



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, October 12, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)
Nick Smith
Samantha Sendzik
Amy Dunn
Danielle Reynolds
Brent Beaudoin
Kerry Thomas
Julia Vasilyev
Jen Ajandi

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

Administration/Resource:

John Dickson
Paula MacKinnon
Nikki Train
Jennifer Currie
Karen Ferguson
Catherine Matheson
Kelly Irvine-Minor

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

Regrets:

Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair), CNIB
Paul Molnar, Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara
Staci Whittle, Niagara Children's Centre
Sandra Steeprock, Niagara Regional Native Centre

Recording Secretary:

Sue Sentance

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Dickson welcomed Julia Vasilyev, the new SEAC Representative from The Association for Bright Children of Ontario, and three visiting 5th year teacher candidates from Brock University.

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced a grade eight student from Prince of Wales Public School in Thorold. The student discussed that he has been diagnosed with high functioning autism and how various educational supports and staff members have helped him throughout his education.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the October 12, 2017 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Nick Smith

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

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Samantha Sendzik, Seconded by Nick Smith

“That the Minutes dated May 11, 2017 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Danielle Reynolds, Seconded by Amy Dunn

“That the Minutes dated June 8, 2017 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting.

Moved by Nick Smith, Seconded by Linda Morrice

“That the Minutes dated September 14, 2017 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the May, June or September Minutes.

WELCOME BACK & ORIENTATION

John Dickson

DSBN committee members reviewed the orientation session that was delivered at the September meeting. The orientation session outlined policies and legislation pertaining to special education and to the SEAC, and the roles of the members and agencies that are represented on SEAC. The committee discussed effective practices with respect to meetings, as well as items that they would like discussed at future SEAC meetings.

EQAO RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

John Dickson

Superintendents Dickson and MacKinnon presented a Power Point (attached), providing the Committee with an update of the 2016-2017 EQAO results.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Nikki Train

Copies of the Special Education Report 2017-18 and DSBN 2017-18 Budget were provided to members that did

not receive a copy in September. The report will be discussed at future meetings.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Samantha Sendzik

Samantha delivered a brief report on her association, Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter

Amy Dunn

The Niagara Ice Dogs are hosting a fundraiser for Autism Ontario on October 21st at the Meridian Centre. Tickets are available for \$15 at the Chapter Office. Fall programs are up and running for children from 2 years of age and older. The Annual Autism Holiday Gala will take place at Club Italia on Saturday, November 25, 2017. Tickets are \$65.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - ONE

Danielle Reynolds

FASD Niagara is hosting Miles Himmelreich for 2 workshops on November 2, 2017. An afternoon session designed for those who work with, support or provide care for individuals with FASD and an evening session for individuals with FASD and their parents and caregivers. Flyers are attached.

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

The Children's movement program and teen program will begin in October.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Brent Beaudoin

The Niagara, Hamilton and Halton chapter of VOICE is hosting a family Pumpkin Fest at Andrews Scenic Acres on Saturday October 28th at 2pm. Cost is \$4 for VOICE members.

OPC Representative: Elementary

Jennifer Currie

Jennifer reported on the activities that DSBN elementary school staff took part in during the PD Day on October 6th.

OPC Representative: Secondary

Catherine Matheson

Catherine reported on the activities that DSBN secondary school staff took part in during the PD Day on October 6th.

Association of Bright Children of Ontario

Julia Vasilyev

No report.

Special Education Consultant

Kelly Irvine-Minor

The special education team hosted Special Education Teachers at Secondary Learning Communities for professional learning sessions last week, and will host elementary LRTs next week for math focused PD.

Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Nikki Train

iSOCIAL will begin again next week, offering programs in 8 schools across the board to 70 students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder between the ages of 5 and 9. DSBN is hiring 3 new 8-month contract ABA facilitators thanks to funds received from a government grant. DSBN is hiring casual EA's on an on-going basis.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

Samantha Sendzik

LD Association of Wellington County is offering a family conference on October 21st. LDANR has hired a new program coordinator and a project coordinator.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools

Paula MacKinnon

Progress Reports go home with students this week. In-school Student Success teams will be participating in PD

sessions on Friday, October 13th.

Superintendent of Special Education

John Dickson

No report

Pathstone Mental Health

Linda Morrice

CMHO conference on November 13-14, 2017 will focus on the dynamic and static factors that would better predict high risk youth and their level of engagement in treatment.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence.

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 7:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

EQAO Report
FASD Strategies and Solutions Workshop
FASD Can you see me now? Workshop
Community Living Together We're Better Contest Flyer
LDANR Program Brochure

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room