



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 1:00pm Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams

Members: Dennis Blake (Trustee), Melanie Caldwell (Contact Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services), Tammy West (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)

Regrets: Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Lauren Freeborn (Contact Brant), Simon Jennions (Community Living Brant), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Shannon Mason (Principal, Elementary), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), 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), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Phil Wilson welcomed the committee and welcomed two new members, Melanie Caldwell and Tammy West.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Wilson read the board's land acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer

Sandra DeDominicis shared an opening prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the June 17, 2025, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Lauren Moulton

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the May 20, 2025, meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence – Nil

7. Special Education Report

Sandra DeDominicis highlighted items on the Special Education Report, which is posted to the BHNCDSD website. The highlights included Educational Assistant allocations, Bartimaeus support, EQAO and OISE joint study which focused on Empower, monitoring of modifications, Lexia data, speech and language services, the Spectrum Abilities Class and the Primary Learning Strategies Class, and project funds for transition supports.

8. Community Agency Updates

Shannon Korber

Child and Family Services updated that they have opened a five-bedroom residence in partnership with SOAR. An open house was held on Friday, June 13, 2025. Child and Family Services had 243 referrals this year, and the transportation/stability funding is again available for the 2025-2026 school year.

Tammy West

Haldimand Norfolk REACH updated that the Autism groups are full for the summer, showing strong interest from families. The organization received workforce capacity funding to improve mental health supports. A new tiered approach is being used to support complex needs, following updated guidelines. EarlyON Centre's are very busy, with many families attending programs. Planning is in progress for a new Positive Discipline program for parents and caregivers. Ongoing efforts are being made to recruit more Early Childhood Educators.

Mischa Dinsmore

Lansdowne Children's Centre has an updated event calendar on the website including events such as the Berry Day fundraiser for Lansdowne at Josmar Acres- for every quart of strawberries sold, \$1 went to Lansdowne, and the annual motorcycle ride.

Lauren Moulton

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services reported that Brantford Autism Services has various programming with more information available on the Woodview website.

Melanie Caldwell

Contact Brant has a new Indigenous Coordinator.

9. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Wilson advised that an email will be sent shortly seeking feedback on the BHNCDSD Special Education Plan.

10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.