



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 1:00pm Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Lauren Freeborn (Contact Brant), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education),
- Regrets:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), 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), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary)
- Guests:** Mary Hanhan (Speech and Language Pathologist)
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1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Superintendent Wilson 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. Introductions

Superintendent Wilson welcomed all committee members.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Lauren Freeborn

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

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Lauren Moulton

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the October 15, 2024, meeting.

Carried

7. Correspondence

An e-mail was received from Limestone District School Board, related to concerns of the current state of teacher training at Ontario's Teacher Colleges across the province, particularly in the area of Special Education.

8. Mary Hanhan – Complex Communicator's Guidebook

Mary Hanhan, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) presented The Complex Communicator's Guidebook created as an additional support for Educators to support transitions and growth with complex communicators. The guidebook includes an Educator's section, Interaction, Basics of Alternative Augmentative Communication, Resources for Teachers, parents, and administrators, Access in schools, Modeling including a practice and planning page, Communication Opportunities, Communication Functions, Nutrition Break Placemats, and Hygiene Routines.

9. Community Agency Updates

Tara Buchanan

Project search has been successful in students being permanently hired. Project Search provides employment support for students aged 18 and up.

Mischa Dinsmore

Lansdowne Children's Centre has been busy preparing Christmas Baskets. Discussions are already beginning for the kindergarten registration.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges is holding their Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 9am - 12pm.

Jennifer Rudyk

The BHNCD SB, elementary school, parent teacher conferences are completed. Additionally, the kindergarten to Grade 2 early reading screeners are complete.

Shannon Korber

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie is collecting donations for Christmas. Stability funding is available for families.

10. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

Special Education continues to monitor and approve or reject all modified day requests and IEP modification requests to create accountability measures.

Two additional Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) have been added to the Empower training. Consultants and the Student Achievement Lead gathered for more EA allocation meetings. We are awaiting approval of a revised budget in order to place more supportive adults out into our growing system.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) has been completed. Over 800 students were tested and currently Parent Guides and OSR documentation for families and schools is being created to communicate student results.

BHNCD SB completed thirty-two speech screens. Currently BHNCD SB has 77 students on the list to be tested.

New SERTs and some secondary Special Education teachers underwent achievement test training on topics including Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Elopement, Chromebook and Boardmaker tips, supporting all learners through accommodations, Smorres Training Program, and Individual Education Plan's.

The Special Education Department recently had a virtual Community of Practice meeting which focused on Secondary Special Class Placement opportunities and eligibility speech language services, Lexia, Sacramental retreats, CogAT, Story Champs, PowerSchool, and the Complex Communicator Guidebook.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Phil Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:57pm. The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
