



## INFORMATION SESSION SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

Information Session of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** at 6:30 pm. Electronic Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Cipriano.

Chair Cipriano stated that the SEAC meeting of May 4, 2022 did not reach quorum with a majority of all committee members present. As noted in Sub Section 6, *"Unless there is a quorum present within thirty (30) minutes after the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the Secretary of the Board or Chair of the Board Committee shall record the names of those present, the time of adjournment, and the Board and its Committees shall stand adjourned."*

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

#### 1. Land Acknowledgement

- Chair Cipriano read the Land Acknowledgement.

#### 2. Opening Prayers

- Chair Cipriano read an opening prayer.

#### 3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	✓	
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children's Centre	✓	
Kelly, Tara	Pathstone Mental Health	✓	
Murphy, Karen	Autism Ontario Niagara Region Chapter		✓
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara		✓
Racine, Anna	Community Member		✓
Shawanoo, Willow	Indigenous Representative		✓
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream		✓
Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		✓
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham)		✓
Burtnik, Kathy	✓ <b>Trustee of the Board</b>	✓	

Sicoli, Dino	✓ <b>Trustee of the Board</b>	✓	
Butera, Serena	✓ <b>Student Senate Representative</b>		✓
Filice, Adele	✓ <b>Principal, Secondary</b>	✓	
Walsh, Susy	✓ <b>Principal, Elementary</b>		✓

Christalla (Chris) Kouroushis was an observer from NCPIC that evening. The following staff members were in attendance: **Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **David O'Rourke**, Coordinator of Student Support, **Lu Baiocco**, Recording Secretary/Temporary Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of April 6, 2022**

- Deferred to June 1, 2022 meeting

**B. AGENDA ITEMS**

- Chair Cipriano reviewed the one page strategic plan document
- The five goals identified by the agencies were read
- A link will be shared to you can vote of the priority of the goals
- Based on the goals, pick top two goals and come up with specific action items
- Trustee Burtnik suggested that what is missing is goals that tie into our faith.
- An example of that would be to tie our services to our parishes.

**C. AGENCY REPORTS**

1. LDANR – Chair Cipriano

- The LDANR opens their Fall program applications on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 am on their website. Interested families can apply at <https://ldaniagara.org/program-applications/school-year-program-applications/>.

2. Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)

- May is Community Living month. On May 2 a group was present at city hall when the Community Living flag was raised. Afterwards, everyone met at Lock 8 Park, where a time capsule was buried in honour of 60 years that Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet has been providing individuals with developmental disabilities.
- On June 4/22 there will a celebration in the market square in Port Colborne marking the year that parents got together 60 years ago and started Community Living in Port Colborne. There will be music, games, prizes, honourable guests and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome to attend!
- The Pie Guys in Port Colborne are graciously hosting a fundraiser for Community Living. For the entire month of April, proceeds from the sales of their mini cookies will be donated to the children and youth programs. Community Living does not receive government funding for children and youth programs

3. Autism Ontario Niagara Region

- Launching a new AccessOAP Portal. This will allow all families who have a child (under 18) with ASD to find all of their OAP resources in one place: <https://accessoap.ca/>. This site will also contain information on the new changes to the OAP Program which started to be rolled out at the end of April.

#### D. STAFF REPORTS

1. Superintendent Pizzoferrato

- Partnership with Program and Innovation. In the process of planning to launch at four locations to run summer programming out
- Provide service to a wide range of students in areas that will include literacy and numeracy over the course of the summer
- ABA team has prepared a report to the board around the nature of their service
- They have been invited to be part of our June SEAC meeting to present the service model that will be introduced to Niagara Catholic.

2. Director Cipriano

- At the OCSTA AGM in Ottawa, Trustee Burtnik was recognized for being a Catholic trustee in the province of Ontario for 25 years and she was recognized for outstanding achievement as a trustee.
- At the OCSOA AGM in Toronto we were able to recognize retiring superintendents in the province and we were blessed to have three in attendance that evening, Ted Farrell, Frank Iannantuono and John Crocco, our former director.
- On Friday, we had Gino Pizzoferrato, Kim Kinney, Joe Zaroda and Domenic Massi recognized and commissioned as our new supervisory officers.

3. Adele Filice – Principal, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

- **Notre Dame College School** - The students at ND are loving the weekly Music Therapy session with Mendelt and having the chance to see their friends at other schools in the meet. It's not the same as having Mendelt in person but still a fantastic activity. Thanks to some very generous donations from our Community including a recent donation from the Welland Rotary Club our sensory room has been updated with additional sensory experiences for our students and previously broken equipment from our sensory room and physical activity room is being repaired or replaced. With a few items on backorder we are hoping to have everything in by the end of the school year and ready for next year.
- **Holy Cross Catholic Secondary** - I am happy to report that our Special Education students will be returning to Holy Cross on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We are extremely excited to welcome them back to their home. All equipment is scheduled to be moved back to Holy Cross on May 9<sup>th</sup> in order for the room to be ready for the return.

4. David O'Rourke – Student Support Coordinator

- Student Support has prepared an executive summary of the changes that we are proposing to the special education plan
- An A1 sheet executive summary will be emailed out for review with SEAC June agenda meeting.
- Committee can provide feedback to the summary prior to the June SEAC meeting.

**E. TRUSTEE REPORTS – Trustee Burtnik**

- Principal and Vice-Principal changes have been announced, along with chaplaincy leadership. These are all great things for our school communities to grow and change with new insights, new visions and new leadership. Looking forward to September.
- At the Committee of the Whole, there was an awesome presentation that flowed out of the right to read human rights and it something very worthwhile for SEAC to hear
- Highlight of OCSTA was a presentation by Dr. Gene Clinton who is a renowned child psychiatrist.
- Highlight from our last board meeting was the presentation of the letter from SEAC. There was rich discussion and thank you for bringing all of us as the eight trustees to a higher level of awareness on the issues that are presented here at this committee.

**F. NCPIC REPORT**

NIL Report

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Chair Cipriano spoke briefly to the six letters that were attached as information items.

**H. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE**

Chair Cipriano offered a moment of silence and reflection.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:30 pm - Hybrid**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**THAT the May 4, 2022 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.**  
**CARRIED**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.