



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, April 13, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)
Nick Smith
Samantha Sendzik
Amy Dunn
Brent Beaudoin
Kerry Thomas
Tiffany Hunter

CNIB
Niagara Support Services
Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
VOICE
Community Living Welland Pelham
Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson
Jennifer Currie
Catherine Matheson
Kelly Irvine-Minor
Nikki Train

Superintendent of Special Education
OPC Representative: Elementary
OPC Representative: Secondary
Special Education Consultant
Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Guests:

Kim Bartlett, Central Educational Assistant
Kelly Belford, Elementary Teacher
Leslie Auger, Autism Facilitator
Darla Perron, Autism Facilitator

Regrets:

Linda Morrice (Chair), Pathstone Mental Health
Staci Whittle, Niagara Children's Centre
Danielle Reynolds, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - ONE
Paula MacKinnon, Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Jen Ajandi, Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Dale Robinson, Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Recording Secretary:

Terri Cook

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent John Dickson welcomed Tiffany Hunter, the new ABC Ontario representative and shared that Vice-Chair Shannon MacDonald will act as Chair in the absence of Linda Morrice.

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE

Superintendent Dickson introduced Kim Bartlett and Kelly Belford - both involved the DSBN Special Olympics that takes place on June 8th with a rain date of June 14th at the Niagara Olympic Centre for students age 6 to 21. Over 500 athletes participate. Kim introduced a student from Beamsville District Secondary School. He shared that he qualified for OFSSA and participated in many athletics, Track and Field being one of his favourites. Kim introduced another secondary student from Governor Simcoe and he shared that he has been training for the last couple of years and has qualified for a big event in Peel Region for track and field. He will also participate in the Provincial Event, being held in Niagara.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Shannon MacDonald requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the April 13, 2017 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Kerry Thomas, Seconded by Nick Smith

“That the Agenda dated April 13, 2017, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice-Chair MacDonald requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

“That the Minutes dated March 9, 2017 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

Dr. Lisa Linders

Lisa sent her regrets and will present at another meeting.

iSOCIAL

Darla Perron & Leslie Auger

A presentation on the new iSocial Program was done by the ABA Facilitators for the DSBN. iSOCIAL is the name of the after school program that targets students aged 5yrs to 9yrs with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Superintendent John Dickson stated that DSBN had to apply for the grant to the Ministry of Education (MOE) and was one of the three schools in the South West Region that was accepted. Superintendent Dickson reiterated that we are unsure what the MOE will do with regards to funding in the years to come. The program is one strategy the MOE implemented to support students with Autism as they change IBI funding and consider family supports. Ministry Funding for this after school program is specific to supports for Autism.

REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Nikki Train

Committee members discussed pages 33-38 of the DSBN Special Education Report, Other Related Information, Section 1 – Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies, and Section 2 – Educational and Other Assessments.

Nikki stated that transition planning for preschool students is in place to support families entering into school for the first time. Once in school, student supports are planned in-school team (IST). Information is gathered and next steps would be determined based on student need. Nikki discussed that there are many types of assessment, psychological assessment is not typically done by our board for students of the pre-school

age/kindergarten age. We often use the Functional Screening Tool to support students in the early years. It was discussed that instruction is provided to all students through the collaborative program planning of the classroom teacher and the LRT within the classroom. Teaching has shifted to support inquiry based, problem solving based learning with multiple entry points. This learning can support a diverse learning group.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

Community Living Welland Pelham

Kerry Thomas

No report.

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

NTEC will be starting to offer Employment programs that would be open to students 18 yrs and older. More information will follow. Jodi Delage will be managing these programs and would be happy to visit schools or future SEAC meetings to share more information. Superintendent Dickson requested that Jodi contact him to set something up.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Amy Dunn

Tee Up for Autism's annual golf tournament is Friday, May 26th. Registration is \$150 per golfer or \$600 per foursome. 100% of the proceeds go to their Chapter. The Annual Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, May 13th at their local office. Their CLC board will be re-elected and they are looking for new people to join! Raise the Flag for Autism Awareness Day was a great success. Thank you to the DSBN for having all the schools register!

Association of Bright Children of Ontario

Tiffany Hunter

No report.

OPC Representative: Secondary

Catherine Matheson

Cogeco Cable videotaped Sir Winston Churchill Secondary Schools Raise the flag event - it was a great day. Semester 2 mid-terms are coming up and report cards will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. Transition meetings are starting in April and will continue through May. There are many student visits to the schools along with shadow days to allow grade 8 student to get used to the school before starting Grade 9. Transitions are also in place for students heading to college and university, apprenticeships, community to work, support for community hours to graduate etc. are all under way. The Gr 10 Literacy test is complete and results are expected in June.

Special Education Consultant

Kelly Irvine-Minor

LRTs and Special Education Central Staff have been working collaboratively in Professional Learning sessions to deepen their understanding of mathematics instruction for learners with diverse needs. As well, the pre-School Transition process is underway. School and preschool agencies are supporting families as they plan for school entry for the Fall.

Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Nikki Train

No report.

OPC Representative: Elementary

Jennifer Currie

We are looking at staffing for next year and transition planning has begun. EQAO begins on May 22. We are currently making sure all student needs are met with technology, Google Read and Write, and that scribes are in place. Report cards are on the horizon. Dr. Stan Kutcher will be hosting evening parent & community information sessions at A.N. Myer SS on May 1 and at Laura Secord SS on May 2. He is a renowned expert in adolescent mental health and leader in research, advocacy, training, and policy. Professional Development sessions with Dr. Kutcher will present to Administrators and LRTs in May.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara**Samantha Sendzik**

LD@School Educators' Institute is being held August 22 & 23 and is open for registration. A new math program will begin the first week of May. Program applications close on Tuesday, April 18. The Trivia Night Fundraiser is on Friday, May 5th and the Golf tournament fundraiser is on Saturday, June 10th. Ashley Short is taking an extended leave of one year so Samantha will be continuing the role of Executive Director of LDANR.

Superintendent of Special Education**John Dickson**

The MOE has settled almost all contracts with the different union groups. Due to contract negotiations, Boards are receiving funds specific to Special Education. The specifics are still being determined. We are working with unions to gather feedback.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**Brent Beaudoin**

The VOICE conference is on Saturday, May 6th at Guelph University and on June 9, 10 & 11, the VOICE families gather at the Great Wolf Lodge engaging in many events throughout the days. Any school that has a child with hearing impairment has the opportunity to promote "Dress Loud" day - this is a day where you can dress crazy and loud in support of students with hearing needs. Jeanne Sauvé will be hosting a day in late May or early June, other dates to be confirmed. The VOICE camp is set at Bark Lake near Orillia on August 11-13.

CNIB**Shannon MacDonald**

CNIB is changing. The government has accepted that the rehabilitation services offered should, and will now be funded by the government. This means that a foundation will be created. There are ongoing discussions about the scope and shape of the foundation - will report more at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions or answers.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

<i>"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."</i>

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

SEAC - iSOCIAL PowerPoint Presentation
LDANR Trivia Night Fundraiser
LDANR 2nd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room