



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 1:00pm Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Dennis Blake (Trustee), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children's Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education)
- Regrets:** Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education), Laura Klinck (Applied Behaviour Analysis Lead), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Superintendent Wilson 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 and Welcome

Superintendent Wilson welcomed all committee members and thanked everyone for being a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2023 – 2024 year.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Linda McFayden

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the September 19, 2023, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Linda McFayden

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the June 20, 2023, meeting.

Carried

7. Orientation and Election of Chairs

Superintendent Wilson read the parameters of SEAC. Mischa Dinsmore is the current chair and if there is any other interest in being a co-chair, please let Superintendent Wilson know.

8. Correspondence - Nil

9. After School Skills Development Program (ASSDP)

Laura Klinck, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Lead, presented the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) summer camp program. It is a program supporting students with a diagnosis with ASD in the areas of social skills, communication, functional skills, and regulation. Two groups were run out of Resurrection school, and each camp ran for one week Monday through Thursday mornings. Each camp was designed to support between four to six students, supported by four staff, including three ABA staff and one independent facilitator. The students were grouped by age and grade level. Six students grade 6-8 and 4 students grades 3-5. Some of the skills worked on were suggesting an activity or idea to a group, inviting a peer into your group, giving, and receiving compliments. Each student had four to five skills they were being supported with. At the end of the camp, students, families, and staff provided feedback. The feedback was all positive.

10. Community Agency Updates

Christina Ferrell

Woodview Children's Centre has two children's social network programs, one beginning in September and one in October; the focus for both sessions is cooking. The Annual General Meeting will be held October 12, 2023, at the Burlington office featuring a fun fair theme. The drop-in programs for youth are still running, however there has been a shift in the time to 4-6pm.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges is now offering programming all year round and taking more 14-16-year-old. Special Olympics is hosting a registration this Saturday and Sunday for all athletes ages 7-75. All information can be found on the Brantford Special Olympics page at <https://brantford.specialolympicsontario.ca/>.

Linda McFayden

At Contact Brant, the Urgent Response Service program continues to grow.

Susan Lentz

Lansdowne Children's Centre will host the Heroes, Walk, and Roll on September 23, 2023. The event has a family carnival theme.

11. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

Sandra De Dominicis updated the committee that BHNCD SB is now operating with six Special Education Consultants instead of four System Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs).

BHNCD SB is planning our next phase of Story Champs with our Speech Language Pathologists. Story Champs is an oral language program delivered by Speech Language Pathologists, alongside kindergarten staff, to build oral language skills which are vital to literacy development.

The Empower Reading Program is underway.

On Friday, September 22, 2023, SERTs are enrolled in a full day of online training with Pearson for our launch of Key Math 3. This is a program designed to pinpoint specific math skill deficits and provide intervention activities for SERTs to deliver to fill gaps and misconception in mathematics to both prevent the need for modifications in mathematics and to set goals for students requiring such modifications on their Individual Education Plan.

BHNCD SB is completing outstanding report shares with NELSON who has been conducting our cognitive assessments for the last several years. NELSON will no longer be testing for school boards. BHNCD SB is in the process of finalizing arrangements with an outside psychologist and 2 psychometrists to continue this vital service for our students. The new PAL/CL program has begun at St. John's College. Staff at all BHNCD SB high schools supported the transition of a few complex learners this summer in order to facilitate a smooth transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Bartimaeus has expanded across the district and is now being run at several schools.

The new SERT training has begun and will continue at key points during the school year.

Superintendent Wilson highlighted that everything we do is focused on equity and closing the gaps for students. The BHNCD SB Special Education Goals for 2023-2024 are:

- Improve level of student achievement, access to curriculum, and reduce gaps in student achievement.
- Address existing achievement gaps by focusing on evidence based on instructional practices to support literacy and numeracy.
- Build capacity in processes related to accommodations, modification, assessment recommendations, and IEP development.
- Focus on universal design for learning and differentiated instruction for students.
- Further capacity building in equity in Special Education, Self-regulation, oral language development, alternative programming, and assistive.
- Use tiered approaches to support literacy, numeracy, and behaviour through early intervention and ongoing data collection and assessment.
- Collaborate and engage in active partnerships with community agencies to provide seamless, responsive, and innovative supports that assist students, families, and staff to meet collective goals.

12. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Christina Ferrell thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.
