



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Chair Racine called to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Chair Racine led the Opening Prayer.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Pina Palumbo	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Ted Nangle	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	✓		
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children’s Centre	✓		
Lorraine Smith	Mainstream	✓		
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet	✓		
Trustees				
Rhiannon Burkholder		✓		
Kathy Burtnik			✓	
Student Senate Representative				
Donald Hingston			✓	

The following staff were in attendance:

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education; **David O'Rourke**, Coordinator–Special Education; **Adele Filice**, Vice-Principal, Secondary; **Chris Kerho**, Principal, Elementary, **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary

The following staff were excused:

Tina DiFrancesco, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 5, 2019 as amended.

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 1, 2019

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Karen Murphy

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 1, 2019 as amended.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Terri Pauco, Family and Youth Office of the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Terri Pauco proposed a partnership between the Family and Youth Office and SEAC to:

1. gain access to families with children with special needs to facilitate listening sessions to better understand their relationship to the Church and their parish experiences related to welcome, hospitality, participation in prayer and liturgy, and sacramental preparation, thereby identifying best practices and needs.
2. share what is learned, especially the personal narratives, with the bishop, pastors, pastoral teams and catechists, and collaboratively, with all stakeholders, developing better ways to respond in pastoral care for these families.
3. create awareness and help educate *'those in the pews'* in their understanding of both the visible and invisible disabilities/special needs to better facilitate welcome and inclusion for all people in the mission of the Church.
4. be open to the work of Holy Spirit in this evangelizing effort to strengthen the home-school-parish relationship.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review of Goals and Vision for 2018-2019
 1. To hold a SEAC Meeting at a school: SEAC held their May 5, 2019 meeting at Club Italia to support the Niagara Catholic Pathways Event and engage and welcome new parents to attend a SEAC meeting.
 2. Presentation by Shelia Bennett: Carried over to the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Action: David O'Rourke will follow-up on Shelia Bennett's availability.
 3. Creation of a Transition Survey: Carried over to the 2019-2020 school year.

2. Parent Outreach
 - Nil Report

3. Other Related Items

- 3.1 Goals and Vision for 2019-2020

1. Presentation by Shelia Bennett
 2. Creation of a Transition Survey
 3. Partner with Terri Pauco, Family and Youth Office

- 3.2 SEAC letter to Ministry re: cuts to Autism Programming

Chair Racine provided and reviewed a draft letter to the Ministry re: cuts to the Autism Programming. Open discussion occurred on the purpose, content and strength of the letter.

Action: for further review and discussion the letter will be added as an agenda item on the September 2019 SEAC meeting.

4. Policy Review

Action: Karen Murphy and Pina Palombo will review and provided feedback on the following policies:

- Emergency Instructors Elementary Policy (NEW)
- Catholic Leadership: Supervisory Officer & Controller of Facilities Selection Policy (NEW)

Feedback is due to Jennifer Pellegrini by September 9, 2019

Action: Ted Nangle will review and provided feedback on the following policies:

- Employee Meals and Hospitality Policy (201.14)
- Employee Conferences, Workshops and Meetings Policy (201.15)

Action: Andrew Howcroft will review and provided feedback on the following policies:

- Opening or Closing Exercises – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.1)
- Acceleration/Retention (Elementary) Policy (400.5)

Feedback is due to Jennifer Pellegrini by October 4, 2019

D. SEAC REPORT

1. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda and School Newsletter
 - Deferred to September 2019
2. The Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services-Special Education Plan-Revisions David O'Rourke, Coordinator of Special Education provided and reviewed the Special Education Plan 2019-2020 Executive Summary of Revisions that will be included Special Education Plan, *Building Bridges and Services 2019 and Beyond*. The approved plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Education no later than July 30, 2019.

MOTION

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Lorraine Smith

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the revisions to the Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services to be included in the Special Education Plan, *Building Bridges and Services 2019 and Beyond*.

CARRIED

E. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Autism Ontario Niagara Region-Karen Murphy
 - Nil Report
2. Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet-Rita Smith
 - Nil Report
3. Community Living, Welland Pelham-Andrew Howcroft
 - Nil Report
4. Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)-Pina Palombo

President's Report

- Rebranding our group is under way and a new logo and name change are currently being developed.
- DS website is being rebuilt and our group is looking to hire a web site developer to manage and build a new site. Some updates will allow for an events page and a donate button along with membership forms where they can submit and pay online membership fees.
- Membership fees will be going up to \$25.00 per family in 2020

EVENTS:

- DS group attended the FamJam Wellness event at Saint Michael Catholic High School
- Our DS group participated once again in the Plasma Car Races for the Niagara Children Centre
- DS group registered for Pathways to Success Day but unfortunately had to back out last minute due our volunteers that day were unwell and unable to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual summer picnic is to be held on August 25, 2019 at Vineridge.
- GO21 date booked for September 29, 2019 at Heartland Forest.
- Posters for GO 21 have been distributed throughout Niagara and to both school boards
- Registration is now open for the Meridian Smiles Walk with the GMC foundation for a second year on June 14/19 at Brock University and members of our DS group are encouraged to participate, as this is a day to promote inclusion for all persons with disabilities.
- Speaker Series is being organized - dates TBA (2nd Saturday of the month is the proposed time) and location to be at Club Italia, our first speaker will be an LRT to present IEP's.
- GMC Foundation has a fun filled jammed packed weekend for our group, this Saturday June 8th the foundation booked an entire movie theatre at the Landmark theatre at Pen Centre for all individuals with DS to attend free of charge to watch the "Secret Life of

Pets 2 in 3D” Free to all individuals with DS and for one caregiver/parent/sibling to attend with them.

- Sunday is the Cross Fit program that is running every two weeks at Cross Fit St. Catharines this continues to be a popular and well-attended fitness program free of charge to individuals with DS.
 - Big Shout out to the GMC Foundation for their generous and ongoing support to our DS group and due to their fundraising efforts the foundation announced at their annual golf tournament held at Pen Lakes this past May that they are able to offer a scholarship to an individual to attend the CICE Program at Niagara College. This announcement was made during presentations at the golf tournament where representatives from Niagara College were in attendance to receive and accept the scholarship grant, presented by Blair Stayzer co-founder of the GMC Foundation (GMC- Homies with Chromies Foundation).
5. Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region-Ted Nangle
 - Nil Report
 6. Mainstream-Lorraine Smith
 - Nil Report
 7. Niagara Children’s Centre-Dorothy Harvey
 - Dorothy thanked David O’Rourke and the Niagara Catholic Special Education Team for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the successful transitioning of students.
 8. Pathstone Mental Health-Bill Helmeczi
 - Pathstone’s 10th Annual Hope Gala takes place on June 7, 2019.
 - Beginning in June 2019, Pathstone will open three more Walk-in sites, one in Welland, Port Colborne, and Fort Erie. Each will be open one day per week from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. as the last appointment.
 9. The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine
 - Anna will be making a presentation to students in a Niagara Catholic elementary school next week to support a child with Tourette’s syndrome and to increase awareness among students.
 10. Staff Report-David O’Rourke
 - The Special Education Plan Executive Summary of Revisions
The following amendment to the Summary:
 - Specialized Health Support Services in Schools will be sent to our local Children’s Treatment Centre for their review of terminology and services related to School Based Rehabilitation Services for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech & Language Pathology (p. 92-96)
 - Specialized Health Support Services in Schools will be sent to our local Localized Health Integration Network (LHIN) (p. 92)
 - Student Support Services continue to work with all schools to help students and staff transition into the summer break and prepare for the start of the next school year

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Nil Report

G. STUDENT REPORT

- Nil Report

H. NCPIC REPORT

- Chair Racine reported that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee held their May 2, 2019 meeting at Saint Michael Catholic High School in support of the Niagara Catholic FAMJAM event and parent engagement. Guest speaker, Dr. Jean Clinton presented information on mental health and well-being. The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all in attendance.

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

J. FUTURE MEETINGS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Correspondence

Correspondence was received and provided for information from various District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committees that were sent to the Honourable Lisa M. Thompson addressing concerns regarding the changes to the provincial funding model for Autism Services, Class Sizes, and the mandatory e-learning and the impact it will have on children, families and schools. A letter was also submitted to the Honourable Lisa M. Thompson to address such concerns on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee.

2. Sheila Bennett-Presentation-Set as a 2019-2020 SEAC goal.

K. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Rita Smith

THAT the June 5, 2019 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

In closing, Superintendent Baldasaro thanked all members of the Special Education Advisory Committee for their hard work, continued support and representation on behalf of their individual community agencies and for building strong relationships within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.