



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 21st, 2022 – 1pm

St John's College, 80 Paris Rd

Members: Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Tara Buchanan, Lauren Freeborn, Mischa Dinsmore, Christina Ferrell, Nil Woodcroft, Shannon Korber, Brandi Bertling, Kim Fraser, Marissa Lechowicz, Sandra DeDominicis

Regrets: Tara Buchanan

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. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lauren welcomed the committee.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Greco led with a Land Acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid shared an opening prayer.

4. Presentations

4.1 In-school Work Experiences for Job Skills Program at St. John's College (SJC)

Kevin O'Sullivan shared opening comments and handed the presentation over to Carla DiFelice who assisted students present on their experiences with the job skills program. The program offered services such as shredding, used uniform store, Morning Eagle Brew, and a snack program. The snack program was a favourite that reached over 200 students within SJC.

4.2 Community Co-op Placements Experiences

Christine Luciani introduced students who participated in the community co-op placements. This offered students that ability to work in the community for the first time. Two students participated within schools St. Pius, and Christ the King. Program feedback from these schools' principals was positive and supportive and stated they would be delighted to have the program return next year. Another student completed a placement at Home Hardware assisting with tasks such as labelling items, pricing inventory, and customer service. Two Home Hardware employees attended the presentation and offered great feedback and kind words to the student thanking them for their hard work.

4.3 Employability Kits

Debbie Dignan explained the Employability Kits were purchased using money from an experiential learning grant. This grant was brought to the attention of schools by Superintendent Rob De Reubis who invited all to apply. The Board was able to purchase enough supplies to build 8 employability kits: Hospitality, Carpentry, Food Industry Server, Business Office Worker, Laundry Attendant, Hairstylist, and Horticulture.

5. Approval of Agenda – June 21, 2022

Approved: Mischa Dinsmore

Seconded: Christina Ferrell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the June 21, 2022, meeting.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Approved: Patti Mitchell

Seconded: Christina Ferrell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the May 17, 2022, meeting.

7. Review of Annual Special Education Report

The Annual Special Education Report is in its draft stages. Carmen McDermid shared highlights of the report with the committee.

8. Correspondence

No new correspondence.

9. Community Agency Updates

Bill Chopp – Trustee

Trustee Chopp expressed thanks to Superintendent Greco for his leadership during the pandemic, being a new leader and thinking outside of the box. A thank you was shared with the SEAC committee at whole for their participation and wanting to be a part of the discussion, looking forward to starting again in September.

Kerri Lomax – VP, Secondary

No new updates.

Mischa Dinsmore – Lansdowne

Lansdowne is currently wrapping up school meetings and getting ready for the summer. Thanked Carmen for her leadership and wished her well in her retirement.

Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

No new updates.

Christina Ferrell – Woodview

Woodview continues to go through a service transformation. At this point all families have gotten a letter outlining the changes and there has been a 50 percent (%) response rate. As such, the Clinical team is putting together teams and services that are suitable for the families' requests/needs.

Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant

Contact Brant's Urgent Response Service is in full force. There have been referrals coming in from Haldimand, Norfolk, Niagara and some within Brant.

Patti Mitchell – Parent, County of Brant

No new update. Expressed a thank you to all SEAC committee members for their work and participation.

10. Reports

10.1 Superintendent of Education

The team met over the year to plan moving forward – with school SERTs and other groups to get a sense of the priorities going forward. An increase with entry to school case conferences. Planning what to focus on and where to allocate budget appropriately.

Looking forward to continuing the Employability Program in our schools. Hoping to give a reboot of communication to clarify procedures that have been modified over the course of the pandemic. Being intention with our IEPs and tracking them with effort.

Self-Regulation plan going Forward. Building capacity amongst all our staff and how to extend this to our parents.

Restorative practices. Principals are very interested in this. The pandemic has cause children to not be able to solve their own problems.

Shared a thank you to Trustee Chopp for being an advocate for special education. Thanked all SEAC members for their interest and dedication in partnership. Thanks to Kerri and Shannon for their expertise on the committee. Welcomed Sandra to the committee.

10.2 Student Achievement Lead

Shared the last Community of Practice meeting results and highlighted the priorities going forward. Keeping things focused. Strategic Planning has created a focus on our vision moving forward and it has brought a lot of excitement.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Plan for the next meeting to be in person.

Next meeting date, time, location: September 20th, 2022 – 1pm, TBD