



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 1:00 pm
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), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges)

Regrets: Ashlee Anderson (Indigenous: Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Simon Jennions (Community Living Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario)

Resources: Sandra DeDominicis (Vice-Principal of Inclusive and Special Education), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lauren Moulton welcomed the committee.

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: Patti Mitchell

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the November 18, 2025, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the October 21, 2025, meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence

Nil

7. Community Agency Updates

Shannon Korber

Child and Family Services updated that Child and Family Services hosted *Rock a Moc* this month, with eleven students in care attending three sessions to make their own moccasins. The Teen Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 4, 2025. The new Child and Family Services building will open this week, with a Grand Opening on November 28, 2025, at 221 Henry Street. She expressed gratitude to St. Michael's and St. Stephen's Schools for the collaboration and helping a family with transportation and school transition. Stability funding has also been provided to support the family's smooth transition.

Lauren Moulton

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services updated that the Client Christmas party is on December 4, 2025, by invitation-only. Woodview will be at Lynden Park Mall for Christmas wrapping and are looking for volunteers. A flyer will be shared with schools.

Jennifer Rudyk and Kerri Lomax

Principals reported that parent interviews were recently held across the schools, providing an important opportunity to strengthen family connections and introduce new families to the school community. They noted this is a busy and exciting season, with students engaged in programs such as Lexia, Key Math, and Empower, and Grade 4 students having completed CogAT testing. Classrooms are preparing for Christmas concerts, community outreach initiatives including giving trees and food drives, and Student Achievement Plans have been shared with teams and staff.

Melanie Caldwell

Contact Brant updated that the complex special needs pathway has been released, along with the new Service Coordination Plan. They noted the coming months will be busy as staff and partners work through these documents.

Mischa Dinsmore

Lansdowne Children's Services updated they have many upcoming events happening in December. All these opportunities are posted on the Lansdowne Children's Services website.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges updated that they previously hosted a weekly Monday night dance for everyone but have now partnered with Friendship with Kindness to offer the mixer exclusively on Friday nights. Flyers will be distributed soon.

Patti Mitchell

Patti Mitchell reported that informal correspondence from families through Special Olympics indicated that parents were very pleased with the transition into high school visits and the Open House, which provided valuable support and information. They expressed appreciation for these efforts. The Provincial Games were also highlighted as a great success, with families grateful for the volunteers provided by the BNHCDSB.

8. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

The Special Education Department updated:

- Students in the Gifted Program attended Anne of Green Gables at the Stratford Festival and participated in a guided tour and workshop at the Stratford Perth Museum. Department support was provided on-site.

- A two-day AI training session explored how AI can support curriculum adaptation for diverse learners, including early development of a Brightspace framework for AI supported instructional practices.
- Secondary department heads, Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), consultants, Spectrum Abilities Program, Community Living staff, and Peer Assisted Living teachers completed two Readtopia training sessions to strengthen programming for students with complex needs.
- Several system Identification, Placement and Review Committees were held in late October to welcome new out-of-board students into secondary special education classes.
- A virtual Community of Practice meeting was held for resource teachers.
- New Special Education Resource Teacher's completed their fourth training session on key mathematics concepts. All consultants and SLPs attended the Special Education Regional Collaborative Committee (SERCC) Conference in November, where the SLP team presented their Story Champs work. SERCC has since been cancelled for the rest of the year.
- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training was provided to casual Educational Assistants and newly hired Child and Youth Workers.
- CAT4 testing for all Grade 4 students is complete. District results are being collected and reviewed to support gifted identification and determine additional student needs.
- Meetings with school teams continue regarding modified day schedules for younger students, ensuring accommodations are appropriate and supporting return to full-time attendance.
- A presentation was delivered to the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and parents outlining guiding principles, department structure, pathways for families to access support, available services, and student-centered decision-making.
- The Educational Assistant Training & Induction Program (ETIP) launched to support newly hired EAs in their first year of permanent employment. The program offers orientation, mentoring, and targeted professional learning. ETIP Mentor EAs are being recruited, with release time provided to support meaningful collaboration.

9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Lauren Moulton thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2025.