



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, October 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)	Pathstone Mental Health
Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Dale Robinson	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services
Danielle Reynolds	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Ontario Network of Expertise
Brent Beaudoin	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Kerry Thomas	Community Living Welland Pelham

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson	Superintendent of Special Education
Jen Currie	OPC Representative: Elementary
Kelly Irvine-Minor	Special Education Consultant
Karen Ferguson	OPC Representative: Secondary
Paula MacKinnon	Superintendent of Secondary Schools

Regrets:

Jen Ajandi	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Catherine Matheson	OPC Representative: Secondary
Therese Grenier	Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Recording Secretary:

Erin DeRosario

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Morrice introduced and welcomed a new member, Brent Beaudoin, from VOICE.

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE

Elementary OPC Representative Jen Currie introduced a grade 6 student from Grapeview Public School along with her mother and the Vice- Principal of Grapeview. The student shared what some of her hobbies are, as well as her academic challenges. Currently, she utilizes a computer and scanner in the classroom as an

accommodation. Access to a computer in the classroom gives her the independence that she requires. When she grows up, the student wants to help kids and be an Interpreter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the October 13, 2016 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Kerry Thomas, Seconded by Shannon MacDonald

"That the Agenda dated October 13, 2016, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting.

Moved by Dale Robinson, Seconded by Amy Dunn

"That the Minutes dated September 8, 2016 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

EQAO UPDATE

John Dickson

Superintendents John Dickson and Paula MacKinnon presented a power point (attached), providing the Committee with an update of the 2015/2016 EQAO results.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UPDATE

Kelly Irvine-Minor

Special Education Consultant Kelly Irvine-Minor presented a power point (attached), reviewing the Special Education specific professional learning opportunities that are being offered to educators between September and November.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Therese Grenier

Superintendent Dickson handed out the 2016-2017 Special Education Report, for discussion at the next meeting.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

CNIB

Shannon MacDonald

No report.

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

NSS has completed several intakes for the weekend respite program, as a number of children have aged out of the program. The Children's Movement program and Teen programs began in October. The October Family activity will be Pumpkinfest at Heartland Forest this Sunday afternoon.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

Samantha Sendzik

Fall programs are up and running and they have been going well so far. October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month; there is a social media campaign, and the Steeped Tea fundraiser that begins on October 17th and will run until November 4th. LDAN will be offering the ADHD parent workshops again this year.

Community Living – Welland/Pelham

Kerry Thomas

Reaction4Inclusion will be taking place from November 18th to 20th at the YMCA, Geneva Park in Orillia. It is a conference for youth to investigate ways to support Inclusion in their schools and communities. The Together We Are Better Initiative will take place from February 1 - 2, 2017, and the registration deadline is January 23,

2017. The focus will be on the benefits of having all students together in the same classroom setting, learning amongst peers. A new program called Student Links is starting up; this program matches students to mentors who share a common interest.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ontario Network of Expertise**Danielle Reynolds**

Dave Pierce is the new Co-Chair of the Niagara FASD ONE coalition. The Niagara FASD ONE coalition participated in a Mental Health fundraiser at the Pen Centre last weekend.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter**Amy Dunn**

Tickets are for sale for the annual Christmas Gala, which is being held on Saturday, November 26th. Tickets are \$65 per person. The event raises money for the summer camp program. The new fall programs are up and running. This year the Niagara Chapter joined the Kids of All Need Ratios Together, and it has been going well. From September 12th to December 12th there is a housing survey on the Autism Ontario website, and they are hoping to hear from parents of children of all ages regarding their current and future housing needs and concerns.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools**Paula MacKinnon**

No report.

OPC Representative: Elementary**Jen Currie**

It has been a busy start to the new school year. Focus has been on collaborating with parents regarding the IEPs. Progress reports are being sent home on November 10th. The last PD Day was held on October 7th. School Improvement Plans were the focus.

Special Education Consultant**Kelly Irvine-Minor**

No report.

OPC Representative: Secondary**Karen Ferguson**

Progress reports were sent out for secondary schools this week. The practice test for the OSSLT was held this week, to support the upcoming online OSSLT.

Superintendent of Special Education**John Dickson**

The DSBN will be hiring an ABA Facilitator, and the posting will go out early next week. This position is in addition to the current ABA Facilitator, and is a result of an increase in funding from the Ministry of Education.

Trustee, District School Board of Niagara**Dale Robinson**

At the last Board Meeting, Trustees and the Senior Team agreed to start having one Board Meeting per month, and they will take place primarily on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Also, an Accommodation Review for the western region of the District School Board has been initiated. The Senior Administration Team has recommended a new build, to amalgamate the three secondary schools in the area. There will be opportunity for the community to provide input. Trustee Robinson attended the new John Brant Public School in Ridgeway. She noted that the First Nations component was very special, and the community and students have united. On Tuesday, Trustee Robinson attended Glynn A. Green Public School, and Premier Wynne was there to announce 100,000 new licensed daycare spaces for Ontario families. During her press conference, Premier Wynne positively addressed the "I Matter" logo and Strategic Plan.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**Brent Beaudoin**

Mr. Beaudoin informed the Committee that he is a parent of a child with a hearing impairment, and he is a member of the VOICE committee. He noted that there are a greater number of children with some degree of hearing impairment than people realize, and he encourages people to get involved.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

Chair Linda Morrice read correspondence that she recently received. One pertained to the development of new SEAC training resources provided by Parent Association Advisory Committee. The other was from the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board encouraging others to ensure that solid transition plans are in place for individuals beyond secondary, and their hope to see data collected regarding job applicants with a self-disclosed disability.

CORRESPONDENCE

Due to a conflict with meeting dates, the SEAC Committee agreed to reschedule the next November 10, 2016 SEAC Committee meeting to November 17, 2016 and the January 12, 2017 SEAC Committee meeting to January 19, 2017.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Danielle Reynolds asked for an update on the Special Needs Strategy. Chair Morrice stated she has an update: the Co-chairs of the coordinated service planning committee have agreed to move forward in planning without an identified lead agency. Superintendent Dickson stated that the Integrated Rehabilitation Committee has struck a steering committee with the intent to roll out a plan later this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Shannon MacDonald, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

EQAQ Update PowerPoint

Professional Learning PowerPoint

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room