



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 18th – 1pm
Catholic Education Centre, 322 Fairview Dr, Brantford**

- Members:** Tara Buchanan, Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Mischa Dinsmore, Lauren Freeborn, Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Shannon Korber, Kerri Lomax, Phil Wilson (*Superintendent of Education*), Nil Woodcroft
- Regrets:** Brandi Bertling, Michelle Drake, Christina Ferrell, Kim Fraser, Kerri Lomax, Patti Mitchell
- Resources:** Sandra De Dominicis (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Kerri Lomax (*Principal, Elementary*), Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)
-

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Superintendent Greco welcomed the committee.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Greco led with the land acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

4. Introductions

The committee provided brief introductions for new and existing members. Superintendent Greco welcomed Phil Wilson, the new Superintendent of Education. Phil is now taking over the Special Education portfolio.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Shannon Korber

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the October 18, 2022, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Nil Woodcroft

Seconded by: Lauren Freeborn

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the September 20, 2022, meeting.

Carried

7. Correspondence

No new correspondence to share.

Community Agency Updates

Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant

Contact Brant is an access agency that does intakes and referrals for children with mental health and developmental disabilities in Brantford and Brant County. They also have the following programs: Service Coordination, FASD Coordination and now Urgent Response Services (URS) Coordination. Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) supports the most complex children and youth living in our community by helping them navigate the system and by assisting them with getting access to community resources.

Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand Norfolk Reach

Wendy Carron is the new Executive Director. Currently wrapping up the 2022 Transition to school process for the Family Early Intervention and Infant and Child Development Service. Plans are already underway for 2023, meeting with Sandra De Dominicis in November.

The Transitional Aged Youth Planner resigned from her position effective September 30th and they are currently beginning the recruitment process. In the interim, families have been given the names and contact information for individuals at REACH who can assist them with any issues that arise.

Shannon Korber – Child and Family Services of Grand Erie (CFSGE)

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie (HN and Brantford office amalgamated). CFSGE is now open to all families in their agencies. She helps navigate the system for them, registrations/school transfers. Many kids in some ways are connected to Spec Ed.

Busy start to the year, not enough resources, Mental Health is a huge part of these children's lives, and everyone is trying to work together, not enough manpower. Planning Christmas dinners for youth, a lot of kids living in the streets, on their own, couch surfing, trying to organize something for them. October 27th is dress purple day, the agency purchased t-shirts with a new logo on it. They have been encouraged to support youth and vulnerable families.

Tara Buchanan – Community Living Brant

Belonging Brant project is to address isolation for everyone in the community to ensure all can have a sense of belonging, trying to find out what their passionate about and help it come to fruition. Finishing out 2nd year of a three-year Trillium grant. Group initiatives have been started.

Building Bridges is for ages 14 and up and is a youth led group that takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact Community Living Brant if you know of any youth that would be suitable. Aim is to let youth choose what they want to work on, i.e., three of them coming to do an indigenous art piece.

Community living – employment supports – Project search just launched through Grand Erie involving students with disabilities. Job opportunity program for Spec Ed students in their last year of high school. It has been very successful but low numbers are registered. It is a great opportunity and program. Tara also sits on the Grassroots organization that does organizational and community events for LGBTQ.

Mischa Dinsmore – Lansdowne Children's Centre

Rehab services for kids up to 21 years of age, if in school, involving Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy for children in school and outpatients and Speech and Language offered before they enter the school board. Lansdowne also houses Autism Services and will have their first trick or treating in the halls for children with Autism on October 27th, a good trial for those children as some have never had this opportunity and they will be in an environment that they are familiar with.

Bill Chopp – Trustee

Trustee Chopp thanked Superintendent Greco for taking on the role for the past 2½ years as it was a difficult time in education and was thankful for his contributions.

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Lead

The Gifted modules, Term 1 will be arts related and next term will focus on science, STEM, trades, and mathematics.

Discussions at AAC meetings included accessing Jordan's Principle, GPS trackers, EA allocation, IEP's, case conferences, team meetings, IPRC review reminders, and referrals around SLP support. COP meeting topics included self-contained programs, filing, documentation, privacy protocols, FSL exemptions, Speech and Language referrals, BTG, sacramental retreats, after School Skills Development Program, gifted information, multiple exceptionalities, referrals and had a presentation by LCC, IEP writing reminders, and changes in PSSE and the SEA computer training format.

Working with IT to create a more efficient and comprehensive transportation database. NTIP on October 19th is focusing on Spec Ed, IEPs, rights, and responsibilities geared to both Elementary and Secondary students. Two New SERT training sessions have taken place.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

The Special Education communications section on the web page will be reviewed making sure the SEAC tab on the website is up to date with meeting dates, members, and annual reports.

The demographic collection data survey will be sent out to all students as it is mandated by the Ministry. There are 21 Ministry mandated questions and added Board questions so we can better serve our students. The survey will help the Board and Ministry understand the makeup of our diverse population of students and how we can be responsive. The survey is 7-10 minutes, voluntary, confidential, and anonymous. The survey will be distributed mid-November to Secondary students who will complete the survey at school or at home. The following week, Elementary students will have the opportunity to complete the survey with their families at home through a link and instructions sent to all parents. A reminder of the survey will be sent out shortly. The board is hoping for full participation and to hear the voices of everyone.

Dress purple day is October 27th – information has been sent out to our staff and principals.

9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Discussed having a future meeting at Crossing All Bridges.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next meeting date, time, location: Tuesday, November 15th – CEC Board Room