



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, January 11, 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
Julia Vasilyev	Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter
Danielle Reynolds	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services
Brent Beaudoin	VOICE
Dale Robinson	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Administration/Resource:

Paula MacKinnon	Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Kelly Irvine-Minor	Special Education Consultant
Catherine Matheson	OPC Representative: Secondary
Kristen Kosh	OPC Representative: Elementary

Guests:

Chris Waler, Student Achievement Leader, Instruction and Learning
Liisa Suurtamm, Secondary Curriculum Consultant
Katie Seminerio, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

John Dickson, Superintendent of Special Education
Nikki Train, Student Achievement Leader: Special Education
Paul Molnar, Downs Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara

Recording Secretary:

Sue Sentance

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

WELCOME – STUDENT VOICE

Special Education Consultant, Kelly Irvine-Minor introduced a junior kindergarten student along with his mom, and the Special Education Staff that work with the student at Westmount Public School. The student explained pictures that were taken of his work on patterning and building with straws to the Committee. Special Education Consultant, Lori Gava, explained how the student's pre-school transition process took place between DSBN staff, the student's family and the pre-school resource teacher throughout the months leading up to his arrival at school in September.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Linda Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the January 11, 2018 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Danielle Reynolds, Seconded by Shannon MacDonald

"That the Agenda dated January 11, 2018, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Nick Smith

"That the Minutes dated December 14, 2017 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes.

SECONDARY MATH PRESENTATION

Liisa Suurtamm & Katie Seminerio

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered demonstrating some of the low floor, high ceiling and open ended questions being discussed in math classes throughout the DSBN that create opportunities for everyone to be mathematicians. Committee members were invited to use various math manipulatives to explore these questions, demonstrating the different entry points available for teachers to reach all students with the same questions, and how teachers can reach students at their individual level of understanding.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Chris Waler & Kelly Irvine-Minor

Student Achievement Leader, Chris Waler, delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the programs offered through the DSBN's CTCC (Care, Treatment, Custody and Corrections) Centres in Niagara and the involvement of partner agencies to support students in these programs.

Special Education Consultant, Kelly Irvine-Minor, discussed page 24 and pages 39-44 of the Special Education Report with the Committee, asking for feedback from Committee members relating to these sections.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Amy Dunn

Amy delivered a brief report on Autism Niagara, the organization she represents on the committee.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION**Niagara Support Services**

Nick Smith

The Children's Movement Program will begin on January 25th and has some space still available for new registrants.

CNIB

Shannon MacDonald

No report

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER – ONE**Danielle Reynolds**

No report

Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter**Amy Dunn**

Winter Programs are starting, and they will be offering new Tween programming for children who are 11 and 12 years old. Summer Camp planning has also begun.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara**Samantha Sendzik**

Winter programs begin on January 29th. Most programs are full with waitlists. SMART Math program will be offered again in the Spring of 2018.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children**Brent Beaudoin**

The Association is hosting a family skate and bake sale on Family Day, February 19th, in Mississauga. Plans for the April VOICE conference are underway and will include events on Friday for Industry Professionals and for families on Saturday.

OPC Representative: Secondary**Catherine Matheson**

Secondary Schools are busy preparing for 1st semester final exams that begin on January 26th for most DSBN schools. Course selections for next year will take place at the beginning of 2nd semester, in February.

Association for Bright Children of Ontario**Julia Vasilyev**

The Association is gathering data from it's members to help determine the direction it will move towards in the future.

Special Education Consultant**Kelly Irvine-Minor**

Pre school transitions have begun for 130+ new kindergarten students in preparation for their entry to DSBN schools in September. The new online IEP program went live at DSBN schools last week. Parents will receive correspondence from the schools notifying them of changes.

TRUSTEE, DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA**Dale Robinson**

Trustee Robinson reported on multiple events and projects that DSBN trustees and staff are working on and participating in. They include the Public Education Symposium that is being held in Toronto from January 25 to 27, 2018, the Denim and Diamonds Gala event that is being held at Club Roma on February 3, 2018 to support DSBN Academy bursaries, and a possible joint venture with the NCDSB for a new elementary school facility in Wainfleet.

Superintendent of Secondary Schools**Paula MacKinnon**

EQAO grade 9 assessments for math are taking place next week. The DSBN has already begun planning for the new school year, preparing budgets, school calendars and staffing numbers for 2018-19.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

The Association ran their first session of a new SNAP program last night. The evidence-based program will target students age 6 to 9.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Nick Smith, Seconded by Samantha Sendzik

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

Secondary Math Presentation
Understanding CTCC Programs

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