



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – 1:00pm
Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams**

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of 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), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), 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)

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: Lynda McFayden

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the November 28, 2023, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Lynda McFayden

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

Carried

7. Correspondence - Nil

8. Math Action Plan

Superintendent Temple provided an update on the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) Math Action Plan. The goals monitored include conducting regular assessments to measure the progress of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to ensure that progress is consistent and on track to meet

annual targets. The teachers will periodically review classroom practices using fidelity checks to ensure teachers are effectively implementing high impact strategies. Data-driven decision making encourages and models analyzing assessment data to inform instructional decisions and interventions, ensuring they align with the KPIs and goals. The Special Education focus will include math modification audits, SERTs involved in math interventions in target schools, SERT training on the Key Math resource, professional development (PD) for transition teachers, SERTs and destreaming educators for late winter, and summer skills builder math course for summer 2024. The full Math Action Plan can be found on the BHNCDsb website.

9. Accessibility Plan

Superintendent Keys provided the members with the Integrated Accessibility Policy, Integrated Accessibility Awareness Guide, and the Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan, to seek feedback from members. Any feedback can be sent to Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business at skeys@bhncdsb.ca

10. Community Agency Updates

Nil Woodcroft

The Haldimand Norfolk REACH transition to school and autism entry to school program is in the planning stages, as the program is set to begin in March.

Michelle Drake

The Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre is always taking students during the holiday season.

Linda McFayden

On November 17, 2023, Contact Brant provided a well-received Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) presentation last week to the Educational Assistants (EA) of BHNCDsb.

Contact Brant is moving their location, and the Woodview Children's Centre will be moving their autism program to this space.

Susan Lentz

Lansdowne Children's Centre will be holding their Welcome to Whoville Christmas on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9am - 3:30pm.

Patti Mitchell

The Brantford Special Olympics continues to grow, and several athletes will be attending nationals and provincials.

Kerri Lomax

At BHNCDsb parent teacher interviews were completed in the schools. In December, several schools will be holding Christmas concerts and community outreach programs to support families over the holidays. BHNCDsb kindergarten registration begins January 8, 2024.

11. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

BHNCDsb held System-Level Identification Placement and Review Committee meetings across the system, in the month of October, to account for new students placed in our special classes at the secondary level. As part of our commitment to community outreach, four of our Special Education specialists participated in the Halloween Extravaganza at Lansdowne Children's Centre for a night of treat giving and dress up.

On October 25, 2023, BHNCDsb held a virtual Community of Practice meeting and reviewed the topics including the math action plan, literacy action plan, pathways for Mental Health services, secondary special education programs and eligibility, Grade 8 to 9 transition planning, and department updates around Speech Language Pathology, Special Equipment Amount (SEA), OnSis and PowerSchool.

Special Education hosted a special Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee night for parents, hosting Katie Barron who spoke about Individual Education Plans and gave parents tools around asking questions and engaging in decision making around the implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Special Education programs and services.

On November 21, Katie Barron presented to all administrators to review the issues with modifications,

streaming, and special education decision making.

Several consultants, Superintendent Wilson, and Sandra De Dominicis had a full month of conferences that provided learning on the Right to Read, Learning How to Interrupt Entrenched Belief Systems, Human Rights and Equity, Special Incidence Portion, SEA, legal responsibilities to accommodate, and Disablism and Ableism.

BHNCDSB hosted new Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) training on November 8, 2023, where our new SERTs were trained on how to administer the Woodcock Johnson IV Achievement test by Janet Murphy of NELSON.

Onboarding training was provided to a few new casual EAs at the board office on October 30, 2023.

Superintendent Wilson and Sandra De Dominicis hosted an online meeting on Math Audits with SERTs and Principals.

High needs students and EA shortages continue to be a challenge for Special Education. Schools continue to investigate the needs firsthand to make informed decisions about EA movement or emergency supports. On November 17, 2023, BHNCDSB held a PD day where sixty EAs were trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention at Brant and Haldimand locations. Additionally, there were seven virtual presentations where EAs to attend one of interest. These included accessibility tools, IEPs 101; Elopement Strategies, SMORRES, Cortical Vision Impairment, FASD, and Incident Reporting.

To monitor the impact of Bartimeaus, a survey will be forwarded to the school SERT and Principal. This data will be presented at a future meeting.

12. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.
