



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

- Present:** Jill Esposto (Chair), Carmen McDermid, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Heather Shisler, Michelle Shypula, Leslie Telfer,
- Regrets:** Keith Anderson, Catherine Custodio, Krista Emmerson, Paul Sanderson, Lisa Stockmans, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager
- Guest:** Chris Roehrig, Director of Education & Secretary
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- 1. Opening Prayer**  
Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.
- 2. Welcome and Opening Comments**  
Jill Esposto (Chair) welcomed the group and Superintendent Telfer shared prayer cards from St Basil parish.
- 3. Approval of Agenda**  
Moved by: Heather Shisler  
Seconded by: Christine Pearce  
THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the April 11, 2017 meeting.  
**Carried**
- 4. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2017**  
Moved by: Christine Pearce  
Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon  
THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting.  
**Carried**
- 5. Community Agency Updates**  
*Christine Pearce- Program Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services*  
Christine shared events planned for the upcoming for Mental Health week from Monday, May 1 to Saturday, May 6, 2017. The kickoff event begins on Monday, May 1, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Sports Xcelerator Centre, which will include agency booths, refreshments and other activities for families. Christine was excited to share that Woodview will be having a display at Linden Park Mall on the Wednesday alongside of five other agencies from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Thursday they will be hosting at *Find Your Voice* coffee house on Market St. in Brantford which will be run by and include performances from youths. Thursday the *Children's Mental Health Family Fun Fair* will begin from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in Ohsweken and on Saturday May 6, the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hook Line and Thinker Fishing Derby* will be taking place from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Mt. Pleasant Ponds. Families will have to pre-register to specific events throughout the week with a cost of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Christine shared that further information will be posted on their Facebook page and on their new Twitter account. For additional information see Appendix A.



*Heather Shisler - Physiotherapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre*

Heather updated that the 3-day workshop with Kim Barthel went very well and was very insightful. Heather shared upcoming events that will be taking place at Lansdowne such as the Classic run on April 30 starting at W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind in Brantford and a motorcycle ride on May 13, which will route through Brantford and guided by the police. A celebration with music and food will follow the motorcycle ride. Lansdowne is currently completing their final prep for summer camps and families will shortly receive further information on this. Lansdowne has expanded a service for families on the third Thursday of every month to assist families having difficulties filling in forms, such as the disability tax credit forms. Families are encouraged to register for these sessions and the services have been very well received.

*Jill Esposto - Director of Services, Brant Family & Children Services*

Jill updated that the crown ward reviews were recently completed and they are currently waiting on the results. Results will show how youth with Crown Ward status, who are served by Brant FACS, are doing, including how they are progressing in relation to their educational goals. Jill will further update the group on these outcomes when the data is available. Jill updated on Bill 89 and how the proposed bill would create the Child Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA), which will replace the Child Family Services Act (CFSA). The Bill contains amendments including the changing the age of protection, a legislative framework for information access and privacy, recognition of extra-provincial protection orders, personal liability coverage for board governors and supports for older youth. Projected changes set for November 2017.

**6. Presentation**

**6.1 Renewing the Promise Consultation – Chris Roehrig, Director of Education**

Director Roehrig provided a historical overview on Catholic education explaining how Catholic schools worked in the past towards gaining funding and how they existed because the schools were built to work in conjunction with their churches. He also described that once funding was achieved they had to be clear about what they wanted to accomplish. As an extension of both “This Moment of Promise” and “Fulfilling the Promise” documents, Catholic School Boards across Ontario, including 35 school districts and parishes, are invited to the “Renewing the Promise: Exploring the Critical Role of Catholic Education in Contemporary Society” symposium in Toronto on November 14-15, 2017. The symposium will be led by the Bishops of Ontario, along with the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and l’Office Provincial de l’Éducation de la foi Catholique de l’Ontario (OPECO). The symposium will bring together representatives of the key stakeholder groups who, together, share the responsibility for Catholic education and assist in the writing of the Third Pastoral Letter, to be released in May 2018.

Director Roehrig asked members the following three questions and invited participants to complete the online survey.

1. What are some ways that Catholic Education in Ontario supports students to be living witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ?
2. What are some current challenges facing Catholic education in Ontario?
3. What are some current opportunities presented for Catholic education in Ontario that will help shape a positive future?



The data will be collected, collated, categorized, analyzed and shared with ICE and OPECO. The comprehensive data will serve as the basis for specific conversations that will take place when Board teams gather during the symposium in November. Director Roehrig thanked the group for their participation and for their time.

## **7. Reports**

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

The Special Education Services team hosted an in-service on April 4th based on requested topics identified through a survey completed by FSL teachers. They participated in four different rotations including Autism Spectrum Disorder & Self-Regulation, implementation of Structured Learning in an FSL classroom, writing measurable French expectations and use of technology/software programs to support students with an identification in the FSL classroom.

In partnership with agency partners, the BHNCD SB held Entry to School Case Conference in the three counties on different days to assist with a more seamless transition of students into our system for next September. Along with families and agency members, all meetings had school and system personnel in attendance to assist with better understanding the learning needs of our future incoming Kindergarten students.

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test was administered to 613 grade two students during the week of April 3-7. Results will be shared with schools and families before the end of this school year and will be used to help with programming and better understanding the learning needs of all students.

### **7.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Telfer announced the change in the Superintendent portfolios with the Board. Superintendent Michelle Shypula will be transitioning as the new Superintendent of Special Education and Superintendent Telfer will be transitioning to Student Achievement. The change in portfolios will provide a great opportunity for them to work together as a team and the full exchange will begin in May.

Superintendent Telfer shared that Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) have extended their collective bargaining agreements to 2019. The extension will be good for the province by helping to maintain stability and by providing additional funding for position specific teaching and parameters where special education and children at risk are involved. There will be an increase in staffing resources to support across the system.

Superintendent Telfer shared that the upcoming Professional Activity Day on Friday April 28 will focus on mental health.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.