



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

Present: Jill Esposto (Chair), Keith Anderson, Catherine Custodio, Carmen McDermid, Bonnie McKinnon, Paul Sanderson, Heather Shisler, Leslie Telfer, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Regrets: Krista Emmerson, Christine Pearce, Lisa Stockmans, Tracey Taylor

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Jill Esposto (Chair) welcomed the group.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Heather Shisler

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard- Hager

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the March 7, 2017 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2017

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard- Hager

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting.

Carried

5. Correspondence

6.1 Letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

Superintendent Telfer shared a letter from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board to the Ministry of Education addressing the reduction to the Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA), which affects all school boards differently. HNA adjustments has not affected our Board negatively, but is something that requires continued attention.

6.2 Establishing Working Relationships with Third Party Professionals or Paraprofessional Service Providers AP 400.36

Superintendent Telfer reviewed and requested feedback on the new draft *Establishing Working Relationships with Third Party Professionals or Paraprofessional Service Providers* Administrative Procedure. Discussions ensued, feedback was provided, and Superintendent Telfer addressed various questions of clarification.



7. Community Agency Updates

Teresa Westergaard-Hager - Supervisor, Community Outreach, Norfolk Association for Community Living

Teresa shared the success of the community winter carnival held on Sunday, March 4, 2017 and how preparations are underway for the big fundraiser "Can U Dig It" on May 6, 2017. Teresa updated on several of the funding proposals that the Association is currently working on to increase resources and staffing for employment services, amongst many other initiatives. The organization is still currently seeking to fill the position of Passport Coordinator.

Heather Shisler - Physiotherapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre

Heather shared details on the upcoming three-day workshop, *Decoding the Autism Brain*, from March 21-23, 2017 presented by Kim Barthel. The workshop will include in-depth lectures, treatment strategies and deepening insights for professional staff who serve the Autism Spectrum Disordered population.

Paul Sanderson - Resource Coordinator, Contact Brant

Paul discussed the recent Indigenous Day Training Session he attended at Woodview Cultural Centre in Brantford and updated on the stories provided at the workshop. The workshop included a virtual tour of the Mohawk Institute Residential School. The school is the oldest school in Canada and they are currently in the process of acquiring funds to refurbish the building as a museum.

Keith Anderson - Manager of Developmental Services, Family Counseling Centre of Brant

Keith advised that several of his staff were receiving Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) training adapted for people with learning challenges. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Jill Esposito - Director of Services, Brant Family & Children Services

Jill updated that Brant Family & Children Services will have their Annual Crown Ward Review starting this month. This is a process where there is an external review of services offered to children who have had Crown Ward status for two (2) plus (+) years. It is a way to ensure that youth in care are receiving optimal care so that outcomes for these youth are improved. Jill shared that there are many changes in the Child Welfare sector for Ontario including changes to the current Child and Family Services Act. The organization is still working towards moving their system to the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), which is a single system for information gathering and sharing across the province. Brant FACS is also involved in the Coordinated Services Planning with community partners in Brantford.

Bonnie McKinnon - Trustee Representative, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Trustee McKinnon thanked Jill Esposito for her presentation to the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC) Meeting held on February 27, 2017. Trustee McKinnon explained that it was very informative for parents and helped them to understand the role of SEAC.



8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Lead: Special Education

Carmen McDermid shared information about the *Parents as Partners Workshop 2017* (Appendix A) and asked the group for assistance in promoting the upcoming Saturday workshop to any parents that they feel would benefit from the information provided. Designed to support families with the transition as their child prepares for kindergarten, the workshop will also connect families with their school team and community services that are available to them.

Carmen requested feedback on Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) allocations for next year. Discussions ensued and feedback was provided to Carmen.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Telfer advised that the department is further reviewing the Safety Care Training Modules, in addition to Non Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCi) Training.

9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.