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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 28, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

**Present:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Jennifer Chapman, Jill Esposto, Mischa Jansink, Carmen McDermid, Michelle Shypula, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

**Regrets:** Krista Emmerson, Christine Pearce, Paul Sanderson, Tracey Taylor, Nil Woodcroft

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

**2. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Jill Esposto, SEAC Chair, welcomed the group. Superintendent Shypula led a round of introductions for the benefit of new members.

Director of Education & Secretary, Chris Roehrig presented a Discussion Guide from the Ministry of Education on School Board Governance Supports. The Ministry of Education is seeking feedback from agencies, key stakeholders and committee members and Director Roehrig noted that the deadline for responses was extended to the end of the week, Friday, December 1, 2017. The goal of the discussion guide is to seek feedback on the following topics:

1. Integrity Commissioner and Trustee Code of Conduct
2. Trustee Honoraria
3. Electronic Participation in Board Committee Meetings
4. Student Trustee Term of Office and Election Process
5. Broadening the Director of Education Qualifications

Director Roehrig provided an explanation on each of the topics and thanked the group for their time.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Seconded by: Mischa Jansink

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the November 28, 2017 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2017**

Moved by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Seconded by: Mischa Jansink

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting.

**Carried**

**5. Community Agency Updates**

***Jill Esposto- Director of Services- Brant Family & Children Services***

Jill updated that there is a consultant currently working with a group of representatives from school boards and child welfare agencies on the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA). This protocol is meant to work alongside other protocols currently in place between school boards and their local agencies regarding child abuse reporting. The purpose of JPSA is to support the educational success and wellbeing of children and youth involved in the child welfare system and to help them reach their



full potential. This supports the realization of the Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario. The following is a list of school boards and child welfare agencies participating:

- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Brant Family and Children's Services
- Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
- Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk
- The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
- Ogwadeni:Deo

Jill updated on how new and mandatory processes for hiring employees at BFACS fall into a 4 to 6 month timeframe. The agency is approximately half way through the implementation of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), a data collection and storage system that is being used by all Children's Aid agencies across the province. BFACS is slated to have full implementation on the program by May 2018.

Jill shared that Six Nations is transitioning to provide its own child welfare and Ogwadeni:Deo (OGD) is the agency that will be taking over the child welfare mandate for Six Nations. There is a transition process for the families and children that move over to the new agency once the Ministry announces the mandate has been designated to OGD. Additional details will be forthcoming early in 2018.

Additional information concerning the changes with the Child Youth and Family Service Act and how it will affect services for youth ages 16 & 17 will also be forthcoming in the new year.

***Mischa Jansink- Family Service Coordinator- Lansdowne Children's Centre***

Mischa updated that Lansdowne will be holding their Annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Families in care have the choice between three different time slots.

***Jennifer Chapman- Child Welfare Supervisor, Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society***

Jennifer shared that the agency is currently preparing for their Christmas dinner and is accepting donations. A decrease in the number of children in care within the agency has resulted in a review of caseloads and demands.

***Bonnie McKinnon- Trustee Representative, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board***

Bonnie shared that today was *Giving Tuesday*. Giving Tuesday is described as a global movement for giving and volunteering after Black Friday. It is about the generosity of people, organizations, etc. collaborating and giving back to their communities through acts of kindness.



***Teresa Westergaard-Hager- Supervisor, Community Outreach, Norfolk Association for Community Living***

Teresa updated on how Norfolk Association for Community Living is implementing changes within the recruitment department in an effort to decrease turn over within the agency. The agency has received enhanced emergency funding. There is a big focus on transitions with Children and Family services and addressing needs including mental health services.

Teresa attended a *Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario Community Partnership Collaboration* meeting and shared that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced funding support for integrated service hubs. The hubs will provide mental health and substance use services as well as other health, social and employment supports to youth between the ages of 12 and 25. The committee is currently developing a proposal.

**6. Reports**

**6.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**

At the Community of Practice (COP) on Friday, November 24, 2017, Sara Pettigrew from the *Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)/Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)* presented information about the 'Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities' (ACSD) program. An overview of the application process including eligibility, the different programs (Special Services at Home, Medically Fragile and Technologically Dependent, etc.) was shared. In addition, to assist with connecting students with special needs to social assistance, Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) received information from Garth Graves, Joanne Milne and Christy White from the Brant Office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services on who is eligible to apply for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). SERTs received examples of the application packages as well as online information. Discussions ensued about eligibility to many services available from a home based view and from an educator's point of view. Members discussed the importance of connecting students with special needs to resources through Coordinated Service Planning. Carmen noted to SEAC members to contact her if they had suggestions or information that would be beneficial to present to SERTs at any of the upcoming COPs.

Kerri Chartrand, Student Achievement Leader – School Effectiveness, provided information on Number Talks at the COP and a copy of the Number Talks Build Numerical Reasoning Article was provided to SEAC members (See Appendix A). The article addressed techniques and examples of teaching mental math and computation strategies for students to use to solve mathematical problems. The article helped to identify some best practices in supporting students learning mathematics. 'Number Talks' book by Sherry Parrish was purchased for each SERT through funds from the Special Education Department and the Student Achievement budget.

In an effort to continue to address the Board's Special Education goals around building capacity in the area of self-regulation and in being responsive and reflective practitioners, Carmen shared two upcoming face-to-face seminars taking place in Toronto, ON. Dr. Stuart Shanker has teamed up with Dr. Susan Hopkins to offer 'Pulling Back the Veil and Responding to what we Find Beneath' on December 6 and also 'Stress Management as a Distributed Social Phenomenon' on December 7. This professional development opportunity was offered to all Principals/Vice-Principals, System level Special education and student achievement members and SERTs to attend with expenses being covered by the Special Education Department.



Eleven staff including System level Spec. Ed. staff, SERTs and principals registered to attend the seminars. Additional registration and information can be found at <https://self-reg.ca/torontoevents/>.

## **6.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Shypula shared that the Board is currently developing a new 2018-2023 multi-vision accessibility plan to be compliant with current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) regulations. The revised plan will include a review of website, facilities, etc. and identifying barriers in order to be in compliance. Superintendent Shypula noted that the hope is to have the comprehensive plan drafted by the end of December 2017 and subsequently vetted by various stakeholders for review. The final draft would be submitted to the Board in the Spring of 2018.

Superintendent Shypula updated on the draft policy and resource guide on Special Education in Ontario for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students released in August 2017. Soliciting feedback from the public and key stakeholders, the guide now provides more comprehensive and greater consistency in the legislation, regulations, policies and program planning related to the education of students who require special education programs/services. Additionally, the Ministry will be garnering feedback from sector and stakeholder groups to inform on future revisions of the Identification Evaluation Plans (IEPs) and related content. On December 6, 2017, Superintendent Shypula and Carmen McDermid will be attending a Working Together: Regional Dialogue focusing on information about the recently released resource and upcoming supporting resources. Through facilitated discussions, it will give the district the opportunity to think about implications for this resource in improvement planning, equitable and inclusive practices and supporting positive learning environments.

Superintendent Shypula provided updates on Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan (OEEAP) released in September 2017. Equity is a central pillar of the Ministry's vision for education and it stems from the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to succeed personally and academically, regardless of background, identity or personal circumstances. The Ministry released *Realizing the Promise of Diversity, Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Plan* in 2009, requiring Boards to create policies and administrative procedures to ensure equity and inclusion in all schools. To promote the goals found in this document, the Ministry released the OEEAP, which celebrates the great work already completed across the province, outlines next steps to eliminate barriers and enables more students to reach their full potential. To assist in realizing the goals set out in the OEEAP, the Ministry has created the Education Equity Secretariat to work with Boards to bridge gaps and address disparities in achievement.

## **7. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment**

Superintendent Shypula prompted members to the upcoming SEAC Christmas breakfast flyer, which will be taking place in December and thanked the group for their attendance and continued meaningful input. Chair Esposto noted to have the committee terms of reference included on an upcoming agenda for review. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.