



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. - Boardroom**

Present: Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Susan Battin, Jennifer Chapman, Christine Dragojlovich, Jill Esposito, Carmen McDermid, Michelle Shypula, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Regrets: Paul Sanderson, Nil Woodcroft

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer with a focus on the new Board three year theme: Hearts on Fire – Journey, Encounter, Transform and On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:32).

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Shypula welcomed the group back to another school year and members completed a round table of introductions for the benefit to all members. Jill Esposito led the committee through the approval of the Agenda and previous Minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Seconded by: Christine Dragojlovich

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the September 18, 2018 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2018

Moved by: Tracey Taylor

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

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

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2018

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting.

Carried

6. Election of Chairperson for 2018-19

Former 2017-18 Chair, Jill Esposito provided an overview of the role of Chairperson to the committee. Christine Dragojlovich and Teresa Westergaard-Hager were elected by acclamation to be SEAC co-chairs for the 2018-19 school year.



7. Community Agency Updates

Tracey Taylor - Developmental Services Manager, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Tracey updated that Haldimand-Norfolk REACH will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 and will focus on 'celebrating diversity moving forward together'.

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

Teresa updated on the closure of all sheltered workshops and how Norfolk Association for Community Living are beginning to transition people from group living to supported independent living programs (SILs). The agency will see three individuals moving out independently by the end of September and they are providing flexible support to those individuals.

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

Jill updated that Brant Family & Children Services has been very busy since the proclamation of the new Child, Youth and Family Services Act and an increase in the number of 16 and 17 year olds they are servicing. The agency has been providing internal training for staff, which is basing its philosophical principles on Bill 57, Katelynn's Principle Act (Decisions Affecting Children), 2016 and Jordan's Principle (making sure that all First Nations children can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them- health, social and educational). Jill updated that the agency is still working through challenges to the new Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) system since its inception in May.

In support of the provincial Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Campaign, Jill provided copies of letters sent to community partners and Brant school principals and teachers regarding this year's Dress Purple Day, which is being recognized on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 (See Appendices A and B). The accompanying packages to the letters included resources such as; posters, a sample colouring book, bookmarks and buttons that Jill also provided to the committee.

Jill updated on the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA), which 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. Brant Family and Children's Services and the Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk are currently recruiting for an Education Liaison position to work within both agencies to support these students.

Child welfare agencies are experiencing high costs of support in certain foster care situations for youth (16 & 17) with high developmental disabilities. The Brantford community through Contact Brant has pulled together a working group to support planning for these youth as they exit the child welfare system and move into adult services at age 18.

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

Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services will be hosting their Annual General Meeting at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. Doors will open at 4:00 pm and the agency will display "pop-up presentations" to highlight how they are serving the community. Christine updated that Camp Unity had its seventh successful year this summer held at St. Pius X. The agency



respite program had its first full summer camp program this year and all children met with great success. The agency is looking in to locations around Brantford and Brant for their drop-in programs. A location has been secured at the Brantford Public Library on Friday's from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and there is no registration required. Woodview is facilitating a Waitlist Clinic for children/youth on Woodview's waitlist on Saturday's from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and appointments can be booked with their administration. Woodview and the Grand River Health Unit are collaborating and co-facilitating a parents group for 'Parents living with Anxiety' (see Appendix C). The agency's *Elementary Day Treatment Classrooms* is currently servicing youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8 and assisting with transition to secondary school when required.

Susan Battin – Senior Therapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre

Lansdowne Children's Centre held its AGM in June and guest speaker, former MPP & Speaker of the house, Dave Levac was the keynote speaker. He shared his personal experiences helping children with special needs in our community. Lansdowne supported clients in their first full summer of the Therapeutic Recreation Camp, which works upon specific goals within a small group setting and also offered recreation for our clients across seven weeks of internal summer camps. Sue updated that proceeds from the sales of 'Smile' cookies from ©Tim Hortons are being directed to Lansdowne and Crossing All Bridges agencies. Lansdowne will be assuming responsibility from the LHIN in the process of administering school referrals and providing support for Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

Jennifer Chapman – Child Welfare Supervisor, Haldimand and Norfolk Children's Aid Society

Further to Jill's update, Jennifer advised that the Education Liaison position remains posted on their agency website (see Appendix D). Haldimand and Norfolk Children's Aid Society held their AGM in June where they recognized youth within their agency who have graduated high school. The organization continues to see 16 and 17 year old youth entering into volunteer agreements and feel this is in part due to a lack of available shelters. HN CAS are hosting their second annual Walk for Little Dreams Big Dreams where proceeds will help children within their services attend camp. The walk is taking place at the Haldimand and Norfolk Children's Aid Society facility and donations are being accepted by visiting their website. The agency will be providing a dinner for youth in their care on October 4 and there will be a dinner provided to all the caregivers within their agency later in the month of October.

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen reviewed the new 2018-19 Special Education Plan with committee members highlighting key areas such as the Board's model for special education covered on page two. Carmen shared messages provided by the Board Director of Education & Secretary, Chris Roehrig and former SEAC Chair, Jill Esposto relating accomplishments of SEAC members and the impact on students. Carmen thanked Jill for her message, found on page four of the Plan.

Special Education Goals for 2018-19 were shared to members as follows:

1. Improved level of student success and access to curriculum.
2. Reduce gaps in student achievement.
3. Being responsive and reflective practitioners.
4. Capacity building in the area of self-regulation.



5. Improved achievement in Mathematics and Literacy.
6. Increased focus on alternative programming and courses.

Carmen shared feedback received by the SEAC members, parents/guardians, staff and Board administration detailing expectations from the group for students with special needs. A diagram displaying the Board Special Education Services team for the 2018-19 school year was provided to members (see Appendix E).

Carmen reviewed the itinerant SERT roles for Debbie Dignan and Nancy Smykaluk, which were implemented in 2017-18 and will continue in the 2018-19 school year. Debbie supports all special education classrooms and special education classroom teachers (SECTs) at both the elementary and secondary level. She assists teams in writing Individual Education Plans (IEP), problem solving with school teams in developing appropriate programming to meet the student's needs, administers achievement assessments and is available to model a specific teaching practice for teachers. Nancy's role is to assist all schools in brainstorming with the development and implementation of the Zones of Regulation and will demonstrate a Zones lesson. She provides suggestions for possible sensory rooms/spaces, co-creates self-regulation resources, provides professional development around the appropriate use of fidget tools/sensory items and will brainstorm with school teams about additional self-regulation strategies.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula updated on a memorandum received on August 31, 2018 from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) concerning the transition contracts from Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) to Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) for the delivery of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology (school-based rehabilitation services) in publicly-funded schools. The ministries advised that the LHINs and CTCs are to immediately resume all necessary transition activities, including the transfer of data, while ensuring compliance with applicable privacy legislation to protect and preserve personal health information.

The memorandum advised that the transfer of responsibility will occur in a phased in approach commencing as early as November 2018 through January 2019 based on local readiness. From that date, CTCs will be responsible for school-based rehabilitation services, previously delivered by Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) through the LHINs.

The ministries will soon provide further information, including details about the phased approach and next steps. Once the ministries have confirmed the final transfer dates, a new effective date for amending Regulation 386/99 under the Home Care and Community Services Act, 1994 will be recommended to the government.

In the meantime, all referrals for these services will continue to be made by the LHINs and SPOs until the timing of each local transition has been confirmed and until each transfer is complete. Additionally, the government has revoked regulatory amendments previously scheduled to come into effect on September 28, 2018 under the Home Care Community Services Act, 1994, that would have removed the requirements for LHINs to provide physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology in publicly funded schools. It is the ministries' expectation that the transition of contracts between the LHINs and the CTCs will cause no changes to the service delivery for students currently in service and families



should experience no disruptions or additional waits as a result of the transfer during the 2018-19 school year.

Superintendent Shypula updated members on the Board's System Wide Faith Day that took place at Holy Trinity Catholic High School in Simcoe on Friday, September 14, 2018. The day centered around the new Board Spiritual Theme, Hearts on Fire – Journey, Encounter, Transform and On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:32).

9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked members for their contribution to the team.