



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 1:00 pm
Catholic Education Centre or Microsoft Teams**

Members: 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)

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: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the March 24, 2026, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Shannon Korber

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

Carried

6. Correspondence – Nil

7. Community Agency Updates

Shannon Korber

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie is currently in the process of recruiting a new Executive Director. In addition, students had the opportunity to participate in two tours at McMaster University and Mohawk College, helping to expose them to post-secondary environments and support them in beginning to see themselves in those spaces.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges updated they held a successful March Break camp, with strong participation. Planning is underway for the summer camp, with registrations set to open in May. Interest continues to grow, and there is currently a waiting list.

Tammy West

Haldimand and Norfolk REACH updated EarlyON and Early Childhood Interventions teams have been busy supporting the Kick Start to Kindergarten series and continuing to strengthen early identification practices. Entry to School programs, along with Autism and Behaviour teams in Townsend and Simcoe, are actively supporting students and families, including the preparation and submission of “All About Me” profiles.

Spring events are also being planned, with a focus on whole-family participation. One upcoming initiative, Healthy Habitats and Healthy Minds, will bring families together to learn about caring for local environments, including hands-on activities such as cleaning up a pond.

In addition, there will be a learning opportunity for educators focused on equity and inclusion.

Jennifer Rudyk

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) elementary schools Kick Start to Kindergarten sessions continue to support students and families as they prepare for school entry. The middle-of-year Acadiance screeners are also underway, helping to monitor student progress and inform instruction. In addition, system IPRCs are taking place for Grade 8 students as part of the transition planning process for high school.

Lauren Moulton

Woodview Autism and Mental Health Services updated April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, with a flag raising taking place on April 1, 2026, at Harmony Square. Mental Health Week will also be held in May, with activities planned to support awareness and well-being.

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

The Special Education Department updated that Superintendent Wilson will be with BHNCDSB until the end of June and then has accepted a position as principal at St. Michael's College in Toronto.

Within Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) programming, staff have had opportunities to co-plan and co-teach in relation to Readtopia, supporting the development of internal capacity, with plans to continue collaboration with additional educators moving forward.

The Spectrum Abilities Program (SAP) continues to expand, with new classes being introduced at St. Gabriel School, Brantford and St. Patrick's School, Caledonia. An open house is scheduled for April 1, 2026, to welcome and introduce prospective students to the program.

Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) teams are actively planning a summer camp titled FIRST, which will support students transitioning from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 1. The program will focus on building independence, self-help and self-regulation skills, easing transitions, and developing familiarity with classroom routines. Staffing will include Special Education Resource Teacher's (SERT), Educational Assistants, and ABA leads, with referrals being coordinated through ABA leads.

The Educational Assistant allocation process will take place from March 27 to April 27, 2026. In addition, schools will receive funding to enhance sensory and calming spaces to better support student needs. Finally, the SERT pool has been strengthened through the hiring of seven additional candidates.

9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Lauren Moulton thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.