



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Teams Meeting

Members: Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Jennifer Chapman (*Co-Chair*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Tara Buchanan, Jill Esposito, Brook Gardner, Sophie Podfigurna, Nil Woodcroft, Terri-Lynn Zakrzewski

Regrets: Teresa Westergaard-Hager, Lauren Freeborn (*Co-Chair*)

Resources: Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Carmen McDermid (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Patti-Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Greco welcomed the group.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Brook Gardner

Seconded: Bill Chopp

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: Bill Chopp

Seconded: Jill Esposito

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of December 15, 2020.

Carried

5. Correspondence

No new correspondence to share.

6. Community Agency Updates

Jennifer Chapman - Child Welfare Supervision, The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand-Norfolk

The agency is progressing with discussions of the potential merger of the societies. Staff are still doing virtual services and in person visits and adhering to strict protocols for safety.



Sophie Podfigurna – Lansdowne

Thank you for the warm welcome as I temporarily take Mischa's place at the SEAC committee. Lansdowne continues to provide a combination of in person and virtual service, all departments are actively running. Clients whose needs cannot not be met through virtual service are prioritized to receive face to face service at Lansdowne. Staff are primarily working from home and only in centre as needed but our building is open every day.

Shannon Mason – Principal Lead

No report.

Bill Chopp – Trustee

No report.

Brook Gardner - Woodview

Brook reported that they are now providing autism services in the community. He will provide a flyer outlining the new services to attach to the minutes.

Patti Mitchell – Parent, County of Brant

No report.

Lauren Freeborn – Service Planning Coordinator, Contact Brant

No report.

Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is operating under provincial guidelines with current stay at home order. REACH has resumed phone and virtual supports with service participants. Bramble Children's Retreat is currently closed. The Infant and Child Development Service and Family Early Intervention Program are currently working with families to complete individual Transition to School Reports. Virtual meetings with REACH employees and BHNCD SB are scheduled for March 4, 2021.

Jill Esposto – Brant Family & Children's Services

Jill reported that Brant FACS and HNCAS continue to explore the possible amalgamation between their agencies. Jill let us know that she will no longer be on our SEAC committee, this is her last meeting. She shared that it has been a pleasure to be on this committee and what a tremendous experience this has been for her. Jill indicated she will have a replacement committee member from her office, Sarah Robertson, who will join us at the next meeting.

Tara Buchanan – Community Living Brant

Tara reported that the contest for submissions about inclusive classrooms has been going well. They had a substantial number of entries from the Grand Erie board. There is a pizza party prize for the winning entry.



7. Reports

7.1 Superintendent of Education

Kevin Greco

Superintendent Greco discussed the feedback for the MACSE (Minister's Advisory Council of Special Education). He asked if anyone had any feedback to share to email it as soon as possible. He reported to the group that our staff was now working from home and the teachers and educational staff are providing virtual classrooms for their students. Some educational staff are working in person at the schools to provide support for some specific students with significant special education needs. Superintendent Greco thanked Jill for her service on this committee and wished her well in her new endeavors. Summary of the PAAC on SEAC report will be shared at next meeting.

7.2 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen McDermid

Professional development for our new Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT) continues to be a priority. An agenda was created based on requests from new SERTs as well as focusing on upcoming responsibilities new to them that they will be required to complete. On January 13th, 11 new SERTs gathered virtually to further learn about the Special Education Amount (SEA) process, elementary transition classes and secondary special education programs, ASD/ABA strategies, and the Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) process and responsibilities.

Carmen discussed the training session that Educational Assistants (EAs) received on the January 18th Professional Development Day. The morning session focused on providing a Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCi) refresher workshop presented by our Board's own NVCi instructors. This session consolidated previously completed online NVCi Flex modules done throughout the 2019-20 school year. Instructors reviewed and highlighted key points and takeaways from these modules. The afternoon session was dedicated to providing Educational Assistants (EA) further training on the use of their Samsung Tablets, TEAMS and Brightspace. During the period of remote learning there has been an increased level of importance in more deeply understanding the Brightspace course and resources available. A survey was completed by EAs prior to the PD day to help inform the priorities for the day. This PD day was repeated on February 3rd for the secondary EAs so that all EAs received consistent instruction and support in these critical areas.

8. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Greco thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – Microsoft Teams