Thursday, April 12, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:
Linda Morrice (Chair) Pathstone Mental Health
Julia Vasilyev ABC Niagara
Amy Dunn Autism Ontario - Niagara
Danielle Reynolds Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE
Stephanie McCorriston Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region
Nick Smith Niagara Support Services
Paul Molnar Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara
Brent Beaudoin VOICE
Jennifer Ajandi Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Administration/Resource:
John Dickson Superintendent of Special Education
Paula MacKinnon Superintendent of Education
Nikki Train Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Paulette Alcox Assistant Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Kelly Irvine-Minor Special Education Consultant
Catherine Matheson OPC Representative: Secondary
Jen Currie OPC Representative: Elementary

GUESTS:
Dr. Lisa Linders, DSBN Chief Psychologist

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.

STUDENT VOICE

Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced principal Robyn Scheubel, two teachers from the Gifted Program, a grade 7 student, and his mother. The student shared how his combined learning experiences within the program and his home school class have taught him important skills like how to be a critical thinker, to
express his creativity, and to build perseverance when faced with challenges.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Superintendent Dickson, requested that the Agenda of the April 12, 2018 SEAC meeting be amended as follows: Item no. 5 the title of the presentation be changed to Understanding Learning Profiles.

*Chair Morrice then requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the April 12, 2018 SEAC meeting, as amended above.*

*Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik*

"That the Agenda dated April 12, 2018, be approved as amended."

*CARRIED*

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Committee Member Paul Molnar requested that the spelling of Down Syndrome be corrected from Downs Syndrome in the Minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting. Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2018 SEAC meeting as amended.

*Moved by Nick Smith, Seconded by Paul Molnar*

"That the Minutes dated March 8, 2018 be approved as amended."

*CARRIED*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

*Understanding Learning Profiles*  
Dr. Linders shared a PowerPoint presentation explaining the different student Learning Profiles and supportive teaching strategies that assist in learning.

**ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION**

*VOICE*  
Brent Beaudoin  
The Annual VOICE conference is being held on May 4th and 5th at Centennial College in Scarborough. Friday May 11th is also Dress Loud for VOICE Day.

*Niagara Support Services*  
Nick Smith  
NSS will be sending out schedules for summer respite camps soon. There will be 3 vacancies coming up for CTCC classes.

*TRUSTEE, DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA*  
Jennifer Ajandi  
Trustee Ajandi reported that at the last board meeting, on March 27, 2018, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of Bill 191, The Education Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder), 2017 copying all Ontario MPPs and school boards.

*Autism Ontario - Niagara*  
Amy Dunn  
Raise the Flag for Autism Awareness Day on April 3rd, was a tremendous success across Niagara. Autism Ontario - Niagara members participated in many flag-raising events at local municipal offices, schools and businesses, which generated significant social media buzz. Representatives from the Niagara Chapter have also been asked
to attend at various DSBN schools for cheque presentation ceremonies to celebrate the success of their fundraising efforts. The Annual Golf Tournament is taking place on May 25th. Summer camp registration has been extended into April. Camps are offered for children ages 5 and older and provide 1:1 or 1:2 staff to camper support ratios.

**Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara**
Paul Molnar
The 31st Canadian Down Syndrome Society Conference will take place in Hamilton, Ontario, May 18 to 20, 2018.

**ABC Niagara**
Julia Vasilyev
No report

**Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara**
Samantha Sendzik
School Board registrations are open for the August 21-22, 2018 LD @ School Conference. Each school board is guaranteed 3 staff registrations. A new spring registration process is underway for Fall 2018 programs which will hopefully make the registration process easier for families. LDANR received a grant from Wise Guys to offer a Let’s R.E.A.D. program site in Beamsville for the Fall 2018 and Winter 2019 sessions.

LDANR’s Executive Director, Ashley Short, will not be returning to her position, so Samantha Sendzik will become the permanent Executive Director. LDANR will be holding it’s “Walk with ME for LD” fundraiser on Saturday, June 9th at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls to raise funds for their programs and services.

**OPC Representative: Secondary**
Catherine Matheson
Secondary school students participated in the OSSLT this week. Due to the change in accommodations criteria for the test, students received additional time, if required to complete the test in a quiet environment. Second semester mid-year reports will be sent home with students on April 27 and transition meetings for grade 8 students are taking place in the schools as well.

**OPC Representative: Elementary**
Jennifer Currie
Elementary school staff are spending time in April planning for next year with respect to staff and students who are transitioning to different schools for September.

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER – ONE**
Danielle Reynolds
Updated information from FASD ONE Education Action Group is available on their website, www.fasd-one.ca, by locating education on the home page under Service Areas.

**Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**
Nikki Train
The Spring iSOCIAL program began this week and is running until the middle of May in 8 locations across the DSBN. There are approximately 70 students participating in the spring session. The DSBN Special Olympics Track and Field Event is happening on June 11th. Volunteers for this event are always welcome.

**Special Education Consultant**
Kelly Irvine-Minor
Special Education staff have been working with LRT’s throughout the year, providing numerous professional development opportunities, and have upcoming sessions scheduled that will focus on the use of ABA strategies. Upcoming Special Education staff PD will focus on technology.

**Assistant Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**
Paulette Alcox
Preschool transitions are taking place throughout the DSBN and staff are beginning to meet and plan for their new students that will be entering their classes in September.
Superintendent of Secondary Schools       Paula MacKinnon
The OSSLT was delivered successfully throughout secondary schools on Tuesday. Numerous students took advantage of the extra time available to them, as well as the ability to use assistive technology like google read and write, while completing the test.

Superintendent of Special Education       John Dickson
Superintendent Dickson addressed questions he received regarding Premier Wynne’s announcement to increase special education and mental health funding in the province, indicating that the DSBN is in the very early stages of the budget process.

Pathstone Mental Health                  Linda Morrice
May 7 to 11, 2018 is Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week. The Walk-in Mental Health Counselling Clinic is now up and running; children, youth, their parents or caregivers are able to access services.

**CORRESPONDENCE**
There was no additional correspondence.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
Questions asked by Danielle Reynolds re: Premier’s announcement of increase funding for special education and mental health – answered in Superintendent’s report.

**ADJOURNMENT**
*Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Brent Beaudoin*

“*That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.*”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Understanding Learning Profiles PowerPoint

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room