



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – 1pm**  
**Teams Meeting**

**Members:** Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Tara Buchanan, Jennifer Chapman, Lauren Freeborn, Annemarie Krauss, Christina Ferrell, Nil Woodcroft, Sarah Robertson, Shannon Korber, Brandi Bertling, Marissa Lechowicz

**Regrets:** Laura Bergeron, Sarah Robertson, Shannon Mason

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

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**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Lauren Freeborn led with a land acknowledgement.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Carmen McDermid shared an opening prayer.

**3. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Superintendent Greco welcomed the committee.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Approved: Christina Ferrell

Seconded: Patti Mitchell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the January 18, 2022, meeting.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

Approved: Patti Mitchell

Seconded: Kerri Lomax

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the December 14, 2021, meeting.

**6. Correspondence**

No new correspondence.

**7. Presentation**

**7.1 Martin Smit, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario**

A guest presentation was held by Martin Smit of Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO), registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities. The LDAO offers a vast library of free resources for educators such as podcasts, webinars and self-directed learning. They also offer at-home resources for families and assisting their students at home.

## **8. Updating SEAC Website**

Lauren reviewed other SEAC websites and mentioned a lot of committees share their professional contact information on our webpage. Names need to be updated and we will add professional contact information with each persons name. Committee was in agreement with this. Providing a link from each persons organization. Name, agency and website link. Members to email Marissa.

## **9. Community Agency Updates**

Lauren welcomed new members Brandi Bertling and Shannon Korber in place of Sarah Robertson and Jennifer Chapman.

Jennifer thanked everyone on the committee and wished the best going forward.

### **Annmarie Krauss – Lansdowne**

Lansdowne has pulled back on offering in person services and continues to offer virtual services as much as possible. In-home services are only being offered if absolutely necessary.

### **Bill Chopp – Trustee**

Currently working on next year's budget with the Senior Team.

Brandi/Jennifer Chapman: A lot of focus is on the malagamation as well as pivoting with Covid changes. A name change is Child and Family Services of Grand Erie and the date of full magalapanmtion is April 1<sup>st</sup>. In person is still happening.

### **Christina Ferrell – Woodview**

Woodview's group services are virtual or shifting to one on one. All other services are in person and the agency is hopeful everything will be back to normal next week.

### **Kerri Lomax – VP, Secondary**

There have been three exciting projects approved for our high school aged students: a basic first aid and babysitting course, an employability task box simulator, and a partnership with a gym involving different exercise programs for the students.

### **Patti Mitchell – Parent, County of Brant**

Thanked teachers and Educational Assistants with the short notice virtual school that took place after the break. Special Olympics took a pause in January but hoping to proceed with summer Olympics.

### **Shannon Korber – CAS Haldimand Norfolk**

There are many children who are identified as having a learning disability and focus is on being the bridge between families and schools. CAS has funding coming through which will be discussed in greater detail at the next SEAC meeting.

### **Tara Buchanan – Community Living Brant**

Our very successful Employment Support Program continues to run in full and offers virtual supports if needed. The Belonging Brant program is a citizen led group that appeals to those who may lack a sense of belonging within the community. The program started a parent and allies group and there has been great feedback. The program will run for 10 months on the second Wednesday of every month.

### **Nil Woodcraft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH**

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is back to a modified workplace with most employees working from home. In-person and in-office services are being provided only if necessary and the before and after school supports remain open. A virtual meeting with the Board is scheduled for the third week of February

### **Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant**

The Urgent Response Service start date has been pushed out until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## **10. Review Feedback of Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education**

The committee reviewed and discussed the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education. Feedback was gathered and inputted into the template and will be sent to the representative.

## **11. Reports**

### **11.1 Superintendent of Education**

A covid protocols update was provided. The Board was instructed by the Ministry to pivot to emergency remote learning after Christmas Break. There were a number of students with specific complex special education who were provided in-person learning during the remote learning period. Due to the snow yesterday, the Board is back for the first day of in-person learning as of today. There are N95 masks available for staff and 3-ply masks for any students who would like them. The Ministry's Covid-19 Screener is at the forefront of managing covid related absences.

The Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Council recently sent out a resource guide providing guidance and insight into special education funding. All of their resources can be found on their website. The Guide to Special Education Funding was sent to committee members to review and will be an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss.

### **11.2 Student Achievement Lead**

Our Community of Practice meeting in January consisted of three presentations for staff, which were found to be very resourceful and helpful. Our Professional Development Day for Educational Assistants was held virtually involving three key presentations: Boardmaker, Building Awareness of Self-Regulation, and Data Collection. Up next will be our Secondary Professional Developmental Day held for the Secondary Educational Assistants.

## **12. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:11pm.

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**Next meeting date, time, location:** February 15th, 2022 – 1pm, Microsoft Teams