



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, March 9, 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
Jen Ajandi	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
Brent Beaudoin	VOICE

Administration/Resource:

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

Guests:

Melanie Sendzik – DSBN Student Achievement Leader, Curriculum K-8

Regrets:

Danielle Reynolds	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Ontario Network of Expertise
Dale Robinson	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Staci Whittle	Niagara Children's Centre
Nikki Train	Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Recording Secretary:

Sue Sentence

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE – Superintendent John Dickson introduced a grade 8 student from Edith Cavell, his mother and brother, and Edith Cavell Principal David Holmes. The student spoke of the many positive supports

that were put in place to help him be successful. He explained his transition plan for moving from grade 8 to grade 9 at St. Catharines Collegiate SSTW program in the fall. The plan has involved many years of planning and collaboration with the student, his family, his elementary and secondary schools, and central support staff. The student has participated in and enjoyed many transition activities at St. Catharines Collegiate including shadowing another SSTW student for a day, and attending a grade 8 day and parent open house. The student was excited that he was going to be part of the first grade 8 class graduating from Edith Cavell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the March 9, 2017 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Shannon MacDonald

"That the Agenda dated March 9, 2017, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Nick Smith, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

"That the Minutes dated January 19, 2017 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

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

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes of the January 19th and February 9th meetings.

INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS IN FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Melanie Sendzik

DSBN Student Achievement Leader, Melanie Sendzik presented a summary of the Ministry of Education publication *Including Students with Special Needs in French as a Second Language Programs* (resource available at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/includingFLS2015.pdf) and explained how the DSBN uses this publication to structure its FSL programs. The DSBN currently has 3 tiers of French programming, core french, extended french and french immersion. The benefits of a French immersion program are seen both academically and socially in students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

John Dickson

Superintendent Dickson presented a summary of the Special Education Funding Allocations and the areas that contribute to how the DSBN receives Special Education Funding. Average daily enrolment numbers as well as education specific information are reported to the government to help determine the amount of funding received by the DSBN.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION**Trustee, District School Board of Niagara****Jen Ajandi**

The Education Foundation of Niagara held their Denim, Diamonds and Diploma's fundraising event on February 20th. The event was a great success and helped to raise money for the EFN's DSBN Academy bursary fund. Prom Project Niagara is set to take place on April 8, 2017 at Beamsville District SS, Fort Erie SS, and St. Catharines Collegiate for students looking for graduation or prom formal wear. All are welcome. The Board of Trustees will be voting on the West Niagara Accommodation Review Committee proposal at March's board meeting.

Niagara Support Services**Nick Smith**

No report.

CNIB**Shannon MacDonald**

No report

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**Brent Beaudoin**

Parents of Hearing Impaired Children recently rented ice rinks in Hamilton and Mississauga for families to enjoy a day of fun. It was a great networking opportunity for the children and their families.

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter**Amy Dunn**

Annual Chapter Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16th at the local office. If anyone is interested in joining the board, nomination forms are due by April 18th. A teen employment workshop is currently open for registration for high functioning autistic teens (ages 14-18) and fees for the workshop are \$100. Thank you to DSBN for registering all their schools for Raise the Flag for Autism Day on April 2nd.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara**Samantha Sendzik**

LDANR Annual Appreciation Event is March 14th. The LDA Halton region is holding their Solutions for Learning Conference on March 23rd. LDANR is participating in the Hudson Bay Giving Day on March 24th. Purchase a **\$5.00 Giving Day** ticket and shop at Hudson's Bay or Home Outfitters in support of LDANR. LDANR keeps **100%** of the proceeds from tickets purchased through LDANR. A new Math Program (S.M.A.R.T) will be piloted this spring and fall for children in grades 2-3. The Ontario Trillium Foundation will be funding the program. Other Association Programs offered this spring include Reading Rocks (St. Catharines), Reading Rocks Jr. (Fort Erie, Niagara Falls), Let's R.E.A.D. (Thorold), B.E.S.T. (Thorold). Applications for the spring programs and the S.L.A.M. Summer Camp open March 20th.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools
OPC Representative: Secondary**Paula MacKinnon**
Catherine Matheson

Secondary School Progress Reports will be sent home when the students return from March Break. Parent Teacher interviews will follow shortly after that. The Spring OSSLT test will be administered on March 30th to those students who did not successfully complete the test, or did not write the test, in the fall. DSBN students had a high success rate in the fall and therefore, not many are writing the test this time around. DSBN tech skills competitions took place and student achievements were showcased at the Board Office in the beginning of March.

Special Education Consultant**Kelly Irvine-Minor**

No report.

Superintendent of Special Education**John Dickson**

ABA after-school sessions are starting after March Break. The program is called "iSocial". It will run at 7 locations throughout the DSBN. DSBN and Bethesda staff have received positive support for the program and parents and kids are excited to be part of the new program.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the letter received from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington (PVNC) Catholic District School Board was presented. In the letter, the PVNC board asks the Minister of Education to review the high needs (DSENA) portion of the new Special Education funding in order for the PVNC board to receive a greater amount of funding. The SEAC determined that it does not support this board's request as it would adversely affect the funding being received by the DSBN.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT***Moved by Brent Beaudoin , Seconded by Amy Dunn***

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

Minutes from February 9, 2017
Including Students with Special Needs in French as a Second Language Programs presentation
Special Education Update presentation

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room