



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, September 8, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)	Pathstone Mental Health
Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	CNIB
Dale Robinson	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
Jodi Delage	Niagara Support Services
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson	Superintendent of Special Education
Jen Currie	OPC Representative: Elementary
Kelly Irvine-Minor	Special Education Consultant
Catherine Matheson	OPC Representative: Secondary
Kim Yielding	Chief Communications Officer
Paula MacKinnon	Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Stacy Veld	Superintendent of Business

Regrets:

Jen Ajandi	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Therese Grenier	Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Danielle Reynolds	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Ontario Network of Expertise
Sandra Steeprock	Niagara Regional Native Centre

Recording Secretary:

Erin DeRosario

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

WELCOME

Superintendent John Dickson introduced Trustee Dale Robinson, Superintendent Paula MacKinnon,

Superintendent Stacy Veld, Chief Communications Officer Kim Yielding and Administrative Assistant Erin DeRosario to the Committee. Jodi Delage informed the Committee that Nick Smith will be taking her place as a Niagara Support Services representative for SEAC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

“That the Agenda dated September 8, 2016, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting.

Moved by Shannon MacDonald, Seconded by Jodi Delage

“That the Minutes dated June 9, 2016 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

STRATEGIC PLAN / I MATTER

Kim Yielding/John Dickson

Chief Communications Officer Kim Yielding presented a power point (attached), informing the Committee about the new “I Matter” Strategic Plan. Superintendent Dickson added that the new strategic plan is very focused on individualized supports and meeting the needs of diverse learners which speaks to the commitment of the Board with regards to Special Education.

BUDGET

Stacy Veld

Superintendent Stacy Veld addressed the 2016-2017 Special Education Budget (handout attached). She mentioned that in working through the budget, The DSBN Board of Trustees and DSBN Senior Team consistently kept their focus within the parameters of the Strategic Plan. She commended the hard work of the Board of Trustees in attaining the substantial Special Education budget increase.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

John Dickson

Superintendent Dickson addressed the Special Education Report 2016-2017 (attached). He noted that the Committee has discussed creating a Special Education pamphlet, and suggested that where applicable, a reference back to the DSBN Special Education Report could be beneficial. Together, the Committee discussed various pieces of information that could help support parents in specific areas.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

NIAGARA SUPPORT SERVICES

Jodi Delage

The Niagara Support Services Summer Respite has ended, and the After School Program is starting on September 12th. There is no enrolment limit and no wait list. Tina and the Movement Program will start up in October.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Amy Dunn

The creation of the Transition to Adult Planning Toolkit is complete. Notification emails will be sent out; if agencies would like a copy please let Amy know. The Toolkit has a great deal of information on resources and

checklists, graduating and employment. The Christmas "Gatsby Gala" is approaching and tickets will be sold for \$65. Autism shirts are currently being made and can be ordered through the Niagara Chapter. The Niagara Chapter is also hosting their very first talent show on October 1st on St. Paul Street in St. Catharines. Autism Ontario structured their camps differently this past summer to provide additional supports for students to ensure those with higher support requirements could attend.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

Samantha Sendzik

The Summer Slam Program went very well this summer. Fall programs begin during the first week of October, and applications are being accepted until September 19th. Reading Rocks will be offered at Brock University, as well as in Beamsville and Welland. Reading Rocks Junior will be offered in St. Catharines, Fonthill, Niagara Falls, and Fort Erie. Let's R.E.A.D. will be offered in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, and Port Colborne. B.E.S.T. will be offered in Thorold. The Agency Brochure is on the website (www.LDANiagara.org) and has more information on the programs offered. LDAN applied to have the Leadership Niagara team work on their Agency brochure; it will provide further information on what they offer. Copies will be provided.

OPC Representative: Secondary

Catherine Matheson

Students in grade 10 will now have the opportunity to write the OSSLT on October 20, 2016 as well as on March 30, 2017. The October 20th test will be completely online. Chair Morrice noted that students may appreciate getting the testing out of the way early on. Start-up and transition back to school, and into grade nine for students has gone very well and schools are excited about the upcoming year.

OPC Representative: Elementary

Jen Currie

The school year is off to a great start. Transition planning meetings have been extremely valuable for our families and our staff. EQAO results are not yet public, however the benefits of Early Learning Programs and early intervention with literacy and math are evident.

Special Education Consultant

Kelly Irvine-Minor

The school year is off to a great start. Special Education Consultants and Coordinators were working hard supporting schools and families to ensure students were able to ensure a successful start to school this first week back. Staff work with schools to ensure that equipment, transportation and student moves are supported through this transition time.

Trustee Report

Dale Robinson

Trustee Dale Robinson noted that the construction at many school sites is in full effect. She stated that the new school builds and additions are well under way at Laura Secord SS, Greater Fort Erie SS, John Brant PS and Wellington Heights PS, to name a few.

Pathstone Mental Health

Linda Morrice

Chair Morrice stated that Pathstone Mental Health has recently been accredited for the second time, and it has also been accredited in youth justice programs.

CNIB

Shannon MacDonald

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Dickson shared that the Association for Bright Children (ABC Niagara) corresponded with the Board and Committee Chair to inform SEAC that they will no longer be part of the advisory council. They informed the committee that they no longer have enough members to constitute an active ABC Niagara Chapter. As a result, they are stepping down from the SEAC.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Shannon MacDonald.

“That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

Strategic Plan / I Matter PowerPoint
Special Education Budget Hand Out
Special Education Report

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room