



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – 1:00pm
Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), 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:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), 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

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 February 20, 2024, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Linda McFayden

Seconded by: Patti Mitchell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting.

Carried

7. Correspondence - Nil

8. Community Agency Updates

Nil Woodcroft

Haldimand Norfolk REACH is gearing up for their entry to school program.

Shannon Korber

A new Child and Family Services office is being created on Henry Street. There are several activities offered at Child and Family Services where kids can visit trades campus' at Mohawk College as well visit Wilfred Laurier University to see what post-secondary schooling is about.

Shannon Mason

At the elementary school level for Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD), the term two Individual Education Plans are being prepared. We are getting ready for Educational Assistant allocation for the 2024-2025 year, and kindergarten orientation has begun in many schools.

Christina Ferrell

The Brantford Autism services group is running a social skills group for four- to five-year-olds for social communication and play skills and a group for two- to four-year-olds with the focus on early communication and play school. Registration is open with Woodview Children's Services. There are Caregiver workshops being held including February 26, 2024 – Coping with Challenging Behaviours; March 18, 2024 - Safetalk Training; March 25, 2024 - Caregiving 101.

9. Student Achievement Lead

BHNCDSD held a secondary Educational Assistant Professional Development Day on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The morning was held at Conestoga College, learning about the CICE program (Community Integration through Cooperative Education) to gain a better understanding of how their daily work and interactions foster skillsets and independence that allow students to be successful in future programs beyond secondary school. In the afternoon, Michelle Drake, from Crossing All Bridges, shared what the organization has to offer, as well as providing participants with a tour of the facility.

10. Superintendent of Education

Based on extensive research and to align with the goals of the Special Education department, BHNCDSD is making changes to the Special Education department. Changes that have been approved include:

- Hiring a new Applied Behavioural Analysis Program Lead to increase support for students with autism,
- Creating two contained classes for children with autism for junior students and a Primary Learning Strategies Class for primary students with a focus on coping strategies and self-regulation and developing social play skill.
- BHNCDSD will also be closing our Transition Classes at the end of June 2024. For many students in special education, special education programming should be intended to be time-limited support or programming, where students receive intensive remediation, and then return to the regular classroom such as in the case of a learning strategies placement.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.
