



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
Brantford, ON N3R 2X6

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October, 19, 2021 – 1pm
Teams Meeting**

- Members:** Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Tara Buchanan, Jennifer Chapman, Lauren Freeborn, Lynda Field-Newhouse, Christina Ferrell, Nil Woodcroft, Sarah Robertson, Marissa Lechowicz
- Regrets:** Bill Chopp, Lauren Freeborn, Annemarie Krauss, Jennifer Chapman, Patti Mitchell
- Resources:** Carmen McDermid (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)
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1. Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgement led by Superintendent Greco.

2. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid shared an opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent Greco welcomed the committee to the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Tara Buchanan

Seconded: Nil Woodcraft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda for October 19, 2021, meeting.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: Christina Ferrell

Seconded: Sarah Robertson

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda for September 21, 2021, meeting.

Carried

6. Correspondence

No new correspondence.

7. Community Agency Updates

Lynda Field-Newhouse – Lansdowne

Lansdowne continues to increase the number of staff and families they have in their building. More recreational programs are running. The agency is starting to feel a rebirth after the quietness of previous months.

Christina Ferrell – Woodview

Woodview is conducting in-person services, no further updates.

Sarah Robertson – Brant Family and Children’s Services

Brant FACS has recognized an increase in service needs during the amalgamation with Haldimand Norfolk CAS, updates will be communicated with community partners. During the amalgamation, most will not see a change in how service is conducted. There is a centralized investigation team as a result of recent restructuring. This team will be the initial contact for most school staff, however, there are still teams offering longer term or ongoing support to families. Where possible, it is helpful for community partners to report concerns at the time they learn of them. This allows for as much time as possible to respond should there be a more urgent concern requiring a same day response. Like many other service areas, staffing in the child welfare sector has been challenging.

Tara Buchanan – Community Living Brant

CL Brant has started working with agencies such as Woodview, Why Not, the City of Brantford, and County of Brant regarding a youth voice project for marginalized youth. Looking to connect with school boards for referrals. A lot of CL Brant activities/programs functioned outside but looking to move them inside as the colder weather approaches.

An update provided on the Bridge program, which is a volunteer-based grassroots organization. The program offers safer spaces training which supports inclusivity and security within the community allowing youth to feel comfortable.

Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

HN REACH has an interim Manager for Autism and Behavioural Services – Sue Bailey. The unit also has a Social Skills group starting in November. Information on this group can be found on the website. The Teen group will be moving to in person in January. HN REACH continues to provide service at 75% capacity.

Shannon Mason – Principal Lead

Classroom teachers collaborated with school SERT’s to get Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) sent out. Efforts from both parties were appreciated.

8. Review of SEAC Communication and Webpage

Superintendent Greco reviewed the SEAC webpage with the committee. Committee members were invited to forward any feedback to Marissa.

9. Reports

9.1 Superintendent of Education

Provided examples of how the Board continues to navigate supports for students with various levels of needs. The Board was able to allocate additional Educational Assistants. The Board has hired a part-time Research Associate to focus on student voice, the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and the student demographic survey, and a Senior Social Worker to assist with the safe and inclusive schools’ initiative.

9.2 Student Achievement Lead

Two virtual Community of Practice meetings have been held where timely and key information was shared with SERTs and special education department heads across the district. Service managers at Lansdowne Children’s Centre presented service updates and processes for accessing School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) which focus on occupational, physio and speech therapy. The Department welcomes presentations from community partners as this further enhances communication, collaboration, and information in support of student learning.

Elementary and secondary school SERTs in collaboration with classroom teachers, have created and distributed their first set of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for the school year. Identifying student strengths/needs, providing appropriate accommodations and modifications as required and consulting with families are critical aspects incorporated in producing this working document that supports student learning.

Planning for the November 12th Professional Development Day is currently underway. Looking

forward to an informative day for EAs in offering a variety of workshops and trainings.

10. Review of Nominations – SEAC Chair and Vice Chair

At the previous meeting, the committee called for nominations for chair and vice chair. Lauren Freeborn will serve as Chair and Jennifer Chapman will serve as Vice Chair.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

No closing remarks. Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.

Next meeting date, time, location: November 16, 2021 – 1pm, Microsoft Teams