



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Burns csc Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Racine.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair Racine.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Pina Palombo	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health		✓	
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre		✓	
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet	✓		
Trustees				
Pat Vernal			✓	
Maurice Charbonneau			✓	
Dino Sicoli		✓		
Student Senate Representative				
Donald Hingston		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education; **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Karen Murphy

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 3, 2018.

CARRIED

4. **Disclosure of Interest**

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 5, 2018**

Moved by Karen Murphy

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 5, 2018 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. VISIONING

1. **Goals and Vision for 2018-2019**

1.1 Goals and Vision for the 2018-2019 School Year

The SEAC members decided on the following goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

1. Dr. Sheila Bennett - Presentation
2. Hold a SEAC meeting at a school
3. Develop a Transition Survey relating to the transition process in schools

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

1. **Learner Advocacy**

2. **Parent Outreach**

3. Program and Service Recommendations

4. Special Education Budget

A discussion was held regarding maintaining ongoing communication between the Board and the SEAC, should there be consideration for change.

5. Annual Review, Special Education Plan

6. Other Related Items

7. Policy Review

The following policies were presented for review.

Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6)
Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7)
Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)
Catholic School Councils Policy (8001)

Feedback can be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by October 11, 2018

E. SEAC REPORT

1. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda

- Nil Report

2. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters

- Nil Report

F. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Pina Palombo

- GO 21 Walk was held this past Sunday, September 30, 2018 @ Heartland Forest – over 200 attended. DJ Jordan Setacci was on site providing music & energy/warm up for the walk; bouncy castle and food trucks were also on site; GO 21 loot bags were filled with fun and free stuff; draws / prizes - fun day! Well attended – many new young families – great to see. Raised funds will be used for future speaker series, DS Christmas party, Halloween party, rebranding DS group – new parent packages are being prepared and will be available very soon to hand out to all the new parents with DS babies
- October is DS Awareness month

Upcoming Events for DS Group

- DS Halloween dance to be held on October 27, 2018, 3:30 – 8:00 p.m. - pizza will be supplied/treats & Halloween crafts - DJ music should be a spooktacular time
- DS Christmas party to be held at Heartland Forest – Sunday, December 16, 2018 - Special guest, Santa to arrive to visit with his elves
- Cross-fit upcoming event in support of Special Olympics - Blair Stayzer's foundation GMC homies with chromies to come out that day for the event at Cross Fit St. Catharines.

2. *The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine*

- Nil Report

3. *Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi*

- Nil Report

4. *Community Living, Welland Pelham – Andrew Howcroft*

- The article, *All Children Should Feel That They Belong in School*, by Renu Mandhane, Chief Commissioner for Human Rights in Ontario was presented.
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its new *Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities*, along with recommendations on how to best meet legal obligations under Ontario's *Human Rights Code*.

5. *Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy*

- Huge topic for October is National Autism Awareness Month. We are inviting schools to spread awareness throughout the month. If any schools would like to showcase how they are Opening Doors for acceptance and opportunities for all individuals on the spectrum, you can tag them on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. October's Enews on the 20th will be Autism Awareness in our community and would love to showcase some of our local schools. If you would like information you can contact Maria Hiebert at the office administration.niagara@autismontario.com

6. *Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey*

- Nil Report

7. *Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith*

- Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet and Morgan Cooper, (sole proprietor of Living Outloud Canada) have teamed up and will be assisting our youth in discovering what lights them up. The program called Dream Catchers, which will be delivered at Lakeshore Catholic High School for one week during one period, which will help youth with goal setting and self-discovery. This workshop will provide them with tools they can use as

they transition into adulthood, discovering what makes them happy, what their passions are and achieve their personal goals.

- CLPCW is also hosting a Transitioning into Adulthood program. The goal of this project is to have young people access community based services when they have completed their high school years, instead of relying on Ministry funded programs (such as residential and/or day programs). The project is based on teaching life skills, employability and social skills using resources that are currently available in Port Colborne (such as the YMCA, Port Cares, Bridges Health Center, Reach Out Center, the trustee, Job Gym etc.) Young people will also be hands on in cooking, laundry, transit training etc.

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary

- Nil Report

2. Denice Robertson – Principal, Secondary *Report submitted*

- Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are currently being developed. Parental input is always invited and appreciated. IEP's will be provided to parents this month. Teachers have been made aware of the students who are to be accommodated and there is ongoing discussion between them and the Special Education department to ensure that student needs are met.
- SEA equipment (laptops and FM Systems) have been distributed to students.
- We continue our work with Transitional Aged Youth and our partners within the community. Working together to support individuals and their families develop a plan for when it is time to leave the high school setting is so important. This initiative will be reflected specifically for every student on their Individual Education Plan.
- The Special Education Classroom students are looking forward to participating in the SNAP (Special Needs Activity Program) at Brock this fall. As always, they look forward to this opportunity to participate in healthy and safe physical activities at Brock!

Blessed Trinity Secondary

- We are looking forward to our continued team participation in the upcoming Special Olympics Ontario events, including soccer and swimming.

Denis Morris

- We will be participating in Special Olympics Soccer qualifier at Saint Paul Catholic High School on October 10. We are sending two teams to compete.
- Members of the Special Education Classroom are participating in graduation activities as part of their grade 12 year. They will be attending the graduation retreat on October 2.
- We are starting another year of the Best Buddies program. We will be hosting a Halloween event at the end of October. Past and present peer helpers act as buddies to our students, developing friendships and contributing to the DM family community.
- At monthly meetings, Denis Morris is continuing its' Capacity Building series for staff in order to move student achievement forward. The September series included an article review, "Providing Support in Inclusive Classrooms".

Holy Cross

- Each morning we begin the day with opening exercises, calendar activities, and the sharing of news. It is an inclusive environment with a total communication approach. We are learning sign language together and have mastered the days of the week and numbers to ten. Our next step is to learn how to sign our names and celebrate all of our unique and wonderful characteristics.
- We have welcomed our music therapist back into the fold. Having our music therapist is without a doubt a highlight of our schedule. He brings light into the chapel where the gift of music reaches everyone and our students become performers and shine like the stars they are. Our peer tutors are known to pop by and join in for a song when their schedule permits. Our Principal is scheduled to make his musical debut with us next session.
- Our classes are varied with many attending a special one period culinary class and the Horticulture program. Other favourite courses include Religion, Art, Interior Design, Math and Phys-Ed. We feel very blessed to have such wonderful teachers and classmates in our Holy Cross community.
- This week we are creating gratitude banners to share with our families the many gifts from God for which we are thankful.

Lakeshore Catholic High School

- A number of our students are engaged in work placements via Community Living, Port Colborne. Placements include Portal Village, 7/11, and Thruway Muffler.
- One of our students is working towards a (2-Credit) Co-op at Northland Pointe. Early feedback has been very good!
- With support, one of our students has assumed full responsibility for all of the grey-box recycling (pickup and delivery) duties here at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

Saint Francis

- There are three new staffing additions to our Special Education department. All are welcome additions to our Special Education team!
- We have set up a Co-operative Education option this semester at Royal Henley Retirement Community in St. Catharines for three of our Special Education Classroom students. These students will attend this Co-op placement on a rotating basis, allowing for the participation of several students during each week. We appreciate the opportunity that the Royal Henley Retirement Community has provided to our students this semester!
- We continue to provide our Breakfast Program to all Saint Francis members each morning, starting at 7:30 a.m. each day. The menu for this program is a rotating menu, allowing for a variety of breakfast items to be served each week. In addition, our Special Education Classroom staff and students continue to bake the muffins for our P3 program, which runs from Monday through Thursday each week.

Saint Michael

- Our new Student Services webpage, Twitter feed and Remind app are up and running at Saint Michael. All of the information and contacts have been updated. We will be posting helpful information for parents and students on this site throughout the school year.

- We will be using this to share our board Special Education notices as well as other Special Education community notices. You can follow us @STMStudentServ or look up STM Student Services on Twitter. A live feed is also on our Student Services webpage.
- We are also using Remind App to send out notices on everything related to our grade 12s including awards, community service opportunities, applications etc. Instructions on how to join is found on our webpage. All grade 12 students and parents are encouraged to join. We will also be setting up a separate class for our Special Education Class students so that parents can be given up to date information on what is going on in the class and in the school. More information to follow.

Notre Dame College

- One of our students attended Welland/Pelham's Rights and Abuse conference. This forum offered some very serious, insightful and informative information regarding abuse, bullying and self-advocacy.
- Last week was our first school dance, and it was wonderful to see all students enjoying the evening.
- A new area has been added to the Special Education Class. We have two new spaces that are being used for sensory, therapy and instruction. Our classroom now has stained glass windows painted by our students, directed by our very talented Educational Assistants. We have many pieces of student art that have been placed on the wall which looks fantastic
- We will be participating in ReAction4Inclusion; the annual youth conference moderated by Association for Community Living Ontario on March 29 and 30. This marks the 10-year anniversary.

3. Pat Rocca – Superintendent of Education

- October 5, 2018 – Professional Activity Day for Elementary and Secondary panels, focussing on topics such as,
 - Student Achievement/Student Success: Developing and Implementing Board and School Improvement Plans.
 - Health and Safety – WHMIS Training
- October 28, 2018 – Pilgrimage Sunday for Secondary Schools.
- Superintendent Rocca reminded the SEAC members that the Special Education Advisory Committee would dissolve due to the re-election process of the new Board of Trustees.
- Interviewing for the position of Behaviour Resource Teacher and Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Continuing to allocate for Educational Assistants.
- Continuing to interview for occasional Educational Assistants.
- Looking at starting a Special Education Committee to discuss best practices. Members will include staff from the Board and Elementary and Secondary staff.
- Handed out *Improving Education Outcomes for Students with Disabilities* for information.

4. Jim Di Gioia – Coordinator Special Education

- Student Support staff recently attended a Community Partners in Education Forum about the Hamilton-Niagara Regional Autism Program at the Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre. Representatives from boards across Hamilton Health Sciences service area gathered to collaborate and share on how the new Ontario Autism Program is being supported and

rolled out in the agencies, as well as to hear the ongoing development of the local Hamilton-Niagara Autism Program run through Hamilton Health Sciences.

- Student Support staff will be collaborating with Niagara Catholic secondary schools in October to host Family of Schools Educational Resource Teacher meetings. These smaller group gatherings allow for more engaging conversation and resource sharing as well as allowing Educational Resource Teachers from nearby schools to connect and establish support networks. The focus of the October meetings will be to review the Niagara Catholic District School Board Problem-Solving Model and how it relates to the School-Based Team Cycle, and to discuss some upcoming changes in Student Support processes and procedures for making requests for services.

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Pat Vernal – Trustee

- Nil Report

2. Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee

- Nil Report

3. Dino Sicoli – Trustee

- Nil Report

I. STUDENT REPORT

1. Donald Hingston – Student Senate Representative

- Student Senate is preparing for a conference in Niagara Falls.
- Student Councils in the high schools are preparing for various events.

J. NCPIC REPORT

- The next Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting is November 1, 2018.

K. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Learner Advocacy

2. **Parent Outreach**

2.1 ProGrant Event – Awaiting more information

3. **Program and Service Recommendation**

4. **Special Education Budget**

5. **Annual Review, Special Education Plan**

6. **Other Related Items**

6.1 Awareness Campaign to Promote Students with Special Education Needs

- Looking at maintaining the awareness of promoting students with special education needs.

6.2 Discuss 6:00p.m. start for SEAC Meetings

- A decision was made by the SEAC members to change the start time for all future SEAC meetings from 7:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Approval to change the start time from 7:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. for all future Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings, starting in November 2018.

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Rita Smith

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the change in start time from 7:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. for all future Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee meetings, starting in November 2018.

CARRIED

7. **Policy Review**

M. CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region nominating Ted Nangle for membership as the primary representative on the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee. This information will go to the October 23, 2018 Board meeting for approval.

N. QUESTION PERIOD

O. NOTICES OF MOTION

P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Sheila Bennett – future presentation

Q. INFORMATION ITEMS

R. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:30p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

S. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Pina Palombo

THAT the October 3, 2018 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:10p.m.
