



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 6:30 pm p.m. in the Father Burns csc Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

Vice Chair, Karen Murphy, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

- Opening Prayers were led by Vice Chair, Karen Murphy

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario		✓	
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Ted Nangle	Learning Disabilities Association - Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health		✓	
Pina Palombo	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)		✓	
Michael Jacques	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Lorraine Smith	Mainstream		✓	
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre	✓		
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet		✓	
Kathy Burtnik	* Board Trustee – St Catharines			✓
Rhianon Burkholder	* Board Trustee – Thorold/Merritton	✓		
Adeline Willett	* Student Senate Representative			✓
Adele Filice	* Vice Principal, Secondary Schools			✓

The following staff members were in attendance:

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education, **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education, **Chris Kerho**, Elementary Principal, *****Vincent Mancuso** - ABA and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Moved by Dorothy Harvey
- Seconded by Chris Kerho

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **October 2, 2019**.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

- No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of September 4, 2019

- Moved by Ted Nangle
- Seconded by Rhianon Burkholder

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **September 4, 2019** as presented.

CARRIED.

B. PRESENTATIONS

- Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Human Resources provided a briefing regarding the potential of job action imposed by CUPE members and the implications it may have on the schools.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Position of “Community Members” on SEAC

- Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education reviewed the role of Community Member on SEAC.
- We are seeking a SEAC representative for NCPIC. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 7, 2019.

2. Parent Outreach

2.1 SEAC Brochure

- We are changing some of the language for this. A copy is available on-line.
- A copy of the brochure entitled, “Special Education Programs, Services & Personnel” was distributed.
- All schools have included this brochure in their student registration package.
- Some of the highlights include “Early Identification”, the “Problem-Solving for Student Success” module, the “Guiding Principles” and the “Strategies to Meet Student Needs”.
- The brochure is a great reference for our newly registered Niagara Catholic students.

2.2 Parent Contact List

- Parents can check the Board's website for SEAC's mission statement.
- It also lists the SEAC Members (and their affiliation), Resource Personnel, Website Links, Guiding Principles of the Special Education Department, Programs and Services for Exceptional Students, Assistive Technology and Parent Resources.
- The SEAC Website is updated every school year.
- It was suggested that the Special Education Programs" brochure be added to the website.
- Rhianon Burkholder inquired about adding additional contact information. She suggested adding a "Contact List" as parents are always looking for community support. She thinks this would be a great way to help parents become aware of available agencies.
- Chris Kerho brought forth the importance of working more on independence.

3. Other Related Items

3.1 A review of the Goals and Vision for 2019-2020

- The group felt that the goals and vision are in place and therefore there was no need for further discussion.

3.2 Greater Essex County District School Board SEAC letter to Ministry

- No discussion and/or concerns. The letter was read at the September meeting.

3.3 Survey Samples

- Pat Rocca distributed two survey samples for the group in an effort to develop a SEAC survey to parents.
- Pat introduced Vince Mancuso, newly appointed Behaviour Resource Teacher (BRT) to the group. Vince elected to come to the meeting in order to observe the discussion and format.
- Rhiannon Burkholder inquired if a parent and/or individual completing the survey would be familiar with the abbreviations used in the survey, (i.e., ABA, ASD, IEP, etc.).
- Goals will be reviewed and digested at the next SEAC meeting.

3.4 Sheila Bennett

- Pat Rocca shared with the group that Sheila is available and interested in doing something to support parent outreach as well as the triad of home, school and parish, along with Terry Pauco (former Niagara Catholic Board employee).
- The group was informed that Sheila would require at least another month before she will be available to commit to this.

3.5 Accessibility Survey

- This was presented by Jim Di Goia, Coordinator – Special Education. He suggested that the Accessibility Survey be added to the SEAC portal.
- Back in May 2017, a memo was sent to the Director of Education to look at the development of this survey.
- Schools had a couple of options; one of the options was to complete the survey. Our Board chose to complete the survey with a completion date of June 7, 2017. All responses were forwarded to the Ministry of Education.
- Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education provided background information about the

Education Accessibility Standard Engagement survey. The government was committed to developing an accessibility standard for education, under the AODA. To support this goal the government was working to establish an Education Standard Development Committee in the fall of 2017. Prior to the establishment of this committee, they wanted to hear from the education sector. The SEAC members collectively completed the survey as a group.

- To date, there had not been any follow-up information provided by the Ministry of Education. Our Board has not obtained the results and/or the summary of the survey.
- A preliminary meeting was set for February 5, 2019. The format of the meeting was similar to an orientation meeting. Cathy McMullin, Applied Behaviour Analysis attended the meeting.
- Jim followed up with Cathy McMullin about the results of the survey. Unfortunately, there has been no subsequent follow-up regarding the results of the survey from either Niagara Catholic's Administration or the Accessibility Committee.

3.6 Student Support Department Intervention

- Pat Rocca shared with the group that there is a schedule in place for Behaviour Resource Teachers, Program Resource Teachers, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Special Needs Facilitators and Speech Language Pathologists for all of our schools.

3.7 Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Human Resources

- Frank also discussed the Ministry of Education's announcement that secondary class size would rise from an average of 22 to 28 students over 4 years.
- Frank emphasized that this did not mean that not every class size would exceed 28; it is based on an average.

4. Policy Review

- The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.
- In order to be considered, all submissions must identify the specify policy and the individual must include their name, phone number and affiliation with Niagara Catholic.
Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions would not be considered.
- It was also stressed that parents can submit suggestions, as this is not limited to SEAC members only.

D. SEAC REPORT

- Two publications were distributed, "Community Living, Ontario" and Community Living, Ontario – Update Friday". Both publications will be uploaded to the SEAC portal.

E. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Learning Disabilities Association, Niagara – Ted Nangle

- Fall programs began September 30th – this includes our new one-to-one math tutoring program, JUMP Math.
- Winter program applications open November 25th.
- October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month – for this, LDANR will be holding a social media contest on our Facebook page. We will be giving away four - \$25 Book Outlet gift cards.

2. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- Niagara Children's Centre is a rehabilitation (treatment) centre serving children and youth with physical, developmental and/or communicative delays or disabilities.
- Serves 12 municipalities of the Region of Niagara.
- Core services include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology and social work.
- Secondary services include medical clinics (neurodevelopmental pediatrics, physical medicine and complex care), specialty clinics (alternative and augmentative communication; seating and mobility), gait lab; resource consultants; recreation therapy; aquatics.
- Lead agency for regional preschool speech and language program
- In January 2019, Niagara Children's Centre assumed responsibility for School Based Rehabilitation Services.

3. Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy

- Their annual gala is being held on December 7th at Amici's Banquet Centre in Fonthill. This year's theme is "Snowflake Soirée". Tickets are \$65.00 per person and sponsorship packages are available. Everyone is welcome to attend. They are looking for donations. For more information, please contact chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com.

4. Community Living Welland Pelham – Michael Jacques

- Michael announced that he was recently appointed as Vice President on the Community Living Board of Directors.

Congratulations Michael! On behalf of the SEAC members, we wish you much success!

5. Elementary Principals – Chris Kerho

- Chris said that he has taken on additional duties since the "work-to-rule" campaign has launched. He said he is now responsible for "releasing" the lock on the front door that keeps the school secure. He has communicated to his school community via School Messenger that there may be a delay releasing/unlocking the door during the "work-to-rule" campaign. A sign was posted on the front door of the school to advise individual(s) wishing to seek entry to his school. Principals were requested to notify their Superintendent of Education which services were withdrawn by specific CUPE members on Fridays. This data is necessary in order to determine the type of impact the CUPE's "work-to-rule" campaign is causing students and the school community.

6. Staff Report – Jim Di Gioia

- Sept. 18, 2019: ERT Meeting: a collaborative ERT Meeting with Program & Innovation staff supporting capacity building around the PRIME Mathematics assessment tool.
- Oct. 2, 2019: In-service for new Educational Resource Teachers.
- Throughout the month: Behaviour Management Systems and Safe Management Crisis Intervention trainings scheduled.
- Oct. 30, 2019: part 2 of a collaborative ERT Meeting with Program & Innovation staff supporting capacity building around the PRIME Mathematics assessment tool.

F. TRUSTEE REPORT

- Rhianon Burkholder shared with the group that the Board Trustee recently went on a conference on unity and partnership. She emphasized that all Trustees are in agreement how the Board is managing things during the current labour negotiations.

G. STUDENT REPORT

- NIL Report.

H. NCPIC REPORT

- Karen Murphy motioned if any SEAC member would like to be a represent at the next NCPIC meeting.
- No names were put forth since we did not have a quorum that evening.
- Karen put forth that the group will look at nominations at the next meeting.

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

- No quorum that evening, therefore no motions were put forth.

J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS

- NIL Report.

K. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE.

L. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Karen Murphy
Seconded by Chris Kerho

THAT the **October 2, 2019** meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.
CARRIED.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.