



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Burns csc. Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Vice-Chair Murphy.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Vice-Chair Murphy.

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	✓		
Ted Nangle	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
Lorraine Smith	Mainstream	✓		
Trustees				
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
Rhianon Burkholder		✓		
Student Senate Representative				
Donald Hingston		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education; **Adele Filice**, Vice-Principal, Secondary; **Chris Kerho**, Principal, Elementary; **David O'Rourke**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Andrew Howcroft
Seconded by Rita Smith

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of April 3, 2019.

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 January 9, 2019**

Moved by Andrew Howcroft
Seconded by Ted Nangle

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 9, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

No quorum at the February and March 2019 meetings.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Bethesda – Alyson Wilson, Director, Children's Outreach Services**

Alyson Wilson, Director, Children's Outreach Services presented the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Information was provided regarding the transition period, process, eligible expenses and resource information. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

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

2. **Parent Outreach**

3. **Other Related Items**

3.1 Design of System Priorities 2019-2020

The 2018-2019 Mid Year Achievement Report was presented for information by email, showing how the SEAC's suggestions were included in the system priorities for 2018-2019.

The following are SEAC's suggestions for system priorities 2019-2020. Along with the System Priorities, the SEAC has sent a submission that aligns with the two existing Guiding Principles for approval

Approval of the SEAC'S Submission for System Priorities 2019-2020

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Bill Helmeczi

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the submission of the following measurable action verbs System Priorities 2019-2020.

CARRIED

Provide Supports for Success

To create greater opportunities to implement an inclusive environment to further facilitate independence that are measurable.

Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

Developing and enhancing professional partnerships that align with merging social service models/needs.

Guiding Principles

Advocate for the continued provision of Catholic Educational excellence through approved programs and services for all students.

3.2 Annual Review of the Special Education Plan

David O'Rourke, Special Education Coordinator spoke about the annual review of the Special Education Plan and invited SEAC members for their feedback. SEAC members were provided with the 2018 Special Education Plan by email to review.

3.3. Letter to other SEACs

Andrew Howcroft spoke of the letter to other SEACs regarding Michael Jacques. Superintendent Rocca will take this information back to senior staff. A suggestion was made to have the Niagara Catholic Communications department share this good news item.

4. **Policy Review**

The following policies were presented for review.

Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4)

Financial Investment Policy (NEW)

Safe Schools Policy (302.6)

Student Expulsion Policy (302.6.5)

Student Suspension Policy (302.6.4)

Feedback can be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by April 11, 2019.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.8)

Community Use of Facilities Policy (800.2)

Feedback can be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by May 8, 2019.

A suggestion was made to assign a SEAC member per month to review the policies, starting in September by alphabet.

D. SEAC REPORT

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

- A reminder about the SEAC meeting change of location and time on May 1st, 2019 at Club Italia and the Pathways Event and will be sent to Principals to include in their Catholic School Council agenda and school newsletter.

E. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- The Board hosted the 2019 Annual General Meeting on Saturday March 30, 2019 at Bridges for Autism (Pen Centre)
- New Board members were elected for a two year term.
- Board members as follows;
President- Doris Fiander
Vice President- Jade Medeiros
Treasurer- Rob Lavorato
Secretary- Crystal Leonard
Researcher- Jennifer Mooradian (She will be keeping up to date on all new research)
Membership Officer- Rita Fragnito (She will be managing our membership fees, New Membership info and emails)
New Parent Liaison- Bonnie Jankowski (She is in charge of reaching out to new families and letting them know about us or giving out the new parent package)
SEAC Public School Reps: Paul Molnar, Mary Maida

SEAC Catholic School Rep: Pina Palombo

DSAO Rep: Anjie Inglis

Members at Large: Pat Hassim-White, Kendra Mantha, Leah Smeding-Haanstra

- Trivia Night on Saturday March 22, 2019 was a huge hit! Thank you to everyone who attended or donated to the evening it was a huge success! Close to 240 people attended which is the biggest Trivia night event we have had!
- World Down Syndrome Day Packages were well received this year and distributed throughout the Catholic and Separate Schools with many schools getting involved with “Rocking their Socks” promoting inclusion and awareness for individuals with DS.
- **Speaker Series Update:** Our Fearless Leader Doris Fiander (President) is working hard and planning for the Speakers Series to start in August 2019 and run once a month with a variety of different speakers. These events will be posted on our Down Syndrome Facebook Page under Events and emails will be sent out as well to members once a schedule is set up.
- **Summer Picnic:** The date will be chosen for a Sunday in August and sent out the last week of May after our May 26th Board Meeting. Location and Date TBA
- **Parent Coffee Nights:** These nights are to network with other parents, chat and provide an outing for parents only. The dates are Monday, April 15th 7-9pm, Monday, May 13 7-9p.m., Tuesday, June 18 7-9p.m.
- **Go21 Planning:** Jade is hosting the first GO21 planning meeting on Thursday, April 11th at 6:30pm. The date for this year’s Go21 is Sunday, September 29th @ 10:00 a.m. at Heartland Forest.
- **Board Meetings:** The next Board meeting is May 26th 6-8p.m. and a Facebook event was created on the Down Syndrome FB page so all are welcome and you can RSVP on it.
- **Rebranding:** Our group is looking to rebrand the Association in the coming year or so which is part of why we have amped up fundraising. We want to bring you an association that is connected and present in our community. The Board voted yes to the name change to Down Syndrome Niagara and we are in the process of organizing all of this with CRA. Once this is finalized we will be revamping the website, renaming the Facebook group and all our pamphlets and literature. Please stay tuned as this could take us a little while but once we are organized we will be moving over to Down Syndrome Niagara!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Niagara Children's Centre Plasma Car Race – May 2019
 - Pathways to Success Vendor Fair – May 2019
 - Famjam Wellness Event NCDSB – May 2019

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**

- Report submitted regarding visit with St. Anne’s High School in 2011, of the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board where there are no self contained classes.

5. Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy

- Continuing to support families through all of the changes with the OAP (Ontario Autism Program). It is important to note that not only are families dealing with the changes to the autism program, but also the changes in education and health care. Some families have been affected by the changes recently in all three areas.
- Cute story: Was told by a family that attended Disney on Ice with our group, they had such a great time. Their son who does not usually do well at big events loved the show. They had done a lot of work prepping him. The only problem was he loved it so much he didn't want to leave. He sat there patiently waiting for more. They did eventually get him to leave

Talent Showcase

- We are looking for individuals any age to showcase some of their amazing talents! If interested please contact programs.niagara@autismontario by April 8 to sign up.

6. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- Nil Report

7. Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith

- Nil Report

8. Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region - Ted Nangle

- Program applications opened last Monday (Spring/Summer 2019). Indicators are that all programs will be full with wait lists
- May 27th – fall applications open
- June 8th Golf Tournament. Fun event (good for non-golfers); Registration open; Flyer attached as well as sponsorship package for anyone interested.

9. Mainstream – Lorraine Smith

- Mainstream has scheduled several Mainstream / Gateway Learning Exchange days as part of the Mainstream/Gateway Alliance.
- Mark your calendar for Pathways to Success Resource Fair - May 29th, 2019.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Chris Kerho – Principal, Elementary

- Nil Report

2. *Adele Filice – Vice - Principal, Secondary*

- Nil Report

3. *Pat Rocca – Superintendent of Education*

- Nil Report

4. *David O'Rourke – Coordinator Special Education*

- Nil Report

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. *Kathy Burtnik*

- Trustee Burtnik thanked the SEAC members for their feedback regarding the School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy.

2. *Rhianon Burkholder*

- Nil Report

G. STUDENT REPORT

1. *Donald Hingston – Student Senate Representative*

- Student Senate reviewed applications for senate scholarships
- Student Senate working on their promotional video

H. NCPIC REPORT

- Nil Report

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Correspondence –letters received will be posted on the SEAC portal for review.
2. Sheila Bennett – will look at scheduling a future presentation in the new school year.

K. NEXT MEETING:

Monday, May 1, 2019 at 5:30p.m. at Club Italia, Niagara Falls

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

THAT the April 3, 2019 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:50p.m.
