



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

- Present:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Jennifer Chapman, Carmen McDermid, Paul Sanderson, Michelle Shypula
- Guests:** Peter Svec, *Student Achievement Consultant: Pathways*
- Regrets:** Krista Emmerson, Jill Esposto, Mischa Jansink, Christine Pearce, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager, Nil Woodcroft
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1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Shypula welcomed the group and Paul Sanderson (Acting Chair) led a round of introductions for the benefit of Peter Svec and SEAC members in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Jennifer Chapman

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the January 23, 2018 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2017

Moved by: Jennifer Chapman

Seconded by: Paul Sanderson

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting.

Carried

5. Correspondence

Superintendent Shypula provided an overview of a letter sent to the Ministry of Education by the Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB) to SEAC Committee members (see Appendix A). The letter discusses the pilot project as set out in a memorandum by the Ministry on October 25, 2017, on plans to improve school-based supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). GEDSB, who was not one of the 18 school boards selected for the pilot project, is asking the Ministry to consider allowing their Educational Assistants (EAs) to access the 40 hours of online training provided in the pilot project. SEAC members unanimously decided to not submit a letter at this time until we receive additional information from the Ministry about the pilot project.

6. Presentation

6.1 Sonflower Stables Experiential Trip

Peter Svec, *Student Achievement Consultant: Pathways*, shared an overview of his position with the Board, which encompasses providing experiential learning opportunities to students across the district. A few of the learning experiences provided to students were working at the local Food Bank, cleaning, feeding and caring for animals at the Twin Valley Zoo and most



recently the SonFlower Stables. SonFlower Stables provided a meditation component and activities for students that help build confidence and motivate them to participate. Peter shared a video of students reflecting on their experiences working at SonFlower Stables where they described what they enjoyed about this opportunity, their favourite memories and what they learned from their trip. The eight-minute video demonstrated some students retelling their experiences while others communicated their stories using written signs. Teachers and Educational Assistants (EAs) also shared their experiences in the video, describing the learning and emotional connection SonFlower Stables provided to students. Peter shared the students' excitement and contentment while learning through these opportunities.

7. Community Agency Updates

Jennifer Chapman- Child Welfare Supervisor- Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society

Jennifer shared how agencies are experiencing learning curves from the new legislation, which has now come in to effect in January 2018. Youth aged 16 to 17 years of age can volunteer to go into care with Children's Aid Societies and Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society has already received three in the month of January. The agency continues to look at staffing within their organization to ensure needs are being met and will be developing presentations, which will be offered within the communities at a later date. The legislation is not yet proclaimed.

Bonnie McKinnon- Trustee Representative

Bonnie shared that she attended the 2018 Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Seminar where the Hon. Indira Naidoo-Harris made her first public address on January 19, 2018. The newly appointed Minister of Education spoke to the political panel: "Ontario's Education Priorities".

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen provided updates regarding the January 22, 2018 Elementary Professional Development Day where an additional 32 Educational Assistants (EAs) received the new Enhanced Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCi) training. To date, approximately 75 Educational Assistants have now completed the Enhanced training within our Board, which is on track with having all EAs trained by December 2018. Carmen shared information on many of the workshops that were provided such as *Boardmaker training*, which is a software tool used for making visual schedules and was a workshop offered in both the morning and afternoon. The *Regulate to Educate* workshop assisted educators in providing calming techniques/strategies so that they are better equipped to assist students with self-regulation needs. Math workshop were provided where the focus was on various math activities (Box Cars) that educators can use with their students including dice, cards, other manipulatives, etc. The Information Technology workshops demonstrated how to research information on educational sites to further enhance the students they are supporting. Educators were given an opportunity to explore all materials purchased for the EA Lending Library and to receive instruction on various tools that might work well with the students they are supporting. EAs were able to sign out items to take back to their classrooms to use with students.

Carmen spoke about the positive impact the Grade 2 Reconciliation Retreat has had in supporting our students before they receive the Sacrament at the church. The Retreat took



place on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 with five schools having students attend who would benefit from a more personalized teaching and stronger understanding of Reconciliation.

Carmen shared that on December 15, 2017, 33 principals and on January 12, 2018, 32 SERTs and Special Education Department Heads completed the new Enhanced NVCI training. It is the hope that this training will be instrumental in assisting principals, teachers and other educators in helping to de-escalate students before the need to physically intervene occurs. Should there be a need to physically intervene, the training outlines when it would be absolutely necessary and how to do this safely when students or staff are involved.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula provided an update on the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA). Introduced in 2015, the protocol is a joint information sharing process between the Children's Aid Societies, school boards and schools. Research indicates that student achievement in children and youth in care is significantly lower than that of the general school population. According to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), in 2012-13, only 46% of Ontario's Crown Wards graduated from high school, compared to the overall rate of 83%. These statistics resulted in the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and the Ministry of Education making a commitment to improving educational outcomes of children and youth in care of or receiving services from children's aid societies. The protocol intends to facilitate that collaboration between the partnerships to enable students in care from Kindergarten to Grade 12 (e.g. Crown Wards, society wards) or who are receiving voluntary or court ordered services from CAS. The JPSA will contain administrative processes to support a student transitioning into or out of school. The planning for student achievement will include establishing a REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement of Children/Youth) Team to support and promote the educational achievement of the student and the development of an individualized ESP (Education Success Plan). The protocol will detail the dispute resolution processes between CAS agencies and school boards, including timelines for dispute resolution before escalation. Partners of the JPSA are as follows:

- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Child welfare authorities include:

- Brant Family and Children's Services
- Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
- Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk
- The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
- Ogwadeni:deo

It is anticipated that the JPSA will be ready for official implementation in September 2018. Effective monitoring and evaluation of the protocol will include a formal review every two years.



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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322 Fairview Drive
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9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked Paul Sanderson for chairing the meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 10:00 am, Boardroom