



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 1:00pm
Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams**

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Lauren Freeborn (Contact Brant), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Shannon Mason (Principal, Elementary), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Regrets:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Simon Jennions (Community Living Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead, Special Education), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education)
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1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Phil Wilson 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. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lauren Mouton

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the April 15, 2025, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence

Documents were received and sent to SEAC members from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario.

7. Budget Consultation Process

The budget consultation process was discussed with the members of SEAC.

8. Community Agency Updates

Shannon Korber

- Child and Family Services updated that the stability funding transportation dollars have been assigned to BHNCDsB based on the number of children in care.
- There is a pilot project being held to raise math and literacy scores. The program will run for four weeks with fifteen short sessions two times per week online.
- Child and Youth in Care Day is on May 14, 2025.

Lauren Moulton

- Woodview Children's Centre is running Brantford Mental Health/Youth Therapeutic groups. Registration is available through Woodview Children's Centre. No referral is needed.
- Woodview Children's Centre is running the Equal Grounds Community Garden program.

Mischa Dinsmore

- The Lansdowne Children's Centre Rock to Heroes Walk and Roll will be held on October 4, 2025.
- The charity motorcycle ride for Lansdowne will be held on June 28, 2025.
- The Lansdowne staff conferences have been set up for entry to school meetings.

9. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

- The BHNCDsB has hired a fourth Speech-Language Pathologist joining the team on April 22, 2025.
- The final Empower training session with our Cohort of Special Education Resource Teachers has taken place.
- Superintendent Wilson and Sandra DeDominicis have currently met with fifty percent of the school teams around Educational Assistant (EA) allocations. Determining if an EA is the most appropriate personnel to put into the system on a case-by-case basis.
- Entry to School case conferences have begun to ensure necessary supports and services are in place for September 2025.
- There was Professional Development held on April 11, 2025, focused on Mental Health and well-being.
- The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board proudly recognizes Speech-Language Pathologists Stephanie Bergman, Meagan Courneyea, and Mary Hanhan as the recipients of the 2025 Champions of Inclusion Award. The Champions of Inclusion Awards are presented annually at the Coaching to Inclusion Conference to honor individuals who exemplify exceptional leadership in advancing inclusive education. These clinicians have significantly advanced inclusive practices through professional development, assessments, consultative support, and practical resources. Their initiatives include:
 - **High-Tech AAC Devices:** Ensuring equitable access to communication tools for students with urgent needs.
 - **Complex Communicators Guidebook:** Providing comprehensive resources to

support Augmentative and Alternative Communication users and build staff capacity.

- **Story Champs Program:** Implementing an oral language intervention program for kindergarten classrooms to support early literacy and language development.

10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Phil Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:48pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.