. Trustee Donna Edwards was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC.

NOMINATION:

THAT TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MOVED BY: Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

5. **Approval of the Minutes from January 23, 2020:**

That the minutes from January 23, 2020 were amended and approved by adding under Item 3) Regrets from Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large on page 2.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

6. **Inclusive Student Services Report – February 2020:**

Inclusive Student Services

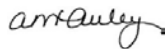
SEAC Members,

Looking forward to connecting with you and bringing further updates. Our Administrative Report this month will include:

- Professional Learning Opportunities for Educational Assistants (providing context to the sessions highlighted on subsequent pages)
- Understanding Our Students' Experiences: Mental Health Service Pathways
- Staff Connections
- Planning Updates

Partnerships and collaboration are essential in the provision of service to families. You will find a number of connections highlighted in the information which follows below.

Thank you for your continued support of families and our Inclusive Student Services team.

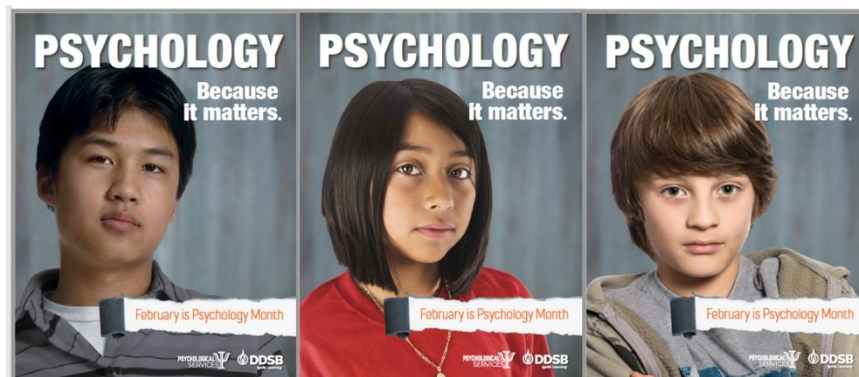


Andrea - on behalf of the Inclusive Student Services Team



February is Psychological Services Month

Dr. Steve Graffi will be joining us for our February SEAC meeting to share key updates about the supports and services that Psychological Services provides as part of the DDSB team.



Information Updates to Teams

Our clinical teams were together on February 13th for a team meeting on key service-related updates including:

- Special Education Class Planning
- Service Animals in Schools
- Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools
- School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) Update
- Partnership Agreement: Addictions Counsellor/Pinewood (Lakeridge Health)



We also launched implementation of a new “Placement Preference Form” to ensure individual (professional and personal) considerations within the staffing and assignment process for 2020-21. This is a core commitment made to the team as we “Service In, Service Out” to look after each other to be our best for the students we have the privilege of being part of the team for.

Carving Your Own Path - Post Secondary Considerations for Students with Learning Disabilities

This event, cohosted by the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region, DCDSB and DDSB, brought families together (70 participants) with post-secondary education and related service providers. Information included programming options, accessing accommodation and planning supports.

Parent/Caregiver Workshop: “Taming the Tantrum”

Parents and caregivers were invited to a session on Challenging Behaviour: “Taming the Tantrum” facilitated on February 10. The session helped 19 participating parents and caregivers identify ways to teach and replace challenging behaviours and increase appropriate behaviours. Participants also benefited from ideas for creating opportunities to intervene before a challenging behaviour occurs. “Taming the Tantrum” was facilitated by trainers from the STAR Autism Program. STAR, Strategies for Teaching based on

Autism Research, is a program used in many DDSB schools with support from the Autism Resource Team.

Stepping Stones

For families currently accessing Grandview preschool services with children moving into their first school experience, Stepping Stones is an event that connects families with teams from various boards. This is a connection point that families express appreciation for and one that we value as the DDSB. This year, we thank Paul Khajuria (Vice-Principal, Bellwood PS and former Instructional Facilitator for Special Education) for supporting "Stepping Stones" on February 18.

Grove Advisory Committee

This committee is comprised of the partner agencies to Grove (CTCC/Day Treatment Programs) and is led by the Grove Administration Team. Grove Advisory meets on February 19th for discussion including: Student Achievement, Student Attendance/Dashboard, Assessment, Safety, Intake and Transition Planning.

Provincial Consultation

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is conducting consultations with key stakeholders regarding behavioural clinicians. On February 19th, Dr. Steve Graffi, Dr. Sara Schleien, Lisa Drake and Superintendent McAuley will be participating in an input session as the DDSB has been invited to provide input from the educational sector.

School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS)

As follow up to the January 1st transition of SBRS, leaders from across Grandview Children's Centre and the six DSBs met on February 25th for initial reflection and to be responsive in continuing to refine our shared service to families in the Durham Region.

The Power of Teamwork: Professional Learning for Educational Assistants

Made possible through the power of teamwork, Educational Assistants in the elementary panel engaged in professional learning on February 10th and 11th. We thank our partners in: Equity & Inclusion, Health & Safety, Mental Health and Safe Schools for partnering with us to provide sessions. It is important that we connect with Educational Assistants to use their feedback to further shape programs for students and learning for this team. To accomplish this, all of the sessions below were provided by individuals in Officer, Senior Manager or Superintendent levels giving us the valuable opportunity to connect with the phenomenal EAs across the system.

Highlight of Elementary EA PD Offered on February 10 & 11th:

| Learning Opportunities |
|--|
| Equity in Education |
| STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research) |
| Promoting Mentally Healthy Classrooms |
| Enhanced CPR/Medical Emergencies Training |
| EA Device Program Support |
| Foundations of Inclusive Programming |
| Communication Strategies to Reduce Incidents of Aggression |
| Anxiety 101: Supporting Students with Anxiety |
| "Vaping, Cannabis and Alcohol Oh My!" |
| "ACEs not just Cards, A Brain Story" |
| Your Mindset Matters: Supporting Students with Down Syndrome |


Highlight of Secondary EA PD Offered on February 14th:

| Learning Opportunities |
|--|
| Autism and the Brain |
| Behaviour Management Basic Training |
| Behaviour Management System Refresher |
| BMS Online Refresher |
| CPR-C / AED Certification |
| EA Chromebook Device Program Support |
| Every Day Back Care for Every Body |
| Positive Reinforcement: Refining and Individualizing an Incentive System for your Student |
| Proactive Strategies for Dealing with Aggressive Behaviour |
| Resilience is Everything: What it is and How to Foster it in Our Students and Ourselves |
| Science of Behaviours |
| Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Visual Supports & Boardmaker |
| Helping Children who are Non-Verbal Use the LAMP Words for Life App on Their SEA iPad - (Language Acquisition Through Motor Planning (LAMP)) |
| Positive Reinforcement: Refining and Individualizing an Incentive System for your Student |

7. Presentation:

Psychological Services: Service Model

Dr. Steve Graffi provided committee members with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Psychological Services: Service Model. Dr. Graffi provided an overview of the model noting that it is unique to the province of Ontario, as most Psychological Departments in school boards have a primary Psychometric Assessment focus. The DDSB Service Model seeks to operationalize various principles of applied Psychology to enhance student functioning in academic, social, emotional and behavioural domains. The five strategic components were highlighted: Clinical Consultation; Psychological Assessment; Direct Services; Crisis Response and Capacity Building. He also answered questions from SEAC members.



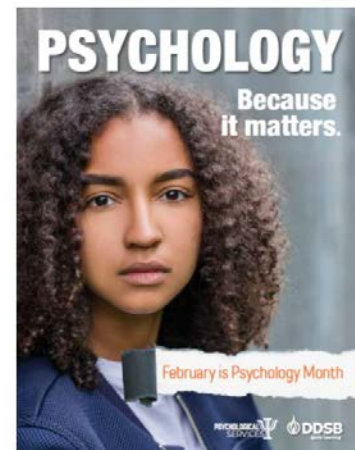
**Special Education
Advisory Committee**
Thursday, February 20, 2020

Dr. Steve Graffi, Psychologist
Chief of Psychological Services

**Update from
Psychological
Services**

**It's Psychology Month at the
DDSB!**

GET PSYCH'D!



Psychological Services: Service Model

Overview:

Psychological Services staff provide supports to students who are experiencing difficulties that can affect them within a school setting, as related to:

- ▶ Learning issues
- ▶ Developmental status
- ▶ Social functioning
- ▶ Behavioural functioning
- ▶ Mental Health concerns

Services are offered for students in both elementary and secondary schools.

The goal of Psychological Services is to enhance a student's ability to access the curriculum or programs and resources within the DDSB.

Psychological Services: Service Model

Overview:

This DDSB Psychological Services Service Model is unique to the province of Ontario, as most Psychology Departments in school boards have a primary Psychometric Assessment focus.

The DDSB Service Model seeks to operationalize various principles of *Applied Psychology* to enhance student functioning in academic, social, emotional and behavioral domains.

Five Strategic Components:

Clinical Consultation,

- which seeks to understand factors affecting a student so that a planful response is formulated to address student needs, in collaboration with parent/guardians and school staff or other community-based partners.

Five Strategic Components:

Psychological Assessment, which can include:

- Behavioral Assessments
- Learning Assessments
- Social Assessments
- Developmental Assessments
- Gifted Assessments
- Clinical Assessments

Five Strategic Components:

Direct Services, which can be offered to individual students and groups of students, and include:

- Clinical interventions,
- Counselling
- Brief therapy

... and work in partnership with community-based services.

Five Strategic Components:

Crisis Response, which is prioritized to support students and schools for incidents related to:

- Violence
- Suicidal risk
- Tragic events and/or traumatic incidents

... and are consistent with DDSB protocols on:

- Violence/Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)
- Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Five Strategic Components:

Capacity Building, which seeks to assist in the professional growth of DDSB staff through:

- direct training,
- committee work,
- support of school initiatives,
- individual teacher consultation

...and includes specific system initiatives, e.g., staff training in Behavior Management Systems, Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

Specialized Services:

Psychological Services staff support Inclusive Student Services and Safe Schools initiatives in the service of:

- START
- ART
- SMHW Program

...and serves as the primary liaison to community partner Enterphase Child and Family Services

...as well as an assisted access point to community partners Kinark Child and Family Services, Frontenac Youth Services, Chimo Youth Services, Lakeridge-Health Oshawa and Lakeridge Community Support Services.

2019-2020 Initiatives:

1. **Continued Training** in safety practices, academic testing, and mental health, with a shift toward online (D2L) learning modules currently addressing the *Essentials of Behavior Management*, as well as BMS re-certification. In Progress: *An Introduction to Learning Disabilities*, with an integrated service focus, including student mental health.
2. **Three-Level Direct Service Model** for High School students with Tier Two and Tier Three mental health needs.
3. **LD Resiliency Project**: research into the different pathways and outcomes for students with Learning Disabilities.
4. **Complex Needs Class**: continued interface with partner agency for students with complex neurobiological needs.
5. **Trauma Informed Practices**: in partnership with DDSB Social Work and Safe Schools, the launch of a three-year initiative to mobilize schools from *trauma awareness* to *trauma sensitivity* to truly *trauma-informed* practices.

2019-2020 Continued Practices:

Psychological Services continues to refine its practices, with various 'Practice Parameters' being devised for communication to schools, e.g., accessing assessment, consultation or direct services.

Annually, in September, schools are provided with Psychological Services *School Start-Up Kits*, e.g., basic information about services, Parent Guides to Assessment, and School Service Plans.

School Service Plans help set the priorities for local provision of Psychological Services based in individual school needs.

Psychological Services: Metrics

Service data collected during 2018-2019 indicated:

- ▶ 383 (structured) Clinical Assessments
- ▶ 1649 Behavior Consultations
- ▶ 727 Direct Service Contacts with Students
- ▶ 562 SEA Applications
- ▶ 83 SIP Applications
- ▶ 1100+ DDSB Staff Trained
- ▶ Q: # Crisis/Tragic/Traumatic Event Responses

Current (2019-2020) data is being collected by staff and will be summarized at year's end.

8 a). **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

There was no business arising from the minutes at this time.

8 b). **Scheduled Discussion Period:**

The open discussion period was used to discuss the following topic:

- Generating Discussion Period Topics

Committee members divided into three groups and shared suggestions regarding Discussion Period Topics. Suggestions were:

- Revisited the reason why this process began in the first place – to address community issues and questions
- SEAC members preparing a short presentation on what their associations are doing – sharing of information – not just reports
- Bring challenging questions – find a solution in the process – bring from the community – these are barriers from the outside to the board
- Like it to be reenergized – questions of the month – articles to read – time to share
- How mental health connects to disabilities – how are we being proactive – how do we make sure student voice is captured – helping students cope with life with a disability – as they age – how they develop – challenges students struggle with
- AODA Standards Development Committee – working in the areas of K-12 as well as post-secondary education – SEAC's feedback wanted
- Presentation updates on pilot projects – don't hear where they have gone – are they implemented are they effective?
- Practical examples and best practices – accessibility standards in schools

- Accessibility Committee/Human Rights documentation- how is it brought into the schools, mainstream classrooms – in particular secondary schools
- Next month is World Down Syndrome Day – suggestion: student presentation on Down Syndrome and what the Durham Down Syndrome Association does?
- What is SEAC's role/vision/direction

Superintendent Andrea McAuley asked committee members to reach out to the SEAC Chair or herself with information topics and suggestions within one or two weeks prior to the next SEAC meeting; as this will help better prepare for an active discussion period. Andrea also offered to bring topics or questions to the Inclusive Student Services Leadership Team to help prime the thinking and pre-plan the presentation.

9. Reports:

Administration:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley

Province – Wide Withdrawal of Services (ETFO/OSSTF/OECTA/AEFO)

On Friday, February 21, 2020 the province will be participating in a full withdrawal of services including ETFO, OSSTF, OECTA and AEFO. Schools and families have expressed the impact of changes to schedules for students with special education needs. Staff continue to work with families to be responsive to students.

Updates regarding job action are posted on the DDSB website and through DDSB social media accounts.

DDSB Elementary Strike Day – February 10th & Provincial Elementary Strike Day – February 11th, 2020

February 10th and 11th were strike days for Durham DSB. Approached CUPE to offer Educational Assistants (EAs) on-line learning opportunities on February 10th and professional development on February 11th. Approximately 600 Educational Assistants received training over two days. If there is a continuation in the job action cycle, it will be monitored to offer additional professional development opportunities to EAs.

Grove Advisory Committee Meeting

Superintendent Andrea McAuley attended the Grove Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at Grove Central. The focus of the agenda was transition planning.

Small Class Planning 2020- 2021

Planning of special education small class projections for the 2020-21 school year are currently on target pending budget. Information will be sent to Principals in March to ensure a robust transition time is allocated to students. Number of small class changes are minimal as opposed to previous years directed by the Special Education Review.

Special Education Parent/Guardian Guide

Superintendent Andrea McAuley thanked committee members for providing their feedback on the Special Education Parent/Guardian Guide. Feedback has been incorporated into the guide and the next step will be taking the guide to the Senior Team for their feedback and then brought back again to SEAC. The revised guide will be translated into the six highest frequency languages, in addition to English, spoken by DDSB families. An update on document revision will be provided to SEAC prior to finalization and translation.

Board:

Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations on Anti-Black Racism Strategy and Contextualizing the Skilled Trades for DDSB Students Through Experiential Learning at the Board Meeting that was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

Trustee Edwards shared that Associate Director Norah Marsh has been appointed Acting Director. She also mentioned that Carla Kisko has been appointed Interim Associate Director of Corporate Services. Carla is recently retired from the Toronto DSB and brings experience gained in that Board as well as Peel DSB to the role. Devika Mathur has started in her role as Human Rights and Equity Advisor. Devika has extensive experience gained from previous roles with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Ontario Public Services and Toronto DSB. Trustee Edwards also provided a brief update on the harassment investigation.

10. Association Reports:

Durham Down Syndrome Association (DDSA)

4th Annual Ontario Down Syndrome Day at the ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario, welcomes all to come and celebrate the 4th annual Ontario Down Syndrome Day at the ROM with families from across the province on Sunday March 29, 2020. Open to families with children and adults with Down syndrome, there will be free admission for families from 11 am to 3 pm this day.

World Down Syndrome Day Flag Raising

On the afternoon of Friday, March 20th, there will be a flag raising ceremony at the Oshawa City Hall. Community members are invited to join as the DDSA proudly raise their own DDSA World Down Syndrome Day flag to kick-off the celebrations.

DDSA will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on March 22, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Abilities Centre in Whitby. Two hours of fun have been planned to include refreshments and a celebration cake.

Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR) will be hosting a presentation on "The Ontario Human Rights to Read Inquiry" on Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Whitby Public Library.

11. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Questions and Comments:

Rowin Jarvis asked how the current job action will affect the Grade 10 OSSLT Literacy Test. Superintendent Andrea McAuley responded that currently discussion at the provincial level is about ensuring that students who are projected in the final year of high school will have OSSLT or the course credit. If the test runs accommodations will be provided for students with special educational needs, however currently difficult to predict as ETFO will be releasing Phase 6 of their job action next week and no further notification from OSSTF regarding struck work has been received at this time.

13. Celebrations and Success:

Kathy Kedey shared a good news story regarding Emma Logan, Lead for the Nova Scotia Women's Curling Team. Emma lost her hearing from meningitis when she was 13 months old. She's now the first curler who is deaf to ever compete at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Communication is a key part of any sport, especially curling. The team of four decided to get creative, using a Bluetooth microphone that connected to Emma's cochlear implants and put coloured duct tape on mitts to provide visual cues for her.

14. Next S.E.A.C. meeting – March 26, 2020 in Room 2020.

15. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

MOVED BY: Kathy Kedey

SECONDED BY: Craig Cameron

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:
Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

| ACTION PLAN | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|
| ACTIVITY | RESPONSIBILITY | COMPLETION |
| Send generating discussion topic ideas to SEAC Chair E. Kyriakides | Committee Members | Prior to March SEAC Meeting. |