



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 6:30 pm p.m. in the Father Burns csc Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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	✓		
Ted Nangle	Learning Disabilities Association - Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health			✓
Pina Palombo	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham		✓	
Lorraine Smith	Mainstream		✓	
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre	✓		
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet		✓	
Kathy Burtnik	* Board Trustee – St Catharines	✓		
Rhianon Burkholder	* Board Trustee – Thorold/Merritton		✓	
Donald Highston	* Student Senate Representative			✓

The following staff were in attendance:

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education, **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Adele Filice**, Vice Principal, Secondary, **Chris Kerho**, Elementary Principal and Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Karen Murphy
Seconded by Pina Palombo

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

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 4, 2019

Moved by Dorothy Harvey
Seconded by Karen Murphy

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 5, 2019 as presented.
CARRIED

**** There are no minutes from the June 6th - SEAC meeting, due to no quorum. ****

B. AGENDA ITEMS

1. SEAC Membership Discussion

- The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario may be disbanding. Anna may no longer be able to chair or sit in the SEAC Committee. This is because of the provincial regulations as the local chapter is not incorporated.
- This will also affect NCPIC as Anna is the SEAC representative where she presents a report and look through things at NCPIC through the lens of a student with special needs.
- We are investigating this through the Ministry of Education the position of “Community Member”.
- NCPIC has their first meeting but it is still last year’s council. November would be the time for the new person to step forward

C. VISIONING

1. Goals and Vision for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

- Talked of transition plans, survey for parents and Sheila Bennett.

- Sheila is not available until the end of November. May wait to get some information from NCPIC. Sheila is interested in doing something to support parent outreach as well as the Triad of Home, School and Parish.
- SEAC would look to help with this event along with our Board support staff (Krista Wood)
- Pina Palombo has reached out to Terri and Anna Racine will follow up to see what is going on with regard to ideas and availability.
- We will look at Spring time availability. Pat Rocca will let Sheila know that Spring is a desired time.
- This will be one of our goals - a revised goal. Moved by Karen Murphy, seconded by Pina Palombo

Survey to Parents

- Pat Rocca will bring some templates to the October Meeting from PPM 140.
- Talked about going back to the accessibility survey - is it worth revisiting some of the responses and to look at what are possible next steps? – moved by Dorothy Harvey, seconded by Karen Murphy

D. GOAL

- For Pat Rocca's team to review the accessibility survey and bring back the results to SEAC by the way of a presentation.
- Talked about staffing schools and how teaching staff are able to support students as classroom teacher and as an Educational Resource Teacher. Is it possible to have a discussion with Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Human Resources about the allocation of Human Resources who support students with special needs?
- There needs to be an increased focus on the role of the classroom teacher in the implementation of the Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Also talk about the implementation of different programs and how the student is supported.
- How do we convey to parents that the classroom teacher is responsible for the education of their child?
- Need to revisit the current brochure and the mission statement of SEAC - with a focus on enabling success and promoting a move towards greater independence
- How does the Student Service Department receive administrative support through a System Administrator to assist in programming and the implementation of student programs?

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF September 4, 2019

1. Greater Essex CDSB SEAC Letter to Ministry

- The letter was distributed and read

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 2019 and Beyond

- The *Special Education Plan, Building Bridges to Services 2019 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 by September 10, 2019

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, 2019

F. 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 2019 and Beyond* will be sent to Principals to include in their Catholic School Agenda.

2. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters

- Next meeting discussion if SEAC would like to support, through a letter, the importance of a pre-service education course with more experiential learning.

POLICY REVIEW – Pat Rocca will receive e-mail from Anna regarding this

Motioned by Pina Palombo and Karen Murphy review of the policy can be submitted on behalf of SEAC

1. Karen Murphy and Pina Palombo reviewed email

- Talked about Regulation 274 and how this affects supply teachers and the ability to call supply teachers. Can ask Mr. Iannantuono for more details around this when he attends one of our meetings?
- Are the parameters in place enough?
- The SEAC insert for school newsletters is the same as noted above for the Catholic School Council agenda.

G. AGENCY REPORTS

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

- NIL Report

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

- NIL Report

6. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- NIL Report

7. Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith

- NIL Report

H. STAFF REPORTS

1. Chris Kerho – Principals, Elementary

- NIL Report

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

- NIL Report

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

- Learning Strategies Class – Change in location at the Pope Francis Centre - trying to maximize resources for students who are there. Trying to involve the home school as well. There are currently 4 students in the program. Parents were in support of the change.
- Pat Rocca handed out some changes to the ABA Special Needs Facilitators as there is now one per Family of Schools - 7 in total.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing workshop is upcoming

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

- NIL Report

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. **Kathy Burtnik – Trustee**

- NIL Report

J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

1. **Donald Highston**

- NIL Report

K. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm - Catholic Education Centre

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Pina Palombo

Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the September 4, 2019 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm
