



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.
Boardroom**

Present: Jill Esposto (Chair), Carmen McDermid, Heather Shisler, Leslie Telfer

Regrets: Keith Anderson, Catherine Custodio, Krista Emmerson, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Paul Sanderson, Lisa Stockmans, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Jill Esposto welcomed the group.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Heather Shisler

Seconded by: Jill Esposto

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the January 24, 2017 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2016

Moved by: Jill Esposto

Seconded by: Heather Shisler

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the meeting of the December 20, 2016 meeting.

Carried

5. Correspondence - Nil

6. Community Agency Updates

Heather Shisler - Physiotherapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre (LCC)

Heather had no further update on Lansdowne Children's Centre.

Jill Esposto – Director of Services, Brant Family & Children Services (FACS)

Jill provided an update about the many changes taking place this year with Brant Family & Children Services, including the move to a new information collection and storage system called Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). These changes also include mandated staff training for workers to be authorized for consistent, high quality services from agencies across Ontario. FACS is working together with McMaster and Wilfrid Laurier universities on developing a specific professional stream for child welfare to improve training to service providers. Key proposed changes within the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2016 include raising the age of protection from 16 to 18 to increase protection services for more vulnerable youth and strengthening focus on early intervention. The group discussed having FACS provide a session to our staff at an upcoming principal meeting to learn more about what services they provide.



7. Reports

7.1 Student Achievement Lead: Special Education

Carmen McDermid shared the positive feedback received from Educational Assistants regarding the workshops offered at the January Elementary PD Day. Math, Technology and ABA workshops were offered. As well, there were a large number of participants who registered in the following workshops pertaining to mental health, self-regulation and behaviour:

- a) Inside Out – this session focused on the connections between thoughts, feelings and actions and strategies to help students deal with these behaviours.
- b) Trauma Sensitive Classrooms – this session provided an overview to educators of the prevalence of trauma and how it impacts students and provided strategies to support students and to enhance their learning.
- c) Safe Talk – this suicide alertness training program equipped educators with strategies in dealing with and assisting to identify persons with thoughts of suicide.
- d) Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) – this training emphasized early intervention and non-physical methods for preventing and managing disruptive behaviour.

Ongoing professional development continues with our Special Education Resource Teachers at their Community of Practice meetings. Discussions incorporated self-regulation strategies provided in the 'Zones of Regulation' resource book. This meeting's Self-Regulation Tip discussed the purpose of Chewy Toys and looked at strategies on how to make them more socially appropriate.

7.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Telfer announced that effective January 30, 2017, Laura Klinck will begin the position of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Program Lead. As part of the Special Education Team, Laura will partner with Crystal Donohue, ABA Lead, to provide and coordinate training on ABA instructional strategies and resources with the Board. She also advised that interviews will be held in the near future for a school Special Education Resource Teacher position, which recently became available as a result of a retirement announcement.

8. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.