



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 22, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

- Present:** Christine Dragojlovich (Pearce), Jill Esposto, Carmen McDermid, Paul Sanderson, Michelle Shypula, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager
- Guests:** Debbie Dignan – System Special Education Resource Teacher, Mary Bradford – Special Education Department Head, Melissa Lancaster – Secondary Teacher, Assumption College School, Ireland – Assumption College School Student
- Regrets:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Jennifer Chapman, Krista Emmerson, Mischa Dinsmore, Nil Woodcroft
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1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Paul Sanderson welcomed the group. Debbie Dignan, System Special Education Resource Teacher, introduced our presenters, Melissa Lancaster, Secondary Teacher and Mary Bradford, Special Education Department Head - Assumption College School and a leadership student.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Christine Dragojlovich

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the May 22, 2018 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2018

Moved by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Seconded by: Paul Sanderson

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting.

Carried

5. Presentation

5.1 The Spring Fling

Melissa Lancaster, Teacher at Assumption College School, organized a Spring Fling Formal on May 4, 2018, for students in any one of our Secondary Special Education Programs. Over 50 students from St. John's College, Holy Trinity Catholic High School and Assumption College attended the event. The Spring Fling Formal offered students with an intellectual and/or communication disability an opportunity to socialize and form new friendships while enjoying a lovely dinner and dance. Students were supported during the evening by a host of volunteers that included Educational Assistants and Teachers and students from the Recreation and Leadership course. Many people and community organizations donated dresses, suits, food and monetary gifts to make the evening memorable for those who attended. A video of this elegant evening was created and shared which highlighted many of the special moments from the evening.



6. Community Agency Updates

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

Norfolk Association for Community Living will be hosting their Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2018. Teresa updated on the closure of sheltered workshops and most recently, the Café in April and that Business Support Services will be finished at the end of May. The agency is preparing clients for work within their community and building relationships with employers. The Ministry has donated funds to assist with person-centered plans and training sessions. NACL hired an instructor from Fanshawe College to assist with skills upgrading in areas such as, Smart Serve Food Certificates, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems (WHMIS) training and customer service training. Many enjoyed the opportunity to attend College to upgrade their skills.

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

Brant FACS are in their second week of going live on the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). Jill shared that the agency continues to see an increase in opioid substance abuse and are working with other agencies to address the situation. The agency will be holding their Annual General Meeting on June 11, 2018. Jill updated on the trends that the agency has identified where grandparents and other family members are raising their kin, which is changing the role of foster care. Jill updated that the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA) will be available for the 2018-19 school year. JPSA is a protocol between several Boards and Child Welfare Authorities to support the educational success and well-being of children and youth involved in the child welfare system and help them reach their full potential.

Action: Superintendent Shypula and Jill to further discuss a presentation of the information to be presented to Principal's on the 'kin' trend changes.

Tracey Taylor- Developmental Services Manager, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH has been busy working with families to adapt to the new special services and home funding guidelines. The agency is in the process of hiring an adult protective service worker, which will assist the adult population in the county. Tracey updated that the agency has moved their Annual General Meeting from June to September 2018.

Christine Dragojlovich- Clinical Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services

Christine updated that Mental Health Week was a great success. Mental Health Week fell on the same week as Education Week and that Mental Health Leads for both School Boards are members of their committee. The kickoff event was hosted by Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services and was held at the Boys & Girls Club of Brantford. There were many events celebrated throughout the week, including a Fun Fair on Six Nations and a closing ceremony at Alexandra Park with a barbecue lunch for all those in attendance. The Wrap Up Event is being facilitated on June 12 with feedback presented by all agencies. The Camp Unity Flyer (Appendix A) was discussed and the Golf Tournament is being held on June 14 at the Oaks of St. George Club. All proceeds will go towards Camp Unity, a camp for children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and like symptoms. The camp will be held at St. Pius X, and will run for five weeks this summer.



Paul Sanderson- Resource Coordinator, Contact Brant

Paul updated that Contact Brant had a great mental health week.

7. Reports

7.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen updated that training was provided to thirty-eight educators with the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) on Tuesday May 1, 2018. The morning provided training in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) and the afternoon focused on inclusionary activities, differentiated instruction and strategies/ interventions for students with a learning disability provided by Carmen McDermid and Susan Fitzgerald. Teachers were also provided with an overview of key and critical documents released by the Ministry and the Board. The second day of NVCI training will be held on May 31, 2018.

Carmen shared that Special Education Resource Teachers (elementary and secondary) and the Special Education Department Heads from all three high schools were introduced and received introductory level training to Tienet on May 3 and 4, 2018. Tienet is being considered to replace the Board's current electronic handbook which is used to host and write student Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Very positive feedback was received from the group on the capabilities it provides. The hope is to have the new system operational for the 2018-19 school year, with additional training sessions to be held in the new school year.

The Board is in full swing of System Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRCs) intake meetings for all student placements for any special classes and Transition Classes. The Board has Transition Class Programs running out of St. Joseph's School in Simcoe and Notre Dame School in Brantford.

The Secondary Have a Go is taking place on Wednesday, May 23 at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Participants from all three high schools will be taking part in the annual modified track & field meet and anyone is invited to attend. This year's event is being organized and led by the students in the leadership class at Holy Trinity. The Elementary Have a Go will be hosted at the Burford Community Centre on Thursday, June 7, with a cancellation date of Monday, June 11. All elementary schools are encouraged to consider inviting any student(s) who they feel would benefit from participating in a modified track & field meet.

A Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Information Evening was held on Thursday, May 17 at the Catholic Education Centre. The information session was offered to all teaching staff who wanted to learn more about the role of the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT). The session had over 50 people in attendance, including classroom teachers and a panel of 14 members from the Special Education Department including new and experienced SERTs, System SERTs, Special Education Department Heads, Itinerant SERTs, Special Education Lead and Principals. The panel of guests responded to questions posed to them by Carmen, which focused on what has led them to become a SERT, responsibilities of the role, how becoming a SERT has helped them in their own journey of professional development, etc. The panel offered honest responses related to both challenges and celebrations around being in the role of a SERT.



7.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula updated on the significant investments that the Ministry will be making over the next three school years to provide School Boards with funding to address current waitlists for special education assessments and increase programs and services for students with special education needs. This investment will include funding to support the further development of a multidisciplinary team to build board capacity and help Teachers, Educational Assistants (EAs) and other staff better understand and adapt to the unique needs of their students. The team is currently being developed and looking to have in place for September 2018. The Board currently has a Social Worker in each of the three high schools and there are five Children and Youth Workers across twenty-eight elementary schools.

Beginning in 2018-19, the Ministry will be providing further monies to support additional Mental Health Workers in secondary schools. The purpose of this investment is to hire regulated health professionals with specialized training in mental health, which may include Social Workers, Psychologists and/or Psychotherapists. Boards will also receive annual funding to support province-wide research and evaluation of the new supports.

Superintendent Shypula shared that the Board has expanded their French Immersion Program in Haldimand County at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School in Caledonia. Effective September 2018, the Board will have five schools offering the French Immersion Program in the following grades:

- Jean Vanier Catholic Elementary School, Brantford – K to 8
- St. Leo School, Brantford – K to 3
- Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School, Paris (Brant) – K to 2
- St. Joseph's School, Simcoe – K to 2
- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, Caledonia – JK/SK

The Special Education Team and the FSL Coordinator are in discussions as to how our school SERTs can best support the learning needs of students in our French Immersion Programs.

Further updates on the Employee Notification of Risk of Injury and Student Safety Plan will be forthcoming.

8. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked the Assumption College School Team for their presentation to SEAC.