



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – 1:00pm
Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams

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

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Nil Woodcroft

Seconded by: Susan Lentz

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

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried

7. Correspondence - Nil

8. Community Agency Updates

Tara Buchanan

Community Living Brant is operating Project SEARCH alongside the Grand Erie District School Board. Project SEARCH is a unique school-to-work training program for students with disabilities. Students work with a host business and get more than 700 hours of hands-on work experience geared to in-demand roles

in the local labour market. They learn employability skills and plan their careers with guidance from a teacher and skills trainers. A local employment agency supports graduates and their employers. The students must be 18 years old, in their last year of high school and have a disability. Each student has three placements, and the program is intended for students who are not looking to attend post-secondary but instead are looking for employment after high school.

Belonging Brant is another program through Community Living Brant. This is grassroots initiative is designed to incite the creation of community groups around common interests. The goal is to create relationships and connections in the spirit of friendship and community. This project is geared towards supporting everyone in the community, with a focus on individuals who are isolated or feeling lonely.

9. Student Achievement Lead

At BHNCD SB the Information Technology department is currently working to provide all Educational Assistants in our system with a Chromebook to support the work that they do.

The program Story Champs is expanding to eighteen kindergarten classrooms across our district to help support oral language skills and ultimately language comprehension skills for students. It will be expanding to the following schools: Our Lady of Fatima, Sacred Heart (Langton), St. Michael's (Walsh), St. Frances School, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Christ the King, St. Patrick's School in Caledonia, St. Mary's (Hagersville), and St. Stephen's.

On October 13, 2023, Denise Ricks of Pearson provided an entire day of virtual professional development (PD) to our Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and department heads on Key Math 3. Key Math is a diagnostic math assessment that measures a student's understanding and application of critical math concepts. Any Individual Education Plan (IEP) that is modified in math within our board will be audited.

Empower Reading Program is in full swing at fourteen of our schools and we are excited to finally have that program in place.

An in-person Community of Practice Meeting for all SERTs was held on September 29, 2023. The highlight was a presentation by Katherine Barron on the implications of decision making in special education and how we limit a student's outcomes by making enabling or disabling decisions.

On October 3, 2023, PD Day, we were able to update twenty-three Educational Assistants in Norfolk and twenty-three in Brant through both online training and in-person physical training of Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. In addition, our staff were invited to participate in an optional Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder training session through Contact Brant on October 12, 2023.

The BHNCD SB Special Education Department is working with Lansdowne Children's Centre and Finally, our gifted facilitators held their parent information session on October 12, 2023, where they shared the layout of the supplementary gifted modules for students identified as gifted from Grades 4 to 8.

10. Superintendent of Education

Bartimaeus is in six schools and is working with assigned complex students. Superintendent Wilson is looking at the effectiveness of Bartimaeus including qualitative data, before, during and after the program. BHNCD SB is looking at equity and special education coming together.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Christina Ferrell thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.
