



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.  
Boardroom**

**Present:** Teresa Westergaard-Hager (Acting Chair), Catherine Custodio, Carmen McDermid, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Paul Sanderson, Heather Shisler, Leslie Telfer

**Regrets:** Jill Esposto (Chair), Krista Emmerson, Lisa Stockmans, Tracey Taylor

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

**2. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Teresa Westergaard- Hager welcomed the group.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the October 25, 2016 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2016**

Carmen McDermid noted revisions to reports Section 7.1.

Moved by: Catherine Custodio

Seconded by: Paul Sanderson

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2016 meeting, as amended.

**Carried**

**5. Correspondence**

**5.1 Letter for SEAC Chair**

Superintendent Telfer updated the Committee on the letter received from the provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAAC) and highlighted the training resources they provide in an effort to streamline consistency across the provincial SEAC groups.

**5.2 Letter from the Ministry of Education**

Superintendent Telfer reviewed the letter from the Ministry of Education regarding the collection of the SEAC Chair contact information to be provided by October 31, 2016.

**5.3 Letter from the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board**

Superintendent Telfer shared with the group the data provided in the letter on the employment statistics for students with disabilities compared to students without disabilities and what some of the responses are to some of those statistics.



**6. Community Agency Updates**

*Catherine Custodio – Children’s Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk*

Catherine reported that the Children’s Aid Society of Haldimand Norfolk is still in the process of updating their new data system (CPIN).

*Teresa Westergaard-Hager – Community Outreach, Norfolk Association for Community Living*

Teresa discussed barriers that individuals with disabilities, especially in the Simcoe area, are experiencing in finding employment. The discussion included supports that are available and challenges they continue to be faced with. Superintendent Telfer suggested making contact with Community Living Brantford to have a representative from their organization join the group for gathering of information and to compare statistics. Teresa further discussed the phasing out of sheltered workshops. Preliminary plans will be submitted to the Ministry by October 31, 2016.

*Christine Pearce - Program Manager Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services*

Christine shared that they have hired two new male employees to their organization working in the Woodview Elementary Day Treatment Program, who also work at Camp Unity. Christine commented on the continued success that the Positive, Active, Creative, Kids (PACK) team is providing and opportunities for skill building in the community on a bi-weekly basis where the clients with more complex needs are one week and the higher functioning clients are the alternate week. She also noted how the iFLY fundraiser that took place on October 22, 2016, with assistance of corporate sponsors, has helped increase awareness about Woodview.

*Paul Sanderson – Contact Brant*

Paul had no further update on Contact Brant.

*Heather Shisler- Physiotherapist Lansdowne Children’s Centre*

Lansdowne is currently developing a framework for a new Strategic Needs Plan and Heather detailed the excitement around the upcoming changes. Lansdowne’s Executive Director has shared with the staff the current trend in Children’s Treatment Centres of Ontario and the overseeing body (OACRS - Ontario Association of Children’s Rehabilitation Services) to rebrand and rename centres. This is designed to reflect the model of inclusion and family centre practice.

*Bonnie McKinnon- Trustee BHNCD SB*

Bonnie shared information from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC) meeting on October 24 where members learned about the documents that have been created by the Ministry to support all learners in the French language classroom, namely *Including Students with Special Needs in French as a Second Language (FSL) Programs*, presented by Jackie Whiting, French Second Language Consultant. Superintendent Telfer added that FSL has been added to primary classes in four more schools within the Board and Carmen added that Jackie will be providing an in-service meeting for teachers to meet all student needs.



## **7. Reports**

### **7.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**

System SERTs and Carmen McDermid attended the Coaching to Inclusion Conference in London to hear guest speaker Kelly Dunlop, School Psychologist and Behaviour Consultant with the Autism Education Center in Michigan. Kelly spoke about key inclusionary practices from the START project including key accommodations such as visual schedules. The START project provides evidence-based training, technical assistance and resources for educators to assist their current practices when working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Also highlighted at the Conference were 'Champion of Inclusion' awards developed to recognize, celebrate, and highlight educators who exemplify exceptional, inclusionary practices. Patti Mitchell was chosen as this year's recipient from our Board. Patti has been instrumental in initiating and creating many inclusionary practices such as our Faith Retreats, Have a Go, Supplementary Gifted Program, etc. Carmen expressed the team's appreciation for all of her work.

### **7.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Telfer shared that the Board has posted for an Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Program Lead contract position which will focus on the needs of children with autism in our system. The position is to be filled immediately until August 31, 2017 with a possibility of a one-year extension. Additional Educational Assistants postings will fill gaps in the schools where additional assistance is needed.

Superintendent Telfer informed the group of a workshop with Dr. Joann Leavey on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the Catholic Education Centre. The focus of her talk will be on compassionate-loving strategies to assist students with their well-being.

Superintendent Telfer discussed the *Advanced Issues in SPEC ED Law* webinar which took place on October 17, 2016 and focused on the Human Rights Management and Managing Violent Behaviour presentations.

## **8. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.