



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, September 5, 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 Vice-Chair Murphy.

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**1. Opening Prayer**

Opening Prayers were led by Vice-Chair Murphy.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliations</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Anna Racine – via phone	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Rob Lavorato	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		✓	
<b>Trustees</b>				
Pat Vernal		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau			✓	

The following staff were in attendance:

**Yolanda Baldasaro**, Superintendent of Education; **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Lisa Selman**, Principal, Elementary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Rob Lavorato  
Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 5, 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 May 2, 2018**

Moved by Rob Lavorato  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 2, 2018 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**\*\* There are no minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting, due to no quorum. \*\***

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. ***Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* – Michael Jacques**

Vice-Chair Murphy introduced Michael Jacques who presented his autobiography, *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book*.

**C. VISIONING**

1. **Goals and Vision for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019**

**1.1 Goals and Vision for the 2017-2018 School Year and 2018-2019 School Year**

Vice-Chair Murphy asked the SEAC members for ideas for new goals for the 2018-2019 school year and to bring them to the October meeting.

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 2, 2018**

1. **Learner Advocacy**

2. **Parent Outreach**

**3. Program and Service Recommendations**

**4. Special Education Budget**

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

**5.1 Special Education Plan, Building Bridges to Services 2018 and Beyond**

The *Special Education Plan, Building Bridges to Services 2018 and Beyond* has been updated and is posted on the Board website

**6. Other Related Items**

**7. Policy Review**

The following policies were presented for review.

*Electronic Communications Policy (Employees) (201.12)*

*Student Parenting Policy (302.5)*

*Continuing Education Policy (400.1)*

*Playground Equipment Policy (702.1)*

Feedback can be submitted to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by September 10, 2018

*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](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by October 11, 2018

**E. SEAC REPORT**

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

- General information about the SEAC, meeting dates and the *Special Education Plan, Building Bridges to Services 2018 and Beyond* will be sent to Principals to include in their Catholic School Agenda.

**2. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters**

- The SEAC insert for school newsletters is the same as noted above for the Catholic School Council agenda.

## **F. AGENCY REPORTS**

1. **Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Rob Lavorato**

- The Down Syndrome Caring Parents August Picnic went well.
- September – GO21 will be held at Heartland Forest.
- Christmas party is yet to be booked.
- Speaker series starting in October.

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**

- Nil Report

5. **Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy**

- Registration is now open until September 21<sup>st</sup> for our fall programs. This year we are offering three different programs to help meet the needs of all our participants. Stars Program for 13 +, Craft and Game Night for ages 6-12 and Teen & Tween Social Club for ages 11-19.

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

- Nil Report

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

- Nil Report

## **G. STAFF REPORTS**

1. **Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary**

*Happening in Elementary Schools*

- Smooth transition back to school
- School staff in the school last week of August setting up offices, classrooms, sensory rooms

- Transition meetings, Welcome to Kindergarten Orientations, First Riders Bus program occurred last week of August in various schools
- School nurses active in the schools training staff on use of Epipens and Anaphylaxis awareness, sun safety
- Anaphylaxis, Diabetes Management, Asthma, Epilepsy, Medical protocols and student updates in progress
- Weather - Heat Advisory - Inclement Weather procedures followed
- School calendars and school newsletters posted on-line and distributed by email to families
- Schools continue to register new students this week
- Board personnel and Student Support Services were in schools on the first days of school
- Dismissal and transportation home - continued collaboration between home, school and transportation companies to ensure that all students get home in a timely manner
- Looking ahead to WE DAY, Terry Fox Walk, Open House, Curriculum Night, Welcome Back BBQs

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

- Nil Report

3. **Yolanda Baldasaro – Superintendent of Education**

- Senior Administrative staff visited schools on the first day of school.
- System Priorities 2018-2019 were handed out to the SEAC members for information.

4. **Jim Di Gioia – Coordinator Special Education**

- September 12, 2018 - Educational Resource Teacher meeting.
- September 19, 2018 – Deaf/Hard of Hearing workshop for Classroom teachers, Educational Resource Teachers who are servicing students who are deaf/hard of hearing.
- September 27, 2018 – Special Education Coordinators will hold a meeting with Educational Resource Teachers new to the role.
- Continuing to support students with special education needs to work towards independence.

## **H. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

1. **Pat Vernal – Trustee**

- The first Committee of the Whole meeting is Tuesday, September 11.

2. **Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee**

- Nil Report

## **I. STUDENT REPORT**

## **J. NCPIC REPORT**

## **K. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Learner Advocacy**

### **2. Parent Outreach**

**2.1 ProGrant Event** – Deferred to October meeting

### **3. Program and Service Recommendation**

### **4. Special Education Budget**

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

### **6. Other Related Items**

#### **6.1 Election Proceedings – SEAC Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)**

##### **Election of SEAC Representative**

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Rob Lavorato

**THAT** Anna Racine be nominated for the position of SEAC Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC).

**CARRIED**

Anna Racine accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

#### **6.2 Awareness Campaign to Promote Students with Special Education Needs**

Deferred to October meeting

#### **6.3 2018-2019 School Year Calendar**

Superintendent Baldasaro handed out the 2018-2019 School Year calendar for information.

#### **6.4 Director's Memorandum on Elections**

Superintendent Baldasaro reminded members of the upcoming election and reviewed expectations of SEAC members as outlined in Director's Memorandum – DM 210 (2017-2018), *Provincial and Municipal Election Administrative Procedures*.

Superintendent Baldasaro reminded the SEAC members that the Special Education Advisory Committee would dissolve due to the re-election process of the new Board of Trustees. More information will follow at the October meeting.

#### **7. Policy Review**

### **M. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter was received from Down Syndrome Caring Parents to inform the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee that Pina Palombo will be the primary representative and Rob Lavorato will be the alternate representative on SEAC. The letter will be presented at the September 25, 2018 Board meeting for approval.

### **N. QUESTION PERIOD**

### **O. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

1. Discuss 6:00p.m. start for SEAC meetings
2. Sheila Bennett – future presentation

### **Q. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **R. NEXT MEETING:**

*Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre*

### **S. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Rob Lavorato

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

**THAT** the September 5, 2018 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50p.m.

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