



**MINUTES OF THE
 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023
 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/>

Hosted by the Niagara Children’s Centre

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – M. Maxwell

*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

Opening prayer dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 6 prayers were shared among the committee members.

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	x	
Morrison, Emily (for Emily Glencross)	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	x	
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre	x	
Kelly, Tara	Pathstone Mental Health		x
Palombo, Pina & Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara (President)	x	

Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		x
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream	x	
Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	x	
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services		x
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative	x	
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board	x	
Marino, Jim	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
Wicken, Brittany (for Keighan, Kelly)	Speech-Language Pathologist	x	
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	x	
De Lisio, Angela	Behaviour Analyst	x	
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher		x
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	x	
Criddle, Ann Marie	Program Resource Teacher		x
Fisher, Amber	Niagara Support Services (NSS)		x
Hornick, Tina	Behaviour Resource Teacher	x	
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		x
McMullin, Cathy	ABA Lead	x	
Davies, Elizabeth	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	x	

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: R. Smith

Seconded by: L. Smith

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 10, 2023

Moved by: L. Smith

Seconded by: R. Smith

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Niagara Children's Centre SmartStart Hubs - Rebecca Main (Clinical Manager)

2. Applied Behaviour Analysis Specialized Education (ABSE) Classroom – Angela De Lisio (Behaviour Analyst)

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Durham Catholic School Board Special Incident Portion Letter – Superintendent Pizzoferrato

The Ministry recognizes the process needs to be reviewed. Contingent on our current compliment plus 5%. In 2020-2021 there was no application for the Board. We will continue to plan forward.

2. Goals Update – Chair Somma

Agency information Form is coming to your in box soon. Information collected will be shared with the school. We will send out one each month and post on FB and NC web page

Other goals for fall 2023:

1. Info nights/workshops for families to show case transition information
2. Consolidate process for transition to secondary schools – is there a checklist? Something more standardized? Is it happening the same everywhere?

R. Smith –Sarted meetings with parents who have kids in grade 8 transitioning. Not a big turnout, but the ones that came thought it was very positive. We would like to start grade 7 in the fall to get parents thinking about earlier.

B) Would someone from the Board be available to attend these meetings?

Superintendent Pizzoferrato –In early May we reviewed each high schools challenges in a sit down meeting. Schools advocated their needs for the fall. Our ERTs are looking at our grade 8's right now to see what they need including SEA equipment currently being utilized. It translates into good conversations with parents. We leave the resource teachers to vet backwards. It will take some time but the momentum is started.

3. September 2023 SEAC Planning – Chair Somma

We would like everyone to start thinking about what our September 2023 goals will look like for SEAC

- continue the committees and committee work?
- Communication committee?
- What others – policy, survey, develop webinars or others you feel important?

Superintendent Pizzoferrato – We will do up a google form with invitation for people to input into strategies. In September we can go through and pick the measurables.

Ready for next steps. The sooner we get our goals in place the sooner we can identify the committees.

Use this form monthly to highlight important updates and information about your agency which will be included on the agenda. Please include any links or attachments to program flyers or advertisements.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb7kTzANFGD3lwdwhtrQgQ5TI2Nb6NCikUanwA9tyegRQovw/viewform?usp=sharing>

Alternate Representatives - Please ensure you have an alternate when you are away. This ensures quorum at every meeting. Nomination letters can be provided to Elizabeth.

We also encourage you to share any presentation Ideas you have for next year. Email Chair Somma or Elizabeth.

We are also still looking for someone to serve as a co-chair. Please email Elizabeth if you are interested.

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Emily Glencross

We still have lots of spots remaining at our **Niagara Falls summer camp** site! The LDANR runs a full-day summer camp, **S.L.A.M.** (Sunshine, Learning, Achievement and More!) in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls throughout July and August. The full-day camp provides half-day literacy support and half-day recreation/fun for kids between the ages of 6-11 struggling with literacy skill development. Families can apply on our website, or by following this link:

<https://ldaniagara.org/program-applications/s-l-a-m-camp-application/>

Our fall program applications are NOW OPEN! To apply for a spot in our after-school programs for the fall of 2023, families can apply on our website or at the following link:

<https://ldaniagara.org/program-applications/school-year-program-applications/>

Niagara Children's Centre – Michelle Maxwell

Help Kids Shine Campaign was a HUGE success with our highest raised funds ever!

<https://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com/newsroom?newsid=80>

There have been updates to **Special Services at Home (SSAH)** service/item eligibility:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/special-services-home> (some items added during COVID are now permanently eligible).

We are moving to a new Fort Erie satellite location in July 2023. We are so fortunate to partner with the **Boys and Girls Club Fort Erie** location to create a larger, more inclusive space for our clients in the Fort Erie community.

Please continue to check and share our **Events calendar**:

<https://niagarachildrenscentre.com/calendar>

Our **Challenger Baseball** program has started with a bang with over 70 kids registered!!

Pathstone Mental Health – Tara Kelly

N/A

Down Syndrome Niagara – Pina Palombo & Andrea Pedo

Trivia Night 2023 took place this past weekend and the event was a success! Plans are already in the works for another Trivia Night in

March 2024.

- **CrossFit workouts** are still happening at BILT cross fit gym in Welland and is fully funded by G-Mc's Homies with Extra Chromies Foundation. All DS persons are invited to attend!
- Donate in-store at a Sobeys near you from June 1-8 to support **Special Olympics Ontario** athletes, including Logan from Port Colborne, Ontario, who has Down Syndrome. All donations will be matched!
- DSAO (Down Syndrome Association of Ontario) offers **CAMP 321**, and registration is still available at [hSps://camp321.ca/](https://camp321.ca/)
- The **Annual Friendship Walk** will take place on Sunday September 17th, 2023. More details to come!
- Follow Down Syndrome Niagara on Facebook or on our Instagram page @down.syndrome.niagara for updates on upcoming events and community initiatives.

Mainstream – Lorraine Smith

Pathway To Success Information Fair:

Was very well received and attended. Much positive feedback was received from the people supported, their families as well as from the vendors who took part in the fair.

Approval was given to run a Transitional Youth Program pilot project.

The Options Niagara Transitional Youth Program would be a resource to:

- students who have a developmental diagnosis
- the students' families
- educational providers
- community agencies

We would:

- help students and their families in navigating through the transitional process during their high school years
- help with the transition from high school to adulthood
- share the Transition To Adulthood Planning Toolkit
- offer education and support around the transitional process, and expectations in transitional aged youth (TAY) planning meetings
- build relationships with the student, their families, and the educational providers to ensure a seamless transition
- share resources
- assist with community connections
- help with future planning
- provide support to ensure a smooth and seamless transition from high school to adulthood

Bethesda Services – Alyson Wilson

N/A

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

N/A

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Rita Smith

We are working with Bethesda to help transition students into high school. Students visit a secondary school but they only visit a school in Thorold not the secondary school the student will be attending. We would like to offer it at a secondary school in their own neighbourhood.

After school programs are coming to an end.

We have had a lot of referrals for summer camp – we get grants to help families who require financial assistance.

Homelessness is a big issue in Port Colborne. We are working through Group Living programs - they have large wait lists.

Harvest of Hope – grocery stores put extra food on an email list that we can pick up and hand out to families/kids who need help

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

Welland Library Grant – offered 50% inside organization/50% families outside organization
A brochure will be available. We will continue to plan over the summer with a roll out in the fall.

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative – Mackenzie Agretto

N/A

F. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

This Friday Notre Dame (W) will be hosting a Special Education basketball event for students.

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

N/A

Student Support Department - J. Di Gioia

Professional Development Days: June 9 (Elementary), and June 29 (Secondary) for Educational Assistants and Intervenors

1. The agenda for the day includes:

- Keynote address by Unstoppable Tracy
- Workshop by Jayne Serluca, RN, Rapid Response Transitional Team Nurse with Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) - Hamilton Haldimand Brant with an overview of Epilepsy and Diabetes, general training for administration of rescue medication and discussion on the various routes of administration which may be included in a student's Plan of Care or Emergency Protocol
- Presentation by Dr. Lauren McNamara of The Recess Project (June 9 only)

- Presentation by Niagara Catholic Behaviour Resource Teachers - When Faith Meets Neuroscience to share a comprehensive digital poster series infused with the voice of those who work most closely with our most dysregulated learners.
- Address by Erica Blythe, (Van de Laar) a recipient of this year's Niagara Catholic Distinguished Alumni Award, Being Erica: Dream Big, Persevere and Never Say Can't!

As part of our ongoing review of support, services, and best practices, Program Resource Teachers are meeting with Principals and Educational Resource Teachers in order to discuss grade 8 Accommodated only IEPs. Points of Discussion include:

- Number of accommodated only Grade 7 and Grade 8 IEPs
- The individualized teaching and assessment strategies, human supports, and/or individualized equipment required by students with special education needs to enable them to learn and demonstrate learning
- Explore assessment data to support accommodated IEPs

Superintendent Pizzoferrato

1. **Connection to Accessibility Work:** Parasport extended invitation to our students to participate. Niagara Catholic students were the only students present at conference. We look forward to expanding our relationship with them. We are seeing results of our momentum that began with the All Access HOME accessibility conference in April. We are moving forward with great things in place.

2. We would like to express our thanks and congratulations to Pina Palumbo (Down Syndrome Niagara) who is sharing her last evening with us on SEAC. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

TRUSTEE REPORTS – Trustee Joyner

Saturday, June 10 there is a fundraiser across Niagara - come sip on some lemonade with Children Services.

G. NCPIC REPORT

N/A

H. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

K. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm

L. ADJOURNMENT: 8:52 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Chair Somma