



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Teams Meeting**

- Members:** Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Jennifer Chapman (*Co-Chair*), Lauren Freeborn (*Co-Chair*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Christina Ferrell, Annmarie Krauss, Sarah Robertson, Nil Woodcroft
- Regrets:** Tara Buchanan, Brook Gardner
- Resources:** Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Carmen McDermid (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*)
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1. Opening Prayer/Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Greco provided the land acknowledgement by recognizing the Indigenous Land on which we gather, and Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Greco welcomed the group. He welcomed new member, Christina Ferrell who will be replacing Brook Gardner on our committee.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Jennifer Chapman

Seconded: Annmarie Krauss

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the June 15, 2021 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: Annmarie Krauss

Seconded: Lauren Freeborn

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting.

Carried

5. Correspondence

RCCDSB Letter re: Bill 172

We sent a letter on behalf of our SEAC committee to Mr. Stephen Lecce in support and endorsement of Bill 172. We hope this will be passed and we will see some changes.



6. Presentations

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Linda McFadden and Lyndsey Campbell

Linda McFadden shared that FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the body and brain of those exposed to alcohol while in the womb. Those affected need assistance throughout their lives. 1 in 25 people in the population have it. Consuming alcohol through all trimesters of pregnancy can cause this.

Linda shared facts and symptoms of FASD. A slide show will be included with the minutes. The presentation outlined the adverse outcomes of the impairments, and the need to address the behaviour. Mental health issues are common.

Lyndsey Campbell highlighted the idea “think can’t, not won’t” and “brain damage, not bad.” Lyndsey shared the “eight magic keys” and discussed methods to assist FASD students. Support services are key for families. Developing goals help to keep things stable. FASD is under diagnosed and there is a stigma to the disorder.

Lexia Core5 Presentation – Susan Fitzgerald

Susan Fitzgerald presented an overview of the Special Education Lexia Pilot Project, now in year three of its implementation across Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District SB. The following areas were presented, starting with a brief explanation of the steps taken in researching Lexia’s efficacy as a literacy intervention program before its implementation across our system.

- Criteria for assigning a Lexia license to a student
- License request process required by school teams when they are requesting Lexia licenses
- District license update – total number of current licenses in our District – Special Education
- Training – professional development training in Lexia provided to SERTs, principals, system special education staff, and senior administrators
- Program Overview – a brief explanation of Lexia’s Blended Learning Model and the student experience on Lexia
- Tracking Student Progress – the gains students have made in their reading and literacy skills as demonstrated by completion of Lexia units and levels
- Student Success Stories – student, parent, teacher, and SERT testimonials about improved reading skills, increased self-confidence, greater level of independence and motivation to learn

7. Community Agency Updates

Jennifer Chapman - Child Welfare Supervision, The Children’s Aid Society of Haldimand-Norfolk

No report.



Annemarie Krauss – Lansdowne

As restrictions lift, Lansdowne will be increasing in centre services and home based visits will remain outdoors at this time.

Camp and recreational programs will be running in the summer. Lansdowne continues to offer clinical services in Simcoe and recently opened two new satellite offices, one in Dunnville and another in Caledonia.

Shannon Mason – Principal Lead

Self regulation courses being offered in our board have been an amazing experience and Principals are excited to take this learning into the schools

Bill Chopp – Trustee

No updates were provided on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Lauren Freeborn – Service Planning Coordinator, Contact Brant

Staff continue to work virtually to support client needs but have the flexibility to provide services in person through porch/outside visits if needed. Contact Brant will be coordinating a meeting on June 25th 2021 to get local input into the new OAP (Ontario Autism Program) Urgent Response proposal. The definition of Urgent Response is time-limited services and supports that are intended to respond rapidly to a specific need and prevent further escalation of risk of harm to self, others and property.

Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

HN REACH is currently in Step 1 which includes: at 25% capacity at Townsend site, in person visits continuing on individual basis, Family Early Intervention Program continues to provide supports to children with special needs in licensed childcare settings, Bramble Retreat remains closed.

Regarding Developmental Services- The Ministry has allowed recipients of Special Services at Home to continue to utilize their funds to purchase items from an expanded eligible expense list. We continue to support families with these purchases.

Autism and Behavioural Services will be offering new programs in late summer and fall to include: 1. Social ABC's program through the Ontario Autism Program and 2. Pivotal Response Training program through the Ontario Autism Program. Summer camp will also be offered which will include both in-person and virtual for the months of July and August. Autism and Behavioural Services is currently working on a proposal for Entry to School program set to begin March 2022.

Sarah Robertson – Director of Services, Brant Family & Children's Services

No report.

Christina Ferrell – Woodview

In person supports are currently taking place. There are many families in need. Camp programs will be offered, as well as services throughout the summer.



8. Reports

8.1 Superintendent of Education

Kevin Greco

Kevin discussed terms of the SEAC committee, parameters for next year and defined the role of SEAC committee. There will be 10 meetings per year, the trustees are included, we go ahead as planned for next year. There will be an orientation in September and presentations at our meetings.

8.2 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen McDermid

The annual Special Education Report has been completed on behalf of the Special Education Department and System Special Education Team. It is an overall summary of the work completed throughout the year. Highlights of the report were shared with SEAC members and the Report will be shared with the Trustees and Sr. Admin Team for approval.

9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Greco and Lauren thanked the group. The meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – Microsoft Teams