



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 1:00pm

Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Linda McFayden (Contact 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), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), 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

Christina Ferrell welcomed the committee.

2. Opening Prayer

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Wilson read the board’s land acknowledgement.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the March 19, 2024, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Mischa Dinsmore

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the February 20, 2024, meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence - Nil

7. Community Agency Updates

Linda McFayden

Contact Brant is now settled into their new location at 255 Colborne Street in Brantford.

Mischa Dinsmore

The Lansdowne Children’s Centre Autism program has launched their entry to school program for new students to provide an understanding of the school environment.

Nil Woodcroft

The Haldimand Norfolk REACH infant child development program has been busy and is involved in four of the BHCNDSB Kickstart to Kindergarten programs.

Kerri Lomax

The BHCNDSB Kickstart to Kindergarten programs are being held at the schools in March. This program gives the schools and community partners the opportunity to meet the new students.

8. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

The Special Education team of BHCNDSB has been actively engaged in planning for the opening of our Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classes.

BHCNDSB is hiring an additional Applied Behaviour Analyst Program Lead.

The Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) have been actively assisting the Student Achievement Team in determining an early reading screener.

The Special Education Department has been actively working with the Student Support Services Department to ensure students impacted by self-contained classroom closures experience a smooth transition to their mainstream classes in the fall.

Haldimand Norfolk REACH and Lansdowne Children's Centre shared information about incoming kindergarten students with special education needs. Meetings were held with lead therapists to gain more information as we start to plan to hold "System Level Entry to School Case Conferences".

The SLPs, the Special Education Department, and the Grand Erie District School Board, met with the Speech and Language Department at Lansdowne Children's Centre. Eight hundred students will enter both school boards and be discharged from Lansdowne Children's Centre services.

The BHCNDSB Special Education Department is putting forward recommendations for the new secondary school, Padre Pio, to ensure the environments are well suited to support complex learners.

BHCNDSB is undergoing a Special Incidence Portion/Special Equipment Amount Compliance Monitoring Process with the Ministry of Education.

An in-person Community of Practice meeting was held with all Special Education Resource Teachers. Discussion centered around Safety Plans, collaborative sharing, Empower, Key Math, complex communicators, inclusive education, and a presentation from W. Ross on Cortical Vision Impairment.

9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.
