



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, December 8, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)

Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)

Jennifer Ajandi

Samantha Sendzik

Amy Dunn

Nick Smith

Brent Beaudoin

Danielle Reynolds

Pathstone Mental Health

CNIB

Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Niagara Support Services

VOICE

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Ontario Network of Expertise

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson

Kristen Kosh

Catherine Matheson

Kelly Irvine-Minor

Paula MacKinnon

Nikki Train

Superintendent of Special Education

OPC Representative: Elementary

OPC Representative: Secondary

Special Education Consultant

Superintendent of Secondary Schools

Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Guests:

Lisa Mooney

Regrets:

Kerry Thomas

Community Living Welland Pelham

Recording Secretary:

Erin DeRosario

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.

WELCOME – Introductions

Committee Chair Linda Morrice introduced Nikki Train, Student Achievement Leader: Special Education to the Committee, and round table introductions followed. Nikki will be replacing Therese Grenier while she is on leave.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the December 8, 2016 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Shannon MacDonald, Seconded by Nick Smith

"That the Agenda dated December 8, 2016, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting.

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

"That the Minutes dated November 17, 2016 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

SSS Staff

DSBN Social Workers Dave Peirce and Isaac Virag were introduced to the Committee, and they presented the PowerPoint (attached).

They noted that FASD can often be misdiagnosed, due to lack of information, and because many of its symptoms are similar to other cognitive or behavioural concerns. Danielle Reynolds from FASD – ONE added that as a result, it is critical to obtain multi-disciplinary supports for accuracy of diagnosis. Special Education Consultant Kelly Irvine-Minor added that although there is a difference between diagnosis and identification, the DSBN provides students with support, regardless of having a diagnosis or identification. Secondary OPC Representative Catherine Matheson added that supports are set up for students based on their needs, not identifications.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Brent Beaudoin

The Christmas party will be held on Saturday in Oakville. Brent shared some hearing aid strategies with the group to support battery charge.

CNIB

Shannon MacDonald

No report.

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

No report.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Amy Dunn

No report.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ontario Network of Expertise

Danielle Reynolds

No report.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

Samantha Sendzik

Winter programs are now up and running, and program applications are being accepted until January 16th. Two additional Reading Rocks Junior sites have been added this winter – one in Beamsville, and one in Port Colborne.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools

Paula MacKinnon

Secondary school open houses were held last week, and they were very well attended. Secondary school transitions and planning are well underway.

OPC Representative: Secondary

Catherine Matheson

The Open House at Sir Winston Churchill SS was very successful. Parents asked some great questions regarding programming and course options. There is also a lot of information regarding each secondary school online for parents and students to access. The Student Trustee Senate has been taking applications from schools to have a parent information night.

OPC Representative: Elementary**Kristen Kosh**

Elementary Principal and Vice Principal placements and transfers were announced today. Movements will take place at winter break this year.

Special Education Consultant**Kelly Irvine-Minor**

No report.

Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**Nikki Train**

The DSBN has received funding from the Ministry of Education, to hire an Applied Behavioural Analysis Facilitator. This two-year position will help support students with these needs during the transition of the Ministry's new IBI model and plan. A new ABA Facilitator has been hired and will be starting next week. The current plan is to divide the Board into areas of responsibility, so each ABA Facilitator will be responsible for either Areas 1, 2 and 5 or Areas 3 and 4 to provide additional support to students.

Superintendent of Special Education**John Dickson**

No report.

Trustee Report**Jennifer Ajandi**

The second Public Meeting for the West Niagara Accommodation Review will be taking place next week on December 15th, and the meeting will provide a great opportunity to receive feedback from community members. The organizational meeting was held this week, and Trustee Dale Robinson was elected again as Chair of the Board, and Trustee Kevin Maves was elected as Co-Chair of the Board. A new Superintendent of Education and a new Board Lawyer have recently been hired due to staff retirements, and both will be starting with the DSBN in January. The Director's Holiday Card Contest was recently held, and the work of several DSBN students was chosen to be on the face of the DSBN holiday cards for 2016.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no further questions and answers.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Brent Beaudoin

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): A Snapshot PowerPoint

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room