



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

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

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer. Debbie Dignan introduced the students from the Senior Job Skills Class from Assumption College School.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Shypula welcomed the staff and Senior Job Skills class students and Debbie Dignan introduced the Assumption College School (ACS) students accompanied by their teacher - Stephen MacNeil, Educational Assistant (EA) - Barb Hannam and Special Education Department Head - Mary Bradford.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the April 17, 2018 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2018

Moved by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Seconded by: Jennifer Chapman

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Carried

Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2018

Moved by: Mischa Dinsmore

Seconded by: Jill Esposto

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting.

Carried

5. Presentation

5.1 Celebration of Inclusivity

Debbie Dignan provided an overview of the Senior Job Skills Class, which is a special education program aimed at teaching practical and necessary skills to students in preparation for the workplace. The Celebration of Inclusivity derived from the liturgy they created and shared with other classes at ACS, was part of their curriculum. Students were then invited to perform their prayer service in celebration of Jean Vanier and the L'Arche (deriving from French, Noah's Ark) communities Jean created for people with intellectual and physical disabilities.



6. Community Agency Updates

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

Teresa shared that the Norfolk Association for the Community Living is preparing for their sixth annual *Can You Dig It* on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Port Dover Community Centre. The Game Show Extravaganza is a fundraiser where audience members compete for fabulous prizes on adaptations of classic game shows such as; Family Feud, The Price is Right and many more. The agency will be having their Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 22, 2018.

Nil Woodcroft- Manager of Early Childhood Intervention Programs- Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Nil updated that Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is currently working with Grand Erie and Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Boards to support children involved in transition into school in September. The Haldimand-Norfolk Coordinated Service Planning Advisory Committee continues to meet to review priorities around Coordinated Service Planning. REACH also continues to support the coordinated service process through the Community of Practice. Employees have an opportunity to meet to review next steps and best practices.

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

Jennifer shared that the Children's Aid Society of Haldimand-Norfolk held their Annual Easter dinner on March 22, 2018, for youth and that it was a great gathering. Youth who are no longer receiving support services were also in attendance and contributed to the dinner's success. The agency continues to see an increase in the number of youth requesting supports from 16 to 18 years of age and their Board has approved continuing supports for some post 21 youth. New legislation, the Child and Youth Family Services Act (CYFSA), is expecting to be proclaimed at the end of the April. The agency is hoping to soon acquire the required forms and is expecting additional legal updates for the legislation. The agency has completed their review of Crown Wards and received very good feedback from the Ministry. This was the agency's first review with the fully implemented Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), an information collection and computer storage system that is being used by all Child Welfare agencies across the Province.

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

Jill updated that Brant Family & Children Services will be "going live" onto the Provincial Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) for two weeks starting May 14, 2018. The agency is in the process of training all of their staff on the new information collection and storage system. Effective April 1, 2018 Ogwadeni:deo has successfully completed the child welfare designation process and will provide all child welfare services for Six Nations families. All Six Nations families currently working within Brant Family & Children Services will be transferred to Ogwadeni:deo services. The agency will continue to serve families who are members of the New Credit Band. The agency has received over 30 referrals for 16 and 17 year old youths since January 2018. This is an expansion of mandated services for all Child welfare agencies in Ontario to include youth aged 16 and 17.

Jill updated that all child protection workers must now be authorized which is a four to six month procedure, followed by an exam through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS). The agency has experienced a shortage of authorized workers during this transition. Jill updated that



on June 11, 2018 they will be holding their Annual General Meeting and extended an invitation to anyone interested in attending or becoming a member to attend. Jill passed around a booklet labeled 'My Book of Safety' designed for youth that provides information on Internet Safety to how to get involved in their communities and feeling good about themselves.

Paul Sanderson- Resource Coordinator, Contact Brant

Based on new initiatives for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Canada, Contact Brant have hired a new employee to improve outcomes for those who are already identified, including their families and targeted area communities. The new FASD resource coordinator is Linda McFadyen who began her position on April 1, 2018.

Mischa Dinsmore- Family Service Coordinator, Lansdowne Children's Centre

Mischa announced that during her maternity leave, Lansdowne is hoping to be able to backfill her position until she returns. On Saturday, May 12, 2018, Lansdowne will be holding their 14th Annual Charity Motorcycle Ride fundraising event to support of Every Kid Counts program. Mischa updated on a new family support worker position that will be overseeing the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) where there is currently a very large waitlist. Lansdowne is presently working with both school Boards on the entry to school transition meetings for entry in September 2018.

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

On behalf of the Board, Bonnie thanked all of our agencies for their continued time, support and input into our monthly SEAC meetings. She expressed her gratitude on behalf of students in our Board.

7. Reports

7.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Allocation of Supports Meetings - Carmen shared with the group an example of a student support rubric used as part of the discussion when assessing school/student needs for the purpose of allocating supports/services. The student support rubric has been revised throughout the years to address ongoing, ever changing student needs. The updated rubric incorporates criteria from the Board's previous rubric, while incorporating some criteria from two other Boards' rubrics as well as having it reviewed by system level personnel. Principals and SERTs are responsible for completing the rubrics prior to their assigned meeting date for students requiring support. Information is then shared with the team. The team is comprised of Michelle Shypula, Carmen McDermid, System Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and the Child and Youth Worker or Social Workers attached to a particular school. Face-to-face meetings are scheduled over a period of two weeks with each individual school. This new process has been very well received by Principals/Vice-Principals and SERTs as it provides them an opportunity to have their school's profile/needs discussed regarding requests for support.

The April 13th PA Day had a dedicated focus on mental health and well-being. Over 30 workshops were offered to staff to self-select based on their own personal learning needs. The afternoon included a Health and Safety presentation with Deborah King-Bonafacio, BHNCDSD Disability Management & Safety Coordinator, followed by guest speaker, Valerie Spironello, MSW, RSW. Valerie enthusiastically shared stories of personal challenges over her 25 year career as a Social Worker in supporting others



and then discussed personal and professional self-awareness and self-care strategies. Approximately 250 staff were in attendance to hear Deborah and Valerie's presentations. Attendees included EAs, ECEs, Library Technicians, System staff and some Principals.

On March 27, the Special Education Services Team hosted a full day New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) training for 33 newly hired permanent and LTO teachers. Participants spent the morning with the Applied Behaviour Analysis Leads learning about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) methods and strategies, functions of behaviours and transition planning for students with Autism. The system special education staff shared information about the Individual Education Plan (IEP) development process, with an emphasis on the process/steps needed to develop effective/measurable IEP expectations. Participants also had an opportunity to explore the resource 'The Zones of Regulation' which has been supplied to every school, and discussed how to successfully utilize available sensory materials/rooms. The day was capped off by reviewing available system level and community supports and how to access them. Exit slips were completed by participants which included an opportunity for new teachers to request further follow up with any of the topics discussed or to request support in another area. Feedback received was very positive and further NTIP days are being planned for May.

7.2 Superintendent of Education

Following up on Carmen's update, Superintendent Shypula shared that they received a lot of great feedback on this year's mental health PA Day. She commented on how the team was responsive to feedback from attendees from last year's PA Day. Staff shared their experiences from some of the excellent workshops they attended

7. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked the Students from the Assumption College Job Skills Class for their presentation to SEAC.