



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Thursday, May 10, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Grimsby Lincoln Room – Education Centre

### MINUTES

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

Linda Morrice (Chair)  
Samantha Sendzik  
Amy Dunn  
Danielle Reynolds  
Nick Smith  
Dale Robinson

Pathstone Mental Health  
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara  
Autism Ontario - Niagara  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE  
Niagara Support Services  
Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

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

Paula MacKinnon  
Nikki Train  
Paulette Alcox  
Kelly Irvine-Minor  
Karen Ferguson  
Kristin Kosh

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

#### **Regrets:**

John Dickson, Superintendent of Special Education  
Shannon MacDonald (Vice-Chair), CNIB  
Brent Beaudoin, VOICE  
Paul Molnar, Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara

#### **Recording Secretary:**

Sue Sentance

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

Chair Morrice declared that quorum was not established, and therefore no decisions were made regarding any discussions during the evening. The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting began at 6:03 p.m.

#### **STUDENT VOICE**

Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train, introduced the Principal of A.K. Wigg Public School, Mary Zwolak, who in turn introduced a Grade 3 student, her family and staff members. The student and her teacher shared a presentation about her learning journey that demonstrated her use of manipulatives, the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program, science experiments, and daily movement breaks.

**DSBN SPECIAL OLYMPICS PRESENTATION**

DSBN Special Olympics committee member, Kelly Belford shared plans for this year's June 11<sup>th</sup> event. (Rain date is June 12<sup>th</sup>.) The event will once again be hosting up to 600 athletes from 6 to 21 years of age.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET REPORT****Paula MacKinnon**

Superintendent MacKinnon presented a summary of the board's annual Special Education Funding. In addition, preliminary details were provided with respect to the new funding that the board will receive for 2018-2019.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT****Nikki Train & Kelly Irvine-Minor**

The committee was asked to review the Special Education Report and bring any comments, questions or concerns to June's meeting for discussion. The report will be updated prior to the end of the school year to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in July.

**ASSOCIATION REPORT****Nick Smith**

Nick delivered a brief report on Niagara Training and Employment Agency (NTEC) and Niagara Support Services (NSS), the organizations he represents on the committee.

**ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION****Niagara Support Services****Nick Smith**

No report

**OPC Representative: Secondary****Karen Ferguson**

Karen explained that secondary schools are in the midst of preparing timetables for students and completing staffing as they get ready to transition to the new school year in September.

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

The LD@School Conference will be held on August 21-22, 2018. In order to better manage registrations for fall programs, the applications will open May 28<sup>th</sup>. LDANR is preparing for two fundraising events this summer – Walk with Me for LD which takes place on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and a Golf Tournament which will happen on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Autism Niagara Chapter****Amy Dunn**

The annual chapter meeting will take place on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Christ Community Church from 7 to 9 p.m. The chapter is interested in recruiting new board members. Dr. Matthew Lerner will be speaking on interventions designed to address social challenges among school-aged children and youth with ASD. Thank you to DSBN for their overwhelming support in April for Raise the Flag Day.

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

No report

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

The board is working through the approval process with the Ministry in planning for the new West Niagara High School. Trustee Robinson congratulated Superintendent MacKinnon on her upcoming retirement in June 2018.

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

Elementary staff are working through the staffing process as they prepare for September 2018. Grade 3 and 6 students will be participating in the EQAO Assessment in the weeks to come.

**Special Education Consultant****Kelly Irvine-Minor**

Central Special Education staff are supporting students throughout the board as they transition from preschool to kindergarten as well as from grade eight to grade nine.

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

No report

**Assistant Student Achievement Leader: Special Education****Paulette Alcox**

Many pre-school transitions are taking place throughout the board that focus on students' environmental needs. Schools are being fitted for ramps, change tables, lowered railings etc., in order to accommodate students who will be starting in September. Special Education Staff are preparing a number of PA Day offerings for the May 18<sup>th</sup> PA Day. A morning of workshops are being led by board ABA facilitators, OT's and other special education staff.

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

No report

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

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services recently announced the appointment of Pathstone Mental Health as the lead agency for the Region of Niagara in Child and Youth Mental Health.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Morrice shared letters from the SEAC Committee for the Peel District School Board, the SEAC Committee of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board as well as a letter from the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions.

The meeting ended at 7:26 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS: Special Education Funding Presentation**

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby-Lincoln Room