



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, November 9, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

### MINUTES

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Linda Morrice (Chair)  
Samantha Sendzik  
Amy Dunn  
Danielle Reynolds  
Brent Beaudoin  
Julie Stitt  
Jen Ajandi

Pathstone Mental Health  
Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region  
Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE  
VOICE  
Association for Bright Children of Ontario  
Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

#### **Administration/Resource:**

John Dickson  
Paula MacKinnon  
Nikki Train  
Kristen Kosh  
Catherine Matheson

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

#### **Guests:**

Tracey Krysa, Special Education Coordinator

#### **Regrets:**

Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair), CNIB  
Paul Molnar, Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara  
Nick Smith, Niagara Support Services  
Kerry Thomas, Community Living Welland Pelham  
Kelly Irvine-Minor, Special Education Consultant

#### **Recording Secretary:**

Sue Sentance

#### **QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER**

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE** Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced Jodi Kerr, Principal of Kate S. Durdan and her student and his mother. The student discussed his multiple diagnoses and how, with the help of accommodations, he is a positive contributor to his grade 6 class.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Danielle Reynolds*

*“That the Agenda dated November 9, 2017, be approved as presented.”*

**CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting.

*Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Nick Smith*

*“That the Minutes dated October 12, 2017 be approved as presented.”*

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

**SEA Equipment**

**Tracey Krysa**

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered that outlined the types of equipment that the board is able to provide for students through SEA Funding and the types of equipment that the board provides that is outside of this funding. This equipment allows students to access the curriculum or to attend school.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ONSIS REPORTS**

**John Dickson**

Superintendent Dickson explained the ONSIS data that the board submits three times a year to the Ministry of Education. The Section J reports are generated for elementary and secondary special education students and record both identified and non-identified students on an IEP, what their primary exceptionality is, and how many students within the board are identified with each exceptionality. These reports are used to help calculate the board’s special education funding each year.

**PAAC on SEAC**

**John Dickson**

The PAAC on SEAC website (<http://www.paac-seac.ca/>) has information for SEAC members who may wish to gain a better understanding of the role of SEAC and their role as an agency representative. The PAAC on SEAC handbook is also available on the main page of the website.

**ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION****TRUSTEE, DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA**

**Jennifer Ajandi**

The Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement was released at the last board meeting. It explores past goals and results as well as future goals for student success.

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - ONE**

**Danielle Reynolds**

The afternoon conference on November 2, 2017 by Miles Himmelreich was well attended, with 3 central staff members from the DSBN in attendance.

**VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**

**Brent Beaudoin**

The Association is busy planning for their annual Christmas Party. Further details will be provided shortly.

**Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter****Amy Dunn**

The Mad Hatter Holiday Gala will take place at Club Italia on Saturday, November 25, 2017. Tickets are \$65 per person, with seating at tables for eight. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the Ice Dogs held their first Autism Awareness game. Over \$10,000 was raised that night to help fund programs and summer camps. Grapeview Public School is hosting a Niagara Shopping Day on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-4pm. The day is for individuals with ASD to shop for new, donated gifts for their families, in a quiet environment with a helper and be able to avoid the holiday crowds.

**Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara****Samantha Sendzik**

Winter Program Applications open November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Association of Bright Children of Ontario****Julie Stitt**

The local chapter is working on establishing a formal meeting place rather than being solely virtual based.

**OPC Representative: Elementary****Kristen Kosh**

Progress reports went home today. Staff will receive training on the board's new IEP program during the PD Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**OPC Representative: Secondary****Catherine Matheson**

Term 1 of First Semester ended on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Grade 9 math classes are working on EQAO practice mid-terms to help determine the accommodations that students will require. November 1<sup>st</sup> was Take Our Kids to Work Day for grade 9 students. Grade 8 Open Houses take place at the end of November.

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

DSBN hired a new ABA facilitator and interviewed for a new Occupational Therapist this week. LRTs and SERTs are being trained on the board's new IEP program, and will be training their school staff on the November PD Day. Communication will go home to parents shortly outlining the changes that they can expect to see on future documentation.

**Superintendent of Special Education****John Dickson**

No report

**Superintendent of Secondary Schools****Paula MacKinnon**

Secondary school staff are being offered a wide range of PD sessions of the November 17<sup>th</sup> PD Day, with various special education and curriculum foci. EQAO issued a memorandum stating that some accommodations (e.g. more time) will not require the support of an IEP this year or moving forward.

**Pathstone Mental Health****Linda Morrice**

Pathstone is hosting an information night November 14<sup>th</sup>. The topic of the evening is social media and its impact on youth.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no additional correspondence.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik***

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS:**       SEA Equipment Funding Presentation  
                              ONSIS Special Education Presentation  
                              Autism Ontario Parent and Tot Open House Flyer

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room**