



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

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.”

CARRIED

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.”

CARRIED

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 DSNB 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 DSNB 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 7:18p.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