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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 1:00 pm**

**Microsoft Teams**

**Members:** Ashlee Anderson (Indigenous: Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Dennis Blake (Trustee), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services), Tammy West (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)

**Regrets:** Melanie Caldwell (Contact Brant), Simon Jennions (Community Living Brant), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Judy McCaffrey (Lansdowne Children's Centre), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary)

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

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**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: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Tammy West

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the February 17, 2026, meeting.

**Carried**

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Michelle Drake

Seconded by: Shannon Korber

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Correspondence - Nil**

**7. Community Agency Updates – Nil**

## **8. Vice-Principal of Inclusive and Special Education and Superintendent of Education**

The Special Education Department updated that school visits have continued, with 19 schools visited to observe students and support teams in their learning environments. All secondary system Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRC) for Peer Assisted Living and Community Living programs have been chaired, and secondary schools have hosted Job Skills tours for incoming Grade 9 students. Planning is ongoing for the expansion of the Spectrum Abilities Program (SAP), potential autism spectrum disorder summer transition supports for students moving from Kindergarten to Grade 1, and secondary staffing projections for 2026–2027.

January professional development included Empower Training for select Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT) in partnership with SickKids and Readtopia training focused on emergent literacy and foundational skill development in communication-rich classrooms. A SERT Community of Practice session also reviewed IPRC protocols and documentation, Lexia and Resource Hub updates, secondary transitions, and emergent literacy best practices.

Educational Assistant (EA) professional learning included a virtual conflict resolution session for 145 elementary EAs, reinforcing professional, values-based approaches to workplace conflict and shared responsibility for a healthy school culture. The secondary EA Professional Development session pivoted to a “Life After High School” theme, featuring community partners who shared post-secondary pathway and transition supports. The session was well received.

Readtopia implementation in secondary self-contained classes and SAP is progressing through classroom modelling, peer coaching, system learning sessions in April, and planning for 2026–2027 expansion. The focus remains on strengthening instructional confidence, consistency, and long-term system capacity.

## **9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Lauren Moulton thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.