



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
Catholic District School Board**

**Minutes**

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

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 1pm  
Catholic Education Centre, 322 Fairview Dr, Brantford**

- Members:** Laura Bergeron (*ad hoc*), Brandi Bertling, Bill Chopp (*Trustee*), Mischa Dinsmore, Michelle Drake, Christina Ferrell, Kim Fraser, Lauren Freeborn, Kevin Greco (*Superintendent of Education*), Kerri Lomax, Nil Woodcroft
- Regrets:** Tara Buchanan, Shannon Korber, Patti Mitchell
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Kerri Lomax (*Principal, Elementary*), Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)

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**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Superintendent Greco welcomed the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Greco led with the land acknowledgement.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

**4. Introductions**

The committee provided brief introductions for new and existing members.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Christina Ferrell

Seconded by: Mischa Dinsmore

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the September 20, 2022, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Mischa Dinsmore

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the June 21, 2022, meeting.

**Carried**

## **7. Orientation and Election of Chairs**

### **7.1 Terms of Reference**

Committee members reviewed the terms of reference. Discussion regarding meeting locations and delivery. All in-person meetings will have a virtual option. Meetings will remain the third Tuesday of each month and will start at 1pm.

### **7.2 Nominations**

Mischa Dinsmore has volunteered to hold the position of Chair, and Christina Ferrell has volunteered to be Vice Chair for the 2022-23 school year. All committee members agreed and thanked Mischa and Christina for stepping forward.

## **8. Correspondence**

No new correspondence to share.

## **9. Community Agency Updates**

### **Kim Fraser – Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie**

The amalgamation continues to progress. Currently using a hybrid work model with some staff in person and some working remote. There is a new Children Service Worker making 7 full time CSW's on our team.

### **Brandi Bertling – Child and Family Services of Grand Erie (CFSGE)**

There are several resources and links available on the CFSGE website that everyone is encouraged to look at. The agency is looking for volunteer drivers. If you know someone who may be interested, they can look for someone to connect with on our website. Updating staff identification cards and business cards is underway in hopes of improving familiarity in the community.

### **Christina Ferrell - Woodview**

Woodview underwent a service transformation in September. A letter was sent to all families currently receiving services encouraging them to set up an appointment with a Service Coordinator. These appointments allowed families to express their needs and received referrals to appropriate services. This was a great success with many families reaching out for support.

### **Kerri Lomax – Principal, Elementary**

September has been busy channeling parents' questions and concerns. The Board's support services have been touching base with schools and starting visits to help support students with their return to school.

### **Mischa Dinsmore – Lansdowne Children's Centre**

The Smile Cookie campaign is on from September 19<sup>th</sup> until the 25<sup>th</sup> and Lansdowne is splitting the proceeds with Brant Food for Thought. Lansdowne's Heroes Walk and Roll and a family carnival is coming up on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder to look at our website for numerous resources available for families and service providers. Currently the school support therapists are busy in schools.

### **Nil Woodcroft – Haldimand-Norfolk REACH**

September has been a busy month supporting participants with transition to school. Feedback from agency staff has been gathered and meeting with the Boards to review successes, challenges and gaps, as well as review plans moving into 2023. Currently meeting with the Autism program at REACH to review the first Entry to School program and discuss steps moving forward for those participants enrolled in multiple programs at REACH to ensure a seamless delivery of service for participants, families and school staff.

## **Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant**

The Urgent Response Program began in May and staff are at capacity. Looking for creative solutions to keep up with demand. Contact Brant no new updates other than the URP. Just started introducing this in May and our workers are at capacity – looking for creative solutions to keep up with demand. New committee member hopefully in October/November to introduce them.

## **Michelle Drake – Crossing all Bridges**

Crossing All Bridges is a non-profit organization for adults ages 21+ who may be on the spectrum, have cerebral palsy, down syndrome, etc. The focus is to offer an opportunity for continued learning through 5 core programs, which include: culinary, digital innovation, sports and recreation, expressive arts, and community and culture.

Crossing All Bridges is fully operational with in-person learning with a hybrid model currently in the works. There is a fundraiser coming up on October 14<sup>th</sup> called Witches Night Out for women only.

## **Bill Chopp - Trustee**

Trustee Chopp expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board of Trustees to all members of the committee. The input and advocacy that stems from the committee is extremely valuable, especially when determining how to allocate resources. A thank you was also extended to the new Chair and Vice Chair.

## **10. Reports**

### **10.1 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Greco shared that the Special Education Department met last year to identify goals for the department as the pandemic comes to an end. There was focus on streamlining and enhancing pathways to support, improving processes, and continuing to build capacity in the system.

There has been discussion around enhancing new Educational Assistant's (EA) experience within the Board. Some ideas to improve this include: an EA mentorship program, creating networks for EA's, and an induction program that will map an onboarding experience.

Over the summer, there were a number of assessments completed using money received through a grant. The Board was able to complete a number of Psychoeducational Assessments reducing the waitlist. The Board also retained a psychologist to do gifted assessments and completed 25 during the summer.

The updated Special Education Plan and Annual Report are available to view on the Board's website, committee members are encouraged to review.

Committee members are encouraged to review all communications on the Special Education Page. The committee will review next meeting.

### **10.2 Student Achievement Lead**

The Student Achievement Lead shared an overview of the Annual Plan outlining key areas.

## **11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

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**Next meeting date, time, location:** Tuesday October 18, 2022, TBD