Thursday, February 8, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:
Linda Morrice (Chair)    Pathstone Mental Health
Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair)    CNIB
Paul Molnar    Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara
Danielle Reynolds    Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE
Samantha Sendzik    Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Nick Smith    Niagara Support Services
Jennifer 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
Paulette Alcox    Assistant Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Kelly Irvine-Minor    Special Education Consultant
Catherine Matheson    OPC Representative: Secondary
Jen Currie    OPC Representative: Elementary

Regrets:
Brent Beaudoin, VOICE
Kerry Thomas, Community Living Welland-Pelham

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 an Eden Secondary School student, her mother, and Eden’s Special Education Consultant, Katie Seminerio. The student spoke about her achievements in the SSTC program at Eden which include completing two Co-op Placements, participating in the DSBN Transition to Employment
Program, and representing Eden as an athlete at OFSAA.

**WELCOME – Introductions**
Superintendent Dickson introduced Paulette Alcox, Assistant Student Achievement Leader: Special Education to the Committee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the February 8, 2018 SEAC meeting.

*Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Nick Smith*

“That the Agenda dated February 8, 2018, be approved as presented.”

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2018 meeting.

*Moved by Shannon MacDonald, Seconded by Nick Smith*

“That the Minutes dated January 11, 2018 be approved as presented.”

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

**IEP Online Update**
Kelly Irvine-Minor
Kelly demonstrated the upgraded features of the DSBN’s new IEP Online program. In addition, the committee was able to see the new forms that parents will receive for their child’s Term 2 IEPs.

**Pre-school Transitions**
Paulette Alcox
Assistant Student Achievement Leader, Paulette Alcox, delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process that takes place for pre-school students transitioning to Kindergarten from a Niagara Pre-School or Community Agency Program.

**ASSOCIATION REPORT**
Paul Molnar
Paul delivered a brief report about the organization he represents on SEAC, which is Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara.

**ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION**

**Niagara Support Services**
Nick Smith
No report

**CNIB**
Shannon MacDonald
No report

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER – ONE**
Danielle Reynolds
No report

**Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara**
Paul Molnar
The association is hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser on March 10, 2018. Please email Paul for tickets @ paul.molnar@topaces.com. The Annual General Meeting will be held on April 8, 2018.
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara
Samantha Sendzik
The SMART Math Program will be offered again in St. Catharines for the spring 2018 session. Spring and Summer Program Applications will open March 19, 2018.

OPC Representative: Secondary
Catherine Matheson
Secondary school students have begun second semester classes. Course selections for next year are taking place for all returning students as well. Staff will participate in Professional Development on Friday, February 16th.

OPC Representative: Elementary
Jen Currie
DSBN elementary schools welcomed new 2018-19 Kindergarten students and their families to all-day Open Houses on February 1st. Families had the opportunity to meet the ELKP staff, see the classrooms and ask any questions they have about the program. Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home on February 9th. Grade 3 and 6 students are preparing for their upcoming EQAO testing, getting comfortable with any accommodations that they may require to assist them in the spring. The board is working towards all schools becoming fully accessible and are planning projects to install ramps, lifts, elevators or other devices that may be required to retrofit existing school buildings.

Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Nikki Train
Special Education Support Services is offering many professional development opportunities to staff on the PD Day on February 16th. All EA’s will take a re-certification course for their Non-Violent Crisis Intervention certificate this spring.

Special Education Consultant
Kelly Irvine-Minor
Special Education Staff and Tech Services are supporting schools and teachers as they work with the new IEP program.

TRUSTEE, DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Jennifer Ajandi
The DSBN has acquired a parcel of land that borders the cities of Grimsby and Beamsville for the new secondary school in West Niagara. The new build will provide great opportunities to support all students and their accessibility and programming needs. The Board of Trustees will soon be looking at a preliminary budget for 2018-19.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Paula MacKinnon
Secondary school student report cards will be sent home in a couple of weeks.

Superintendent of Special Education
John Dickson
Superintendent Dickson presented DSBN Policy G-15 Student Medical Information. Committee members were asked for their feedback regarding changes being made to the policy.

Pathstone Mental Health
Linda Morrice
Pathstone will soon be offering a Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinic. The launch date is set for February 27, 2018 and the clinic will operate at the Branscombe Mental Health Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE
There was no additional correspondence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
There were no questions
ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Danielle Reynolds, Seconded by Paul Molnar

“That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:  Preschool Transitions Power Point
                Pathstone Mental Health – Children’s Mental Health Walk-In Clinic Flyer

NEXT MEETING:  Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room