



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – 1pm
Teams Meeting**

Members: Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Jennifer Chapman, Lauren Freeborn, Annmarie Krauss, Marissa Lechowicz,

Regrets: Sarah Robertson, Tara Buchanan, Nil Woodcraft, Christina Ferrell, Bill Chopp

Resources: Carmen McDermid (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Kerri Lomax (*VP, Secondary*), Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)

1. Land Acknowledgement

Lauren Freeborn led with a land acknowledgement.

2. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid shared an opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Greco welcomed the group.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approved: Patti Mitchell

Seconded: Jennifer Chapman

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the December 14, 2021, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Approved: Patti Mitchell

Seconded: Lauren Freeborn

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence

No new correspondence to share.

7. Presentation

7.1 Steven Glowala, ACS Arts Department Teacher

A video was submitted to the CBC Music Challenge from the students at Assumption College School from four different classes. The students chose to submit an Indigenous video. The video was shortlisted in the top ten, and further to be shortlisted to top three. Committee members watched the video, which can be found on YouTube called “Strawberry Moon (Ode’min Giizis)” – Assumption College School.

8. Community Agency Updates

Annemarie Krauss – Lansdowne

The Lifespan team is in the process of hiring a new Social Worker and Child and Youth Worker to expand in the Haldimand-Norfolk area.

An update was provided on several Autism Services offered by Lansdowne: Foundational Family Services, Fee-For-Service Behaviour Therapy, and Caregiver Mediated Early Years. A brand-new program was also highlighted called Entry to School. This program is for children who have not entered school yet to teach them readiness skills. There will be an interdisciplinary approach including speech and occupational therapy.

Jennifer Chapman – Haldimand-Norfolk Children’s Aid Society

Haldimand-Norfolk Children’s Aid Society is currently gearing up for the holiday season. The youth dinners have been delivered using gift cards paired with toiletry items. Recruiting an Executive Director is still underway.

Kerri Lomax – Vice Principal, St. John’s College

Sitting in on the meeting to understand more about the committee. No update to provide.

Patti Mitchell – Parent, County of Brant

No update. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant

No update for Contact Brant.

Shared an update received from St. Leonard’s. Their Youth Resource Centre (YRC) is moving to a new location on Chatham Street. The location change is projected to change in February 2022 and will be running with reduced capacity. The YRC will support 15-17 year old’s instead of 15-19 year old’s. A new housing program will be introduced that supports 18-29 year old’s and will have an emergency bed system. St. Leonard’s advised more information to follow in the new year.

9. Review Feedback – Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education

Committee members to review feedback at January’s meeting.

10. Reports

10.1 Superintendent of Education

Students are receiving five Rapid Antigen Tests to use over the Christmas break as needed. The Board is monitoring updates from the Minister and Deputy Minister regarding status of in-school learning after the Christmas break. Superintendent Greco shared an update on student programs and supports. Self-Regulation training continues with over 100 staff involved in the Fall, and another 60 continuing in January. Superintendent Greco wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

10.2 Student Achievement Lead

The Special Education Department hosted their monthly Community of Practice meeting. Focus was on a new resource called Bridge the Gap for Resource Teachers; an online training seat was purchased. Bridge the Gap will provide the SEAC committee with a presentation in February. The New Teacher Induction Program continues with presentations and workshops for new teachers in our Board.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.