



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**, at 6:30 pm Electronic Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2) Public Access Phone Number: 1-647-749-124 (Tolls), Conference ID # 745 739 256.

Chair Racine called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers

- Chair Racine led with an opening prayer, in celebration of Catholic Education week.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Harvey, Dorothy	Niagara Children's Centre		✓
Helmeczi, Bill	Pathstone Mental Health		✓
Huxley, Kelsey	Indigenous Community Member	✓	
Murphy, Karen	Autism Ontario Niagara Region Chapter	✓	
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara	✓	
Racine, Anna	Community Member	✓	
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream		✓
Smith, Rita	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet	✓	
Thomas, Kerry	Community Living Welland/Pelham		✓
Wilson, Wendy	Indigenous Community Member		✓
Zoelman, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	✓	
Burtnik, Kathy	• Trustee of the Board	✓	
Huibers, Larry	• Chair of the Board		✓
Butera, Serena	• Student Senate Representative	✓	
Kerho, Chris	• Principal, Elementary	✓	
Majka, Kelly	• Vice-Principal, Secondary	✓	

Christalla (Chris) Kouroushis was an observer from NCPIC that evening. The following staff members were in attendance: **Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **Camillo Cipriano** – Director of

Education, **David O'Rourke**, Coordinator of Student Support, **Vincent Mancuso**, Behaviour Resource Teacher, and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

- Moved by Karen Murphy
- Seconded by Madeline Zoelman

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **May 5, 2021**.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

- No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of April 7, 2021**

- Moved by Serena Butera
- Seconded by Karen Murphy

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **April 7, 2021** as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

1. **Virtual Presentation – Inclusion Means Everyone**

- Dr. Sheila Bennett (EdD), Professor of the Educational Students at Brock University was the keynote speaker.
- Dr. Bennett answered questions and comments from the audience.

C. AGENDA

1. **Other Related Items**

1.1 **Annual Review of the Special Education Plan**

- Jennifer Lanese emailed the Committee Members Pages 14 – 20 of the Special Education Plan as well as the Feedback Form before the meeting.
- A copy of both documents was also uploaded to the Chat at the start of the meeting.
- David O'Rourke reminded the Committee Members about the process.
- David O'Rourke encouraged the Committee Members to contact him directly with any questions or concerns.
- The Committee Members were asked to submit comments and feedback on the provided link for the feedback/recommendation submission form.
- All feedback is due by **June 2, 2021**.
- The final version of the Special Education Plan will be emailed to the Ministry later in July.

1.2 **Sub-Committees Update**

- a) The Communication Sub-Committee Members are still working on finalizing a draft of

the SEAC Brochure with the feedback previously given. They also had a joint meeting with Superintendent Pizzoferrato and they have drafted a social media post template. They are currently in the creative process awaiting approval from Jennifer Pellegrini. They hope to have more information at the June meeting.

- b) The Survey Sub-Committee had a fruitful meeting with Gino to discuss the draft survey. The survey is now with the Student Support Department for their feedback. They hope that there will be an updated draft at the June meeting.
- c) No update from the Policy Report Sub-Committee.
- d) No update from the Ministry Report Sub-Committee.

1.3 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update

- o Co-Chair Zoelman provided an update to the Committee Members.
- o Jennifer Lanese emailed the MYSP Update to the Committee Members and a copy was also uploaded to the Chat before the meeting.
- o Co-Chair Zoelman provided an overview of the update.
- o Maria Sanchez-Keane will be providing an update at the June meeting.
- o Superintendent Pizzoferrato told the group that the June meeting will allow the Committee Members an opportunity to provide feedback on the MYSP.

1.4 Letter to Michelle Johnston of Niagara Region Public Health Department

- o Chair Racine and Co-Chair Zoelman prepared a thank you letter to Michelle Johnston of Niagara Region Public Health Department.
- o Jennifer Lanese emailed a copy of the letter to all Committee Members and a copy of the letter was also uploaded to the Chat.
- o Chair Racine provided an overview of the letter that was drafted.
- o Superintendent Pizzoferrato thanked Chair Racine and Co-Chair Zoelman for their work and time in preparing the letter.

1.5 Policy Review

- The following Policy is currently being reviewed as part of the [Establishment and Cyclical Review of Policies Policy \(100.5\)](#) review process.
- To be considered, all submissions must identify the specific policy and include your name, phone number, address and affiliation with Niagara Catholic. Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions will not be considered
- [Trustee Code of Conduct Policy \(100.12\)](#)
- Please submit your feedback to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by **12.00 pm on May 31, 2021**.
- Jennifer Lanese emailed a copy of the Policy being vetted along with a reminder of the due date to all Committee Members.

- All Committee Members were encouraged to submit their feedback by the due date.
- The deadline for all feedback was originally set for **Wednesday, May 19, 2021** and later extended by Jennifer Pellegrini to **Monday, May 31, 2021** by 12:00 noon.
- Jennifer Lanese advised all Committee Members of the new deadline in a follow-up email.

D. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS

- **LDANR – Summer Reading Rocks**
 - o One-on-One Literacy Program for students in Grades 1 – 8.
 - o The program runs from July 12 – August 25, 2021.
 - o Apply online at LDANIagra.org or contact Emily Glencross: eglencross@Ldaniagara.org.

- The Support Coordinators would like to extend their thanks for the funding support provided by the Youth Wellness Hub to complete the Psycho-Educational assessments. With this support, the Student Support Department was able to provide assessments to 14 students who otherwise would have been waiting a little longer. This opportunity is allowing their staff to gain valuable information that will support the program, goal setting and Pathway development for each student. Our team at Niagara Catholic is truly appreciative of the Youth Wellness Hub's support provided to our staff, students and families.

E. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

- Chair Racine offered a moment of silence and reflection.

F. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm – (Microsoft Teams Meeting).

G. ADJOURNMENT

- Moved by Madeline Zoelman
- Seconded by Pina Palombo

THAT the May 5, 2021 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.
CARRIED

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.