



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. - Boardroom**

- Present:** Susan Battin, Jennifer Chapman, Christine Dragojlovich, Jill Esposto, Carmen McDermid, Michelle Shypula, Paul Sanderson, Nil Woodcroft
- Guest:** Kerri Chartrand, System Student Achievement Lead
- Regrets:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager
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1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Shypula welcomed the group and a round of introductions ensued for the benefit to newest member, Debbie Fullerton- Principal of St. Michael's Walsh, ON and Principal Lead for Special Education staffing.

3. Approval of Agenda

Superintendent Shypula amended the Agenda to include Letters of Recruitment under Section **6. Correspondence – 6.2 SEAC Agency Recruitment Letters for 2018-19**

Moved by: Jill Esposto

Seconded by: Jennifer Chapman

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the October 16, 2018 meeting, as amended.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2018

Jill Esposto, Brant Family & Children Services, made minor edits to the Community Agency Update as follows:

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.

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting, as amended.

Carried

5. Presentation

5.1 District Priorities for Student Achievement – Kerri Chartrand, System Student Achievement Lead

Superintendent Shypula welcomed Kerri Chartrand, System Student Achievement Lead to the group. Working closely with Leslie Telfer, Superintendent of Education for Student Achievement, Kerri also works alongside all Board Student Achievement Consultants. Kerri



shared the *Essential Practices K-12* poster containing the Board focus for Student Achievement across the district (see appendix A). In consultation with IBM consultants, principals, various teachers and many more stakeholder groups, a consensus was achieved and a clear focus established to the following tertiary focal groups: 1. Assessment for Learning, 2. Literacy, 3. Numeracy to support the learning and achievement of all students. Kerri updated that the information would be shared with principals at the Family of Schools meeting on October 17 and that communication has been sent out to all administrators, which will be instructed to staff as part of their learning sessions on the PA Day on Friday, October 19, 2018. Kerri updated on how leveraging digital enhances and facilitates the essential practices K-12 through a balanced instructional approach. The approach consisting of whole group instruction, small group instruction and independent practice in authentic settings is necessary to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of students. The Assessment for Learning essential practices are Know the Learner, Learning Goals & Success Criteria and Descriptive Feedback. A summary was provided on how daily reading experiences, daily writing experiences and cross-curricular integration are the Essential Practices for Literacy. Daily number routines, problem solving opportunities and use of visual representations will be used for Essential Practices in Numeracy.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington CDSB

Superintendent Shypula updated on the information and correspondence received from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board on October 4, 2018, which was addressed to the Honorable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education (see appendix B). Firstly, the letter addressed recent findings in the Auditor General of Ontario Report 2017 and secondly, it addressed the impact of recent changes in the Special Education funding model on the district, which was made by the Conservative government as outlined by Deputy Minister of Education, Bruce Rodrigues. The Auditor General found that benchmarks in the funding formula and dollar amount assigned are out-of-date and recommends the following to remedy the inequities:

1. Conduct a comprehensive external review of the funding formula, including all grant components and benchmarks, as recommended by the Education Equity Funding Task Force, 2002;
2. Regularly review of the formula and update all benchmarks to reflect the province's ever-changing demographics and socio-economic conditions; and
3. Use the more current census data available when determining allocations for grants.

Additionally, updates included that the General Auditor also found that the Ministry of Education does not allocate funding based on actual needs but that half of the special education funding is allocated based on a school board's average daily enrolment of all its students instead of the number of students who are receiving special education programs and services. The Auditor General has recommended the following to remedy the inequities this process creates:

1. Determine to what extent school boards are spending funds for specific education priorities (such as ESL students and Indigenous students), understand any discrepancies and align funding with actual needs; and
2. Design and conduct validation procedures to verify the use of restricted funds.



Superintendent Shypula updated that further challenges to Special Education funding is occurring as a result of decreased funding (\$11,000) from \$38,000 per Special Incident Portion (SIP) claim to \$27,000 (a decision made without full consultation as to the impact it would have to equity and inclusion of students). Additionally, budgeting for the 2018-19 school year had already taken place prior to this announcement.

6.2 SEAC Agency Recruitment Letters for 2018-19

Superintendent Shypula queried to the committee input on sending out a letter to additional agencies and person(s) to increase membership to SEAC. Committee members were in agreement and a list of contacts and agencies were provided to the secretary who will be coordinating letters to be mailed out.

7. Community Agency Updates

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

Jill updated that October is Child Abuse Prevention Month and that on Wednesday, October 24 it is Dress Purple Day to show your support in breaking the silence that surrounds child abuse. Brant Family and Children Services will be hosting a Foster Parent appreciation night on October 24. There is currently a great need for foster parents in our area and Jill reviewed information on foster care with the group. Members were invited to reach out to their families and friends or to anyone they think would be a good fit for foster care. Jill updated that there are several candidates for the new Education Liaison position and they hope to be able to announce the person in early November. This position would be shared with HN CAS and Brant FACS to support the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement.

Nil Woodcroft – Manager of Early Childhood Intervention, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Nil updated that today, October 16, is the 18th annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in Ontario. The day was proclaimed by over 30 municipalities and was announced in the Ontario Legislature¹.

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

Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services held their annual Family Day Picnic at Brantwood Farms on Monday evening, October 15, 2018. Although they experienced cooler temperatures, she said the event did result in a very good turnout. Christine updated that the youth drop-in program is now operating and additionally, youth can text the number provided to set up appointments (see appendix C).

Susan Battin – Senior Therapist, Lansdowne Children’s Centre

Susan updated that Lansdowne Children’s Centre is currently experiencing some restructuring within the agency and that there are various positions listed on their website such as a posting for a Managerial Director position due to a retirement. The agency is currently developing a grandparent appreciation day.

¹ http://www.childcareontario.org/ccwad_2018



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

Jennifer updated that the Haldimand and Norfolk Children’s Aid Society held their Youth Thanksgiving dinner last week and that it was very well received. The agency is also experiencing restructuring within as their kin department is growing and evolving to separate the needs into their own team, separate from adoption. There is a demand for additional foster care for older youth/teenagers whereas there are available resources for younger age groups.

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen updated on the speakers and events that took place at the Community of Practice Meeting on September 28. SERTs received information on the Essential Practices in Assessment for Learning K – 12 encouraging that the information and language is consistent across the district. Carmen updated that our Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) have begun to receive training with the new Lexia Core5 program. The program, utilized by the Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School, is currently being piloted with 60 students within our Board, for students primarily in grades three to six. Various school Boards across the province are also piloting the program. This intensive literacy computer program will support educators in providing differentiated literacy instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge and providing teachers with data and student specific strategies/resources to support student needs.

Carmen shared a copy of our Board Special Education Academic Planner for the 2018-19 school year. The planner captures key dates/details for the entire school year that assist SERTs in responding to Ministry and Board expectations. The planner was shared with members and copies were offered to any members who would be interested in receiving one as it contains relevant information that pertains to agencies as well such as entry to school transition meetings. Carmen invited agency members to connect with her if they would be interested in presenting at any of the Community of Practice meetings that are hosted approximately once a month. Carmen updated that a parent information session was held on October 4 on the Supplementary Gifted Program. System SERT, Sandra DeDominicis, is leading the program that is offered to students identified as: Gifted.

Carmen shared a Key Message to members (see appendix D) on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) outlining reasons a student would receive an IEP and the purpose/process of implementing the plan.

On Friday October 19, all Educational Assistants (EAs) within the Board will be attending our PD Day and participating in a variety of workshops. Workshops include PD around Math...A Growth Mindset, Boardmaker training, Proactive Behaviour Management strategies, Self-Regulation strategies and resources, Technology, etc. The Spec. Ed. Department set a goal to have all permanent Educational Assistants trained with the New Enhanced Nonviolent Crisis Intervention by December 2018. A final group of EAs within our Board will be completing this training at the October and November PD Days. Carmen added that EAs receive updated First Aid training every three years, which will also be provided at this PD Day training session. In addition to these workshops, EAs will be provided with a copy of the Essential Practices in Assessment for Learning K-12, accompanied by a brief discussion about it.



8.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula updated that this October 24 is Dress Purple Day in support of breaking the silence surrounding child abuse. The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk and Brant Family and Children's Services are working together with our schools, health care providers, police and the community to keep children safe. Our Catholic schools play an important role in keeping children safe and helping them grow and resources were provided to families to encourage participation in support of the event. Additionally, as the Board strives to communicate a knowledge that is filled with the Gospel, emphasis will be made in classrooms on the strong connection between our Board theme of "Hearts on Fire – Journey" and the importance of caring for children and youth.

9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked Kerri Chartrand for her presentation to SEAC.