



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, December 14, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)	Pathstone Mental Health
Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	CNIB
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
Paul Molnar	Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services
Brent Beaudoin	VOICE
Jen Ajandi	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson	Superintendent of Special Education
Paula MacKinnon	Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Nikki Train	Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Kelly Irvine-Minor	Special Education Consultant
Catherine Matheson	OPC Representative: Secondary

Guests:

Melanie Sendzik, Student Achievement Leader, Curriculum
Jamie Lambert, Instructional Coach

Regrets:

Danielle Reynolds, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE
Julia Vasilyev, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Kristen Kosh, OPC Representative: Elementary
Jennifer Currie, OPC Representative: Elementary

Recording Secretary:

Sue Sentance

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced Special Education Resource Teacher, Christine Lebeau, and a grade nine student and her parents, from Grimsby Secondary School. The

student explained how she transitioned to grade nine this fall with assistance from school staff. She described how accommodations, like accessing the Resource Room to study or write tests, helps her to focus on her work and feel more confident in herself and her ability to succeed in her classes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the December 14, 2017 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

"That the Agenda dated December 14, 2017, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Amy Dunn

"That the Minutes dated November 9, 2017 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

ELEMENTARY MATH PRESENTATION

Melanie Sendzik & Jamie Lambert

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered outlining DSBN's Math Strategy and goals and how tools like the Scope and Sequence document and Dreambox software are helping staff and students achieve these goals. Committee members participated in a hands-on demonstration of Dreambox learning.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Shannon MacDonald & Brent Beaudoin

Shannon and Brent delivered brief reports on their respective associations, CNIB and VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

No report

CNIB

Shannon MacDonald

Friday, December 14th the Association is hosting a gingerbread making session.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

Samantha Sendzik

Winter program applications are open, but most programs are already full with waitlists. SMART Math program is not being run in the winter session due to loss of funding but will be offered again in Spring 2018.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Amy Dunn

The Association is hosting a Paint Night for Parents on December 15th thanks in part to ministry funding. Trivia Night will take place on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Armenian Hall in St. Catharines. Winter Program registrations are currently open, and they will be offering new Tween programming for children who are 11 and 12 years old. The Association now offers programs for children ages 2 to 18, and a diagnosis is not required to access any of the programs.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**Brent Beaudoin**

The Association's Annual Christmas Party is taking place on December 16, 2017.

Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara**Paul Molnar**

Downs Syndrome Awareness Month took place in November. The Association's AGM will take place in January 2018.

OPC Representative: Secondary**Catherine Matheson**

Secondary School Open Houses took place throughout the month of November. Semester 1 is nearing an end, with just 3 weeks left in January. EQAO grade 9 assessment for math takes place in the month of January. Students are preparing for final exams for the end of Semester 1.

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

Historical data is being transferred to the new IEP program in preparation for its launch in the new year. Parents will receive correspondence from schools explaining the new look of the documents.

Special Education Consultant**Kelly Irvine-Minor**

Special Education Support Services trained over 2,500 teachers on how to use the new IEP Program throughout the month of November.

TRUSTEE, DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA**Jennifer Ajandi**

Trustee Ajandi reported that at the December Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to ask the Ministry to pause EQAO assessments while they complete their review of education assessments in Ontario.

Superintendent of Special Education**John Dickson**

Superintendent Dickson provided the Committee with information from The Ministry of Education regarding becoming a member of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education.

In addition, the Committee was provided with details of a Public Engagement Survey on Education Assessment in Ontario, that can be accessed through the following link: <http://OntarioALearningProvince.ca/participate>.

Finally, Superintendent Dickson highlighted some changes from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in regards to the Ontario Autism Program. These changes will provide more choice for families with respect to direct funding options and supports for children and youth with autism. Parents are asked to go to the MCYS website for further details.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools**Paula MacKinnon**

Superintendent MacKinnon thanked the Committee for their commitment to Special Education and for their participation each month as SEAC members.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

No Report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Paul Molnar

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS: Elementary Math Presentation

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room