



**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, December 20, 2022 – 1pm  
Catholic Education Centre, 322 Fairview Dr, Brantford**

- Members:** Brandi Bertling, Dennis Blake (*Trustee*), Katie Boyd, Mischa Dinsmore, Christina Ferrell, Kim Fraser, Lauren Freeborn, Shannon Korber, Laura McFadden, Phil Wilson (*Superintendent of Education*), Nil Woodcroft
- Regrets:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Tara Buchanan, Mischa Dinsmore, Michelle Drake, Kim Fraser, Kerri Lomax (*Principal, Elementary*), Shannon Mason (*Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing*), Marilyn Noi
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (*Student Achievement Lead: Special Education*), Patti Mitchell (*Parent, County of Brant*)
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**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Christina Ferrell welcomed the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Wilson read the Board's land acknowledgement.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

**4. Introductions**

The committee provided brief introductions for new and existing members Dennis Blake was welcomed to SEAC as the new Trustee representative and the Committee a thanked Bill Chopp for his role on the Committee and in Special Education.

**5. Approval of Agenda – December 20, 2022**

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the November 15, 2022, meeting.

**Carried**

## **6. Approval of the Minutes – November 15, 2022**

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the October 18, 2022, meeting.

**Carried**

## **7. Correspondence – Nil**

## **8. Community Agency Updates**

### **Christina Ferrell – Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services (Woodview)**

A holiday party was held for families. There were approximately 60 families (250 people) in attendance. Woodview received donations and were able to provide each family with a \$250 gift card.

### **Shannon Korber - Child and Family Services of Grand Erie (CFSGE)**

There was a Christmas dinner held at the Royal Canadian Legion for youth in need.

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

The Manager of Autism and Behavioural Services unit is planning the Entry to School Program to begin in March 2023. Haldimand-Norfolk Reach is hoping to facilitate a program in Dunnville and Simcoe as well.

### **Lauren Freeborn – Contact Brant**

Lansdowne has begun SmartStart Hub Services. Their main location is still the first contact for rehabilitation and developmental services. Urgent response services are operating and over 100 families are accessing the services. To access the services, the child must have a new behaviour that has developed over the last two weeks and be one of 12 listed behaviours. The child must be registered with the Ontario Autism Program. This program began in April 2022 with no slowdown of needs. This program is a 12-week, very prescribed program, and begins when the behavioural support starts.

## **9. Updates**

### **9.1 Student Achievement Lead**

Since our last meeting, the Board has delivered two new SERT Training sessions, which were held in November and December 2022 for our newest members. In November, Janet Murphy from NELSON provided formal achievement test training and in December, new SERTs were in serviced on the topics of Special Equipment Amount Process, Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Strategies, the HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile) Curriculum, and the Information Identification, Placement, and Review Committee process (IPRC).

Coffee chats continue to be offered as voluntary professional development for Bridge the Gap, which is the Board's phonological awareness support resource for SERTs.

On November 17, 2022, the Board held a virtual Community of Practice (COP) meeting for all resource teachers where they were trained on Literacy and the Science of Reading, Kickstart to Kindergarten; achievement test changes and reminders; Grade 8 Parent Information Nights for students entering job skills in secondary schools, SEA reminders, and a review of the process for requesting LEXIA licenses.

The Board held a Confirmation Retreat for select students on November 23, 2022 (seven students attended with two EAs from four of our schools). The program is geared toward students with an intellectual disability (MID/DD), students with autism that can make transitions easily and/or students who could benefit from a simplified supplementary 'hands on' program.

Today, surveys were released to EAs, SERTs and Principals to measure the effectiveness and functionality of past EA technology devices (Samsung Tablets) to determine future technology needs.

Two new members became Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) trainers and can now train members in NVCI techniques

System team members have begun discussions on the "After School Skills Development Program" and how to best build capacity among members working with our population of students with an Autism diagnosis.

This week, team swag was offered to our resource teachers and specialists to demonstrate camaraderie and team spirit.

System members continue to support gaps across the system by covering shortages when available.

On Friday, December 23, 2022, 17 members of the specialist team will congregate with Superintendent Wilson to share ideas and identify next steps to move the department forward with some team building exercises, prompts, and collaboration opportunities.

## **9.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Wilson provided the members with information and the rationale for adding the Personal Activity Learning Program (PAL) and the Community Living Programs at St. John's College (SJC), beginning in September 2023. He noted that, currently, the above courses are only offered at Assumption College School (ACS) and students who live in the SJC school boundary are bussed to ACS to obtain these courses, which are approaching or at capacity. Offering the programs at SJC would create an opportunity for program expansion as enrollment continues to increase and create equity among the course offerings at ACS and SJC.

Superintendent Wilson provided members with information regarding a program being developed to support high needs students. He noted that despite the use of tiered interventions by staff, some high needs students in the Board require more specialized and intensive support. To assist in meeting the needs of a few of our students and to support classroom staff, the Board will engage the services of Bartimaeus Inc. to assist in situations that require interventions with students experiencing moderate to extreme behavioural, emotional, psychological and/or developmental challenges. Superintendent Wilson noted that the Board is in the process of engaging the company, so their staff can begin working with two students in January 2023. The hiring of Bartimaeus Inc. is a short-term intervention with a gradual release of intervention. The hiring of the company will cross over into student support services to assist our behavioral consultants, etc. Superintendent Wilson will provide a follow-up regarding Bartimaeus Inc. in future meetings.

## **10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Christina Ferrell thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1pm.