



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. – Boardroom**

- Present:** Jennifer Chapman, Christine Dragojlovich, Jill Esposto, Debbie Fullerton, Carmen McDermid, Leslie Telfer (Superintendent of Education), Teresa Westergaard-Hager
- Regrets:** Carol Luciani (Trustee), Keith Anderson, Susan Battin, Lauren Freeborn, Patti Mitchell, Michelle Shypula, Tracey Taylor, Nil Woodcroft
- Guests:** Nancy Mulroy (School SERT), Nancy Smykaluk (Itinerant SERT), Tara Spangenberg (School SERT)
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1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid welcomed Leslie Telfer, Superintendent of Education to the meeting and led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Chair Teresa Westergaard-Hager welcomed the group and led a round of introductions for the benefit of the guests.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Jill Esposto

Seconded by: Jennifer Chapman

THAT the SEAC approves the agenda of the February 26, 2019 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2019

Moved by: Jennifer Chapman

Seconded by: Jill Esposto

THAT the SEAC approves the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting.

Carried

5. Presentation – Self Regulation

Carmen McDermid introduced the presentation by providing the historical background on the inception of self-regulation being a targeted focus of the Special Education Department since 2016. An overview of the work completed to date was shared, including the purchase of the book, 'Zones of Regulation' for each school, as well as providing resources to every elementary and secondary school to support the creation of a calming room or calming spaces within classrooms.

Nancy Smykaluk, Itinerant Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT), shared her self-regulation power point presentation (See Appendix A). A series of video clips were shown that explained the emotions of the four coloured zones of self-regulation which are; Blue, Green, Yellow and Red. Activities ensued that allowed members to reflect on personal emotions within the four zones of regulation. Nancy Mulroy, School SERT, shared techniques that she implements within classrooms such as the 'exit slip'. The 'exit slip' is based on visual cues and expressions that can demonstrate how a student is feeling when transitioning between classrooms. Nancy Mulroy offered a strategy on how to address certain situations with students by having them identify the size of the problem and who is



being affected by their behaviour/actions. Nancy Smykaluk and Tara Spangenberg defined 'reframing behaviour' to the group based on the "Anger Iceberg" (page 12 of the PowerPoint) and how underlying emotions can be the root cause of the behaviours. Tara shared ideas on how communication using specific wording through 'Speech Bubbles' can help parents and teachers when speaking to their children and students. The presenters discussed calming areas created within schools and described many of the helpful tools/resources used to assist students. They shared the effects of screen time with children and students and how this can impact behaviours. Members received an article: Self-Regulation: A parent's Guide by Dr. Stuart Shanker (See Appendix B) and a list of additional articles (See Appendix C) on self-regulation.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter received from the Peel District School Board

Christine shared with members the letter received from Peel District School Board from January 16, 2019 addressed to the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education on the significant changes in funding for special education and more specifically to the Peel Board, the decrease in the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) and how it is affecting their Board (See Appendix D).

6.2 Letter received from the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

Christine updated on the letter received from the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board dated October 24, 2018 and addressed to the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education. The letter was a response to the letter sent from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board on the changes in support with special education (See Appendix E).

6.3 Letter from the Ministry of Education

Christine shared the response letter from the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education from our committee dated November 21, 2018. Members were invited to share any concerns or questions they might have with the response from the Ministry (See Appendix F).

7. Community Agency Updates

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

Teresa updated that the Norfolk Association for Community Living will be hosting their winter carnival on March 24. The agency is preparing for their annual Can-You-Dig-It fundraiser in May. The agency's employment services are rebranding to increase awareness for working with people with developmental disabilities. They will have a table set up at the 'Spring-A-Rama' event at the community recreational centre this week to help recruit employees and provide information for hiring people with disabilities. Teresa shared that the job sector opportunities are lacking and that they are working with other agencies, colleges and universities to promote awareness on employment opportunities and working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Teresa shared that the agency's community outreach services are continuing to offer craft nights and other events in the Simcoe downtown location. Their residential services continue to evaluate living arrangements in order to best serve their clients. There has been increased growth in supported independent living programs within the past two years and they continue to hire staff to meet the needs of such growth.



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

Jennifer updated that the Haldimand-Norfolk Children’s Aid Society are in the process of their annual agency audit, looking at children in the extended care society. The agency has been live on the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) nearing two years and Jennifer is a lead in the audit which is being completed offsite. The agency will be offering a Financial Literacy class during March Break and they have received positive feedback from youth on the program. They are piloting and on third round of consultations with Dr. Klein to have discussions with kids in care on trauma and the impact of trauma.

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

Further to Jennifer’s update, Jill updated that Brant Family and Children Services are also in the process of their annual audit and that the agency has now been live with CPIN approximately eight months. Jill shared that it is a very busy time in the agency and that they continue to manage and work to ensure that children’s needs are met and they continue to work through the transition process with Ogwadeni:Deo.

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

Christine updated that Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services have partnered with the doctor’s office Dr. Shcheratykh, at 124 Charing Cross, to provide brief outreach services to youth. The services are provided on Monday’s from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for youth from 0 to 18 years of age and they can walk in or call ahead at 519-304-8550. A flyer is under development to advertise this support service. The agency have hired two more staff members and have secured office space in Harmony Square and take possession as of March 1, 2019. Once renovations are completed, the agency will announce an opening date and they are excited to be offering the SNAP® program from this location. SNAP® (Stop Now and Plan) is a proven program that teaches children with behavioural problems, and their parents, how to make better choices ‘in the moment’. The program benefits children and youth who are acting out by focusing on regulating emotions and teaching them to stop, think, and plan positive alternatives before they act impulsively. Woodview is partnering with the Grand River Community Health Centre to offer an eight week parenting group to parents experiencing anxiety, challenges with parenting and coping with children’s mental health (See Appendix G). The sessions begin on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 and you must call Contact Brant to register. Lastly, the agency will be holding respite camps over the March Break and have secured a place at Five Oaks for this.

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen shared that on Monday, January 21, 2019, training was provided to Elementary Educational Assistants (EAs) for their Professional Development Day at the German Hall in Brantford. The focus was on well-being and the day was led by speaker, Kim Ruzycki, founder of the Picky Diet (for the love of plant based foods and a healthy lifestyle) and personal health and nutrition coach. On Friday, February 1, 2019, the same professional development was provided to Secondary Educational Assistants. Elementary and Secondary EAs were then asked to complete an online feedback survey about the training/information they received and the results overwhelmingly demonstrated that the day was meaningful to their learning and well-being.



The Special Education Department holds monthly Community of Practice (COP) meetings with all SERTs and Secondary Department Heads within the Board. The February COP meeting was hosted as an online Skype meeting which provided an opportunity to share required information, respond to questions from SERTs and record minutes for future reference. Offering a Skype meeting provided SERTs time in their schools to complete any follow up items discussed during the online meeting and to use the time to work on Term Two IEPs. Responses from SERTs were very positive regarding periodically hosting meetings in this manner, especially in the winter months.

All Grade 8 to 9 Special Classroom Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) intake meetings have been completed for Holy Trinity Catholic High School and St. John's College. The meetings for Assumption College School have been cancelled twice due to inclement weather, however, they will be rescheduled.

Carmen shared feedback received from the Ministry on the Board Special Education Plan that included some highlights for consideration with our 2019-20 submission. As a result, consultation with members was initiated at this meeting. They were invited to share their suggestions and feedback on a specific staffing section of the Special Education Plan (See Appendix H). Feedback was offered by the committee including suggested wording changes and the request for consultation to be sent to them through email so that a formal record of the consultation would be maintained.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

Further to Carmen's update, Superintendent Telfer offered suggestions on the consultative processes with SEAC to assist in the evaluation of data and corresponding budget from the Ministry. Superintendent Telfer announced the new Trustee representing our Board, Carol Luciani, and sought feedback, as per Carol's request, to revisit the start times on the current scheduled meetings for the remainder of the 2018-19 year.

ACTION: Secretary to the Superintendents of Education to send out a survey to members.

9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am and Superintendent Telfer thanked members for their contributions to the meeting.