



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, April 16, 2024 – 1:00pm Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), 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:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), 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), James Mombourquette, Glenn Thistle (System Special Education Consultant), Tracie Witteveen (System Special Education Consultant), Rachel Moreau (Orientation and Mobility Instructor)
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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: Mischa Dinsmore

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the April 16, 2024, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Linda McFayden

Seconded by: Mischa Dinsmore

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

Carried

6. Correspondence – Nil

7. Gifted Modules – Glenn Thistle

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board’s (BHNCD SB) gifted program consisted of 31 students between Grades 4 to 8 and represented 16 of our schools across all three counties. Activities students participated in this year included STEM activities, a trip to Stratford including a workshop with actors, including math and science. Students have enjoyed the program as well as the various activities.

Sacramental Retreats - Tracie Witteveen

We offer supplementary retreats for students who are “exceptional” in their learning and require differentiated instruction to help better understand the sacraments and enhance their learning. Students are provided with strategies, accommodations, and mentored support to help them actively participate in celebrating their faith and developing a deeper understanding and appreciation for their relationship with Christ.

Orientation and Mobility - Rachel Moreau

Students are taught how to travel safely. Instructional areas include concept, motor and sensory development, visual and social skills, techniques of orientation and mobility, use of devices. Environmental analysis reports are completed to ensure accessibility for the students within the school environment.

8. Community Agency Updates

Christina Ferrell

Lansdowne Children’s Centre has posted caregiver workshops, available for registration, on their website. Caregivers do not have to be already connected to Lansdowne Children’s Centre to attend.

The Lansdowne Children’s Centre’s Autism Department is running a social skills group in July.

Linda McFayden

Contact Brant is now settled into their new location at 255 Colborne Street in Brantford. The open house is May 15, 2024, from 2:00pm - 4:30pm.

Mischa Dinsmore

Lansdowne Children’s Centre celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

The “All About Me” forms have gone back to the schools.

The Tim Horton’s Smile Cookie campaign runs April 29, 2024, to May 5, 2024.

The Lansdowne Children’s Centre motorcycle charity ride, held in July, will be a 50/50 draw. Tickets can be purchased online.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges Summer Camp registration opens May 1, 2024.

9. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

- The final training for the BHNCDSE Empower teachers has been completed.
- The BHNCDSE new Applied Behaviour Analyst Program Lead, Tara Baatnes has been heavily supporting the planning of our two new autism spectrum disorder classes. which we have renamed our ‘Spectrum Abilities Program. A parent session will be held April 29, 2024
- BHNCDSE has held several Educational Assistant Allocation meetings with school teams.
- BHNCDSE is holding our ‘Entry to School Case Conferences’ and gathering information about our new Junior and Senior Kindergarten students with unique challenges.
- BHNCDSE met with Ministry personnel and toured Sacred Heart School in Langton and St. John’s College, around compliance monitoring for the SIP and SEA Process
- BHNCDSE held a virtual Community of Practice meeting with all Special Education Resource Teachers, as well as a New Teacher Induction Program session on special education with educators from both panels.
- The dates for the 2024-2025 Empower Program are scheduled.
- Students are in the process of being selected for the Primary learning strategies class.
- Math audits will be finalized mid-May.

10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

