



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

PUBLIC ACCESS LIVE STREAM LINK

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/meetings-livestream/>

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Superintendent Pizzoferrato

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer

Chair Somma provided the opening prayer

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	x	
Glencross, Emily	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	x	
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children's Centre	x	
Kelly, Tara	Pathstone Mental Health	x	
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara	x	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	x	
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		

Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream	x	
Wencel, Sara (for Rita Smith)	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	x	
Burtnik, Kathy	Trustee of the Board		x
Sicoli, Dino	Trustee of the Board		x
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary	x	
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary		x
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	x	
Agretto, Mackenzie	Student Senate Representative		x
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support		x
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support	x	
Di Toro, Anthony	Coordinator of Student Support		x

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Harrington, Kavitha	Speech-Language Pathologist	x	
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	x	
De Lisio, Angela	Behaviour Analyst	x	
Mancuso, Vincent	Behaviour Resource Teacher	x	
Vanderlee, Carole	Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision	x	
Davies, Elizabeth	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	x	

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Lorraine Smith

Seconded by: Alexandria Attree

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest were declared with any items on the agenda

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2022

Moved by: Pina Palumbo

Seconded by: Emily Glencross

B. PRESENTATION

1. People Helping People Achieve – Presenter - Dan Tonello

PHPA is a group of self-advocates with intellectual disabilities who are working together to weave themselves into the fabric of the community. They have been active for 22 years.

Q: (Monique Somma) How does someone join PHPA? Is it for anyone in the Niagara Region or just Port Colborne? Monique

A: Contact Samantha Orth at Community living or Assistant Janice Phillips. Always looking for new members. We would like to have some younger people to keep the organization growing. We accept all members from the Region.

Q: (Emily Glencross) – What is the minimum age to join the group?

A: Pre-teen 20s 30s is a good starting point.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion of Agency SEAC goals for 2022/2023 school year – Chair Somma

On the google doc please add your name to the goal you will focus on supporting this year.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1efNyKMwUPjjMIB7foywhRE_aEgOgi2ERYslyIRCwXA/edit?usp=sharing

We would like to establish something this fall so in January we can hit the ground running. The link in agenda has goals listed. You can sign up for the goal you are most interested to work on. Both presentations we have had, support our students to transitions from school. Goal 2 – focus on what will we focus on – Suzy suggested using school communications ex. focus on an organization & service they provide etc. Make it easily accessible.

Chair Somma will organize both goals and choose a lead for each group. Superintendent Pizzoferrato is looking at school board members as well. Monique to organize sub-committees. Would like to have it ready to present at the December meeting.

2. SEAC Sub-Committee Overview – Chair Somma

- a. Communications – Superintendent Pizzoferrato - Developed & approved pamphlet. 1 edit outstanding. Will complete and get it into our schools.
- b. Survey – In review process. We will embed into our goals once approved. Both committees can look at potential use & get recommendation from SEAC
- c. Ministry Reports – no update
- d. Policy – not reviewed this year no update

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Emily Glencross

Fall program applications opened on October 28th for families to apply. Programs offer academic, social & coping skills, and transition supports for youths with disabilities.

Niagara Children's Centre – Michelle Maxwell

Continuing with implementation of Smart Start Hubs. Communication coming soon.

Preparing for 2023-2024 Transition to School process

New website due to launch in November/December

Pathstone Mental Health – Tara Kelly

Pathstone walk in clinic supporting kids up to age 18 opened at Pen Center for the next 6 weeks (until Dec 9th)

Down Syndrome Niagara – Pina Palumbo

No report

Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Alexandria Attree

Started back with in-person programming out of the McBain Centre in Niagara Falls. (You can see everything running on our website)

We have a fund raiser coming up on November 12 - 8 to 10 pm (doors open at 7 pm). Join us at

Showtime Comedy in St. Catharines for a fun night of comedy! Tickets are \$20 each and everyone is welcome. (Although we do recommend 18+) We hope to fill the place with community members, family members and caregivers looking for a night out, autistic adults and everyone in between! Please share with your networks and let's make this an amazing night!

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=7667>

Mainstream – Lorraine Smith

No update

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Sara Wencel

Started cooking classed 2 days per week at St Therese & 1 public school. We have reached out to Lakeshore Catholic as well.

Community Living (Welland) – Monique Somma

69th Annual General meeting was held on September 27, 2022 featuring Danny Lamb (music teacher) as keynote speaker and guest performance by Matt C (student 18) perform.

Our Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction is coming up on November 19, 2022. Tickets are \$75.

STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – Adele

SNAP – running at Brock in person. High schools are starting to attend.

Elementary Principal – Susy

No update

Student Support Department – Danny

1. Learning Centres of Excellence Program Update (See Attachment)

Student Support Staff are continuing with our plan to transition students to the new Learning Centres of Excellence Classroom (LCE) Program. We recognize and understand that every student's learning profile is unique. For some students, an individualized classroom environment that caters to their ability and pace of learning would provide them the necessary space, time, and support to acquire essential literacy and numeracy skills. However, some of our students require an elevated level of support.

The **Learning Centres of Excellence (LCE)** program serves Niagara Catholic students with Intellectual and/or Communication disabilities in grades five to eight with a low-ratio classroom environment that concurrently supports developing learning and social skills as part of a safe, inclusive, and responsive school community based on Niagara Catholic's vision: Encountering souls and opening minds so that all students succeed. The LCE program will allow for more personalized and targeted instruction for students who require intensive programming. The Individual Education Plan will continue to address the student's modifications, accommodations and learning goals.

It's important to note that each student remains part of a school community where they will continue to participate in important events like sacraments, field trips, assemblies, social justice initiatives, and more. Students will have important integration opportunities where they will interact with their same-aged peer classmates, meet new friends and experience all the wonderful events of the regular classroom. French will also continue to be a requirement.

Some families are currently preparing for this new placement. Families and students have had an opportunity to visit the St. Mary Welland site to see the classroom and meet staff. The next steps will be the formal IPRC meeting and registration at St. Mary. Unfortunately, the St. Teresa of Calcutta program placement is currently on hold while Human Resources works towards filling the teacher position due to an unforeseen leave of absence.

Find attached the LCE Parent Information Guide for your reference.

2. Lexia Professional Learning Centres

Lexia Professional Learning Sessions are taking place this month to support staff with implementation. PD will consist of both refresher sessions and those geared towards staff that are new to the program.

- 3.** Our first school year Gifted Module is being offered next week to students identified as Gifted. During this module, students will take an introspective look into the artist, Norval Morrisseau. Also known as Cooper Thunder Bird, Morrisseau was an Indigenous Canadian Artist who significantly impacted the culture and influence of art design in his images, colors and overall presentation. Students will have the opportunity to create their own piece in the style of Morrisseau.

TRUSTEE REPORTS – Trustee Leeann Prince

Last week was the municipal election. Trustee Burtnik sent the following message as she didn't run for a seat this year.

"Unfortunately I am unable to attend, please send my regrets and my most sincere appreciation to the folks who serve on this committee. I was hoping to be back to say personally how grateful I am for having learned more from them than they from I.

An honour and a privilege to have shared with each of them. Niagara catholic is better because of their commitment. I am better because of their passion." Trustee Burtnik

E. STUDENT REPORT – Mackenzie

No report

F. NCPIC REPORT

First meeting for 2022-23 is Thursday, November 3, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

Live Stream Link is available on the meeting agenda on Niagara Catholics website.

- New and returning members will be introduced and welcomed to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- All members of the NCPIC will participate in the annual commissioning in accordance with the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy No. 800.7 and the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- Terms of Office (one or two year terms) will be determined for parent/guardian representatives
- An election will take place for the Chair and/or two Co-Chairs of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for a term of two years (only parent/guardian representatives with a two (2) year term are eligible)
- An election will take place for the vacancy of the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director for the 2022-2023 school year (one year term)
- Subcommittees will be formed
- Danielle Black, Coordinator of Library Information Centres will be making a presentation and gathering parent/guardian feedback on school Library Information Centres in Niagara Catholic

G. NOTICES OF MOTION

none

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

I. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

J. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm

K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Alexandria Attree

Seconded: