



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
Catholic District School Board**

**Minutes**

Catholic Education Centre  
322 Fairview Drive  
Brantford, ON N3R 2X6

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 – 1pm  
Microsoft Teams**

**Members:** Brandi Bertling, Dennis Blake (*Trustee*), Michelle Drake, Christina Ferrell, Kim Fraser, Kerri Lomax (*Principal, Elementary*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Phil Wilson (*Superintendent of Education*), Nil Woodcroft, Linda McFayden, Marilyn Noi

**Regrets:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Tara Buchanan, Mischa Dinsmore, Kim Fraser, Shannon Korber, Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)

**Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*)

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**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Christina Ferrell welcomed the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Wilson read the Board's land acknowledgement.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

**4. Introductions**

The committee provided brief introductions for new and existing members of their roles and responsibilities.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Nil Woodcroft

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the January 17, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

## **6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Linda McFayden

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

**Carried**

## **7. Correspondence – Nil**

## **8. Community Agency Updates**

### **Brandy Bertling – Child and Family Services of Grand Erie**

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie continues to look for volunteer drivers and are in desperate need of foster homes.

### **Michelle Drake – Crossing All Bridges**

Crossing All Bridges is now offering remote learning for individuals ages fourteen plus.

### **Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk Reach**

Haldimand Norfolk Reach is working with the BHNCDSD on Early Child Development and Kickstart to Kindergarten. Ten schools within BHNCDSD schools were identified for Kickstart to Kindergarten with four being selected to provide screenings through play-based activities. The transition to school meetings will begin March 2, 2023.

### **Linda McFayden – Contact Brant**

Brant Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder put on a successful training January 5, 2023, for 80 participants. Services of Contact Brant are being utilized with regularity.

### **Keri Lomax and Shannon Mason – BHNCDSD**

Kindergarten registration opened on January 9, 2023, and runs until February 24, 2023, with all registrations completed electronically. Report cards will be sent home on February 6, 2023. The Grade 8 open houses will be held in our high schools the week of January 16-20, 2023.

## **9. Updates**

### **9.1 Student Achievement Lead**

BHNCDSD has acquired 11 student Educational Assistants (EAs) from Mohawk College to be placed in a range of schools. Most placements begin on February 1, 2023 and occur three days per week for twenty days. The additional support is beneficial to our schools. The student EAs are strategically placed in schools with multiple exceptionalities and support staff, so the students receive a full range of experiences.

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training ran the week of January 16 to 20, 2023. BHNCDSD is pleased to be able to offer in-person training once again.

On January 16, 2023, BHCNDSB engaged 135 elementary Educational Assistants in a full day of in-person learning on the topic of wellness. There were two workshops and a presentation. One centered on how to unlock your potential and live your best life with more energy, joy, and fulfillment; the other was a creative outlet piece on creating personal, motivational book stacks. The presentation focused on mind, body, and spirit approaches to wellness. The presentation was moving, emotional, relaxed and rejuvenating.

## **9.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Wilson provided the members with information on a customized math program from mathematics professor, Dr. Trevor Brown from York University. This program was specially designed for BHCNDSB teachers and is has been customized with a Special Education lens to ensure teachers are better prepared to meet the Special Education needs of our students.

## **10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Christina Ferrell thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 1pm.