



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Burns csc Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.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	✓		
Ted Nangle	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
<b>Trustees</b>				
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
<b>Student Senate Representative</b>				
Donald Hingston		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

**Pat Rocca**, Superintendent of Education; **Denice Robertson**, Principal, Secondary; **Chris Kerho**, Principal, Elementary; **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

**Introductions**

Superintendent Rocca introduced Chris Kerho, Principal of St. Andrew Catholic Elementary school who will be the new Elementary Principal Representative on the SEAC. Superintendent Rocca thanked Denice Robertson, Secondary Principal for her contribution to the SEAC as her term is ending as the Secondary Principal Representative.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Dorothy Harvey

Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 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 November 7, 2018**

Moved by Karen Murphy

Seconded by Pina Palombo

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 7, 2018 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Living Outloud – Morgan Cooper**

Chair Racine introduced Morgan Cooper who presented Living Outloud, a specialized program created to support students. Background information was provided as well as a description of the program and the transition strategy workshop. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.

## C. AGENDA ITEMS

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

#### 1.1 Goals and Vision for the 2018-2019 School Year

Chair Racine reviewed the following SEAC goals with the members.

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

Superintendent Rocca has contacted Dr. Sheila Bennett regarding a future presentation.

Superintendent Rocca will provide more information regarding transition surveys. A suggestion was made to do a future presentation on transitions.

### 2. Parent Outreach

#### 2.1 ProGrant Event – awaiting more information

### 3. Other Related Items

#### 3.1 Ministry of Education Consultation

The Ministry of Education has invited stakeholders from across the Province to partake in a Province wide consultation process. Superintendent Rocca presented the Ministry of Education Consultation questionnaire to the SEAC members and encouraged their feedback. As a group, the SEAC members answered the questions and their responses will be submitted to the Ministry of Education to meet the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

#### 3.2 Student Support Focus Questions

Superintendent Rocca presented Student Support focus questions at the November SEAC meeting and encouraged their feedback. More information to follow at the January meeting.

### 4. Policy Review

The following policies were presented for review.

*Transportation and School Operations for Inclement Weather Policy (500.1)*  
*Employee Attendance During Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy (201.9)*  
*Student Senate – Secondary Policy (100.6.1)*  
*Student Senate – Elementary Policy (100.6.2)*  
*Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medication Conditions Policy (NEW)*

Feedback can be submitted to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by January 11, 2019

*Employee Leaves of Absence Policy (201.1)*  
*Death Benefit Policy (201.5)*  
*Deferred Salary Plan (X/Y) Policy (201.10)*  
*Fundraising Policy (301.4)*  
*Progressive Student Discipline Policy (302.6.9)*  
*Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) Policy (400.4)*  
*Student Transportation Policy (500.2)*

*Feedback can be submitted to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by January 19, 2019*

## **D. SEAC REPORT**

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

- Nil Report

## **E. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Annual DS Christmas is on Sunday December 16, 2018 at Heartland Forest. This event is graciously catered by Club Italia! They offered us a really great price on the food.
- Club Italia is interested in sponsoring an event for our DS group, Keep you posted on that in the New Year.
- Annual Membership Fees are due \$10.00/family, membership renewals to be done at the Christmas Party.
- Newly nominated members were elected for;
  - Membership Co-coordinator - Rita Fragnito
  - Crystal Leonard - Acting Secretary
  - Jade Medeiros - Acting Vice President
  - Rob Lavorato - Treasurer
  - Bonnie Jankowski - New Parent Liaison
- G-Mc Homies with Chromies Foundation had their last Cross Fit session this past Sunday December 2, 2018. Sessions will resume in January 2019. Just a reminder this foundation funds all these activities free of charge to DS individuals of all ages!
- G-Mc Homies with Chromies Foundation for individuals with Down Syndrome are having their annual Christmas Party this Sunday, December 9 at Skyzone in St. Catharines followed by pizza and drinks at Boston Pizza followed with a visit from Santa.
- Blair Stayzer is the co-founder of G-Mc Homies with Chromies Foundation and the foundation is always welcoming new DS individuals any time to come out and take part and be included in all of their events. I would like to encourage all SEAC members to refer anyone they might know in their schools or community that they can reach out to Blair Stayzer by Facebook or his email, [gmcfitnesshomiesextrachromies@gmail.com](mailto:gmcfitnesshomiesextrachromies@gmail.com)
- The next DS Meeting is January 20, 3:00-5:00p.m. at Rob Lavorato's house.

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**

- December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Great things await...at Great Wolf Lodge. Celebrate Community Living Month at Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls. The resort is offering room packages for select dates in May, starting at \$174.99 per night. The offer is valid for the evenings of May 14 through to May 17, and rooms must be booked by April 14. The package includes waterpark passes for up to four people.
- The Freedom Tour 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Freedom Tour documentary. The film grew as a response to – and a rejection of – a decision by the Manitoba government to invest millions into a rundown institution that warehoused people with intellectual disabilities. The film documents the incredible journey of 16 self-advocates and friends who travelled across the Prairie Provinces to raise awareness about life in an institution. The documentary portrays compelling stories told by survivors of institutions who had moved into communities across the Prairies. In addition, over the past 10 years, The Freedom Tour has been on a tour of its own. From the big screen to film festivals, from movie theatres to lecture halls, from conferences to classrooms, in self-advocacy groups, government departments, and community organizations – The Freedom Tour has raised awareness all over the globe. During the next few months, we will be sharing memories and milestones about the film. This fall, we will officially celebrate the Freedom Tour's 10th anniversary with a full retrospective of this groundbreaking film and the impact it has had. Dates and details will be announced.
- The last remaining institution in Ontario was in Huronia. It closed in 2009. For more information see <http://www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca/>

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

- Winter program registration is underway. A new children's program for ages 6 to 12 years will be available called F.A.S.T. (Fun Active Social Team.) Contact [programs.niagara@autismontario.com](mailto:programs.niagara@autismontario.com)
- Raise the Flag initial planning at the provincial level is underway for April 2. Spread the news. Information will be forwarded to you soon, once it is available on registration and the local Chapters goals.

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**

- Winter program applications opened on November 26 – most program spots filled with waitlists.
- Winter programs will begin first week of February.
- We will be piloting a small-group math program for students in grades 4 to 6 this winter and spring.
- We received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to offer a one-on-one math program beginning in the fall of 2019 – more info to come.
- LDANR will be hosting a trivia night February 23.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Chris Kerho – Principal, Elementary**

- Nil Report

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

- Preparation for Grade 9 EQAO Math is underway. Accommodations are in place for students with Individual Education Plans. The Special Education department is providing additional preparation for students with Individual Education Plans.
- Transition meetings have begun for our students who will become a welcome part of our Special Education Classroom next year. We look forward to many visits with both the students and their parents/guardians.
- Educational Resource Teachers are assisting students with their College and University applications and assisting others in their quest to locate a Co-Op placement for next semester.
- Merry Christmas to the members of the SEAC Committee!

**3. Pat Rocca – Superintendent of Education**

- Nil Report

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

- Nil Report

## **F. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Kathy Burtnik**

- At the December 4<sup>th</sup> Inaugural meeting of the Board, Frank Fera was elected as Chair of the Board and Dino Sicoli was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board. There are five new Board members and three existing members for the new term 2018-2022.

## **G. STUDENT REPORT**

### **1. Donald Hingston – Student Senate Representative**

- Nil Report

## **H. NCPIC REPORT**

- Nil Report

## **I. NOTICES OF MOTION**

## **J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Sheila Bennett – future presentation
2. Election Proceedings – January

## **K. NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 6:30p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Dorothy Harvey

Seconded by Rita Smith

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

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

---

---