



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 1:00pm**

**Microsoft Teams and Catholic Education Centre**

- Members:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children's Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead, Special Education Staffing), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Regrets:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education)
- Guests:** Sarah Conway (System Teacher Mathematics & Special Education Technology), M.M. (Student), John Silvestri (Information Technology Resource Teacher), Terre Slaght (Principal of Continuing Education), S.S. (Student)
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**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mischa Dinsmore welcomed the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Wilson read the board's land acknowledgement.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Sandra DeDominicis shared an opening prayer.

**4. Introductions and Welcome**

Superintendent Wilson welcomed all committee members.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the April 18, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Christina Ferrell

Seconded by: Linda McFayden

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the March 21, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

## **7. Correspondence**

A letter was received from the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board regarding Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claims. The letter stated that the funds being provided by the government for these claims is lower than the actual cost of the student, as well as the large amount of time being needed to fill out documentation for SIP claims.

## **8. Community Agency Updates**

### **Kerri Lomax**

In the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD), the IPRC transition meetings are taking place for students moving from Grade 8 to Grade 9. If the student will not be attending a high school within BHNCDSD, a transition meeting still takes place.

### **Christina Ferrell**

Woodview Children's Centre is getting ready for Mental Health week.

### **Nil Woodcroft**

Haldimand Norfolk REACH has an employment posting for an Autism and Behavioural Services Manager. The entry to school autism program is up and running.

### **Marilyn Noi**

Autism Ontario is offering student scholarships for students entering college or university. The deadline for application is April 30, 2023.

### **Dennis Blake**

The BHNCDSD are in the middle of the budgeting process for the 2023-2024 year.

### **Shannon Mason**

BHNCDSD schools are in the process of advocating for our Special Education students for next year.

## **9. Updates**

### **9.1 Student Achievement Lead**

April is Autism Awareness Month and April 2, 2023, was World Autism Day. Time and effort are given to spread awareness and engage in conversation about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Approximately, 1 in 66 children are diagnosed with ASD and this number continues to grow.

BHNCDSD has been engaged in "Entry to School Case Conferences" and is nearing the end of the kindergarten intake meetings. It is wonderful to meet some of the new families and their children. These meetings are a great opportunity to assess the incoming needs across the system and ensure that programming supports are in place for the fall so that these students have everything they need to transition to school successfully.

BHNCDSD held an in-person Community of Practice meeting on April 4, 2023.

### **9.2 Superintendent of Education**

The Educational Assistant (EA) allocation process has started. BHNCDSD is looking at the ministry funding and how many EA's we will have in our system. Sandra De Dominicis and Superintendent Wilson are meeting with the principals to reevaluate who needs the support.

### **9.2 Focus on Youth**

Terre Slaght provided a presentation on Focus on Youth. The Ministry of Education provides BHNCDSD with funding for Focus on Youth. BHNCDSD is approaching different departments and organizations, (i.e., BHNCDSD facilities department, daycares including Today's Family, Haldimand Norfolk REACH, YMCA, YWCA, and Lansdowne Children's Centre), to explain the program. If BHNCDSD has a program that aligns with the organization, students will work at that organization and the BHNCDSD will cover the costs to pay the student. The student can take a co-op credit at the same time. The students BHNCDSD focus on are the "in risk" students. BHNCDSD is open to collaborate. Please provide BHNCDSD with a job description and

hours per week. The program runs from July 4 - August 4, 2023.

### **9.3 Special Equipment Amount (SEA)**

John Silvestri and Sarah Conway provided an explanation on SEA. SEA funding is used to assist school boards with the cost of the equipment essential to support students with special needs. For a student to receive equipment it must be recommended by a qualified professional. The equipment must be considered essential for the student to be able to attend school or to access the Ontario curriculum. There are two funds available for students to access to obtain specialized equipment: 1) Per Pupil Amount (PPA) fund - for the purchase of computer and all tech related equipment; 2) Claims-Based fund - for the purchase of non-tech-based equipment. Training consists of three phases: Phase 1: Introduction to the hardware and software; Phase 2: One-to-one individualized training; Phase 3: Follow-up training session to create a continuity support plan. Two students demonstrated the ease of use and the benefits of the SEA equipment to the group.

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

Christina Ferrell thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 1:00pm.