



# 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, December 19, 2023 – 1:00pm Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children's Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Regrets:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), 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)
- 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 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 December 19, 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 November 28, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

#### 7. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, in a letter written to Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, around the need for increased Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding. SIP funding does not cover the cost of Educational Assistants and the support required. It is requested that the formula for funding allocation is revisited.

#### 8. Community Agency Updates

### **Mary Bradford**

Vice-Principal Bradford discussed the positivity surrounding the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) program at St. John's College.

### **Linda McFayden**

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

### **Susan Lentz**

The Lansdowne Children's Centre, Welcome to Whoville, Christmas party was well attended both in Brantford and Simcoe.

### **Christina Ferrell**

The Woodview Children's Centre held their annual Christmas party. It was well attended and received.

## **9. Student Achievement Lead**

The updated projection lists have been compiled for each of the three high schools and their special class candidates and enrollment for September 2024.

Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD) held our Christmas Community of Practice meeting on Friday, December 15, 2023. Key messaging and professional development centered around Flyleaf and how to support primary teachers with this new resource, artificial intelligence, and the implications for education as a resource and a tool for special education students, and finally, a presentation by Amethyst Demonstration School on eligibility, the application process, and what the program/facility offers.

## **10. Superintendent of Education**

The BHNCDSD has started planning for Special Education classes for the new high school slated to open in 2026. Padre Pio Catholic Highschool has a trade-based focus and BHNCDSD and the Special Education department want to provide an opportunity for all learners.

Thirteen elementary schools are currently participating in the Empower reading program and fifteen more schools will be added to the program next year.

Superintendent Wilson is in the process of collecting and analyzing information collected from the schools that have had Bartimeaus workers working with children to understand the impact of their services on the children and staff.

## **11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

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