

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

**BOARDROOM**

**6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

**Chairperson: Kelly Smigielski**

**Vice-chairperson: Maria Castiglione**

**TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE  
ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY SUSAN MARIUTTI, (705) 748-4861 ext. 227.**

### **A. Call to Order:**

1. Opening Prayer: Ruth
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
4. Excusal from Attendance  
R.A. That, \_\_\_\_\_, be excused from attendance at the February 16, 2017  
Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting (*A.5 attached*)
6. Business Arising from the Minutes

### **B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Remarks: Chairperson
2. Empower Presentation (*Karen Stoker, Special Education Consultant*)
3. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning*)
4. Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAaC) on SEAC Video Module # 2  
(*Diane Mather, Principal Section 23/System Support Special Education*)
  - a) Roles and Responsibilities
5. Renewed Math Strategy Journey (*Anne Marie Duncan, Superintendent of Learning/Special Education*)
6. Care and/or Treatment, Custodial and Correctional (CTCC) Program (formerly called  
Section 23 Program) (*Diane Mather, Principal Section 23/System Support Special Education*)

7. Be Well Strategy Renewal Consultation Input *(Information attached B.6)*  
Members are asked to please review and come prepared for a round table discussion.
8. SEAC Agencies Carousel April 11 - Discussion/Input
9. Report from SEAC members

**Maria Castiglione**

Community Representative

- Save the Date, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Speech Language & Hearing Association of Peterborough upcoming workshop. *(flyer attached)*

**Judy Burke Byrne**

Tri-County Community Support Services (TCCSS)

- TCCSS Behavioural Consultation Services and the ABA Program are working in collaboration with Point in Time and Kinark to provide a unique Parent Training and Respite Program to parents and children. The training takes place at the Kinark Outdoor Centre. Families are invited for 3 days and 2 nights to enjoy the Outdoor Centre. Kids enjoy fun outdoor activities while their parents participate in parent training modules taught by Behaviour Consultants. Respite is then provide to the child at the Outdoor Centre the following week for 3 days and 2 nights. This program will offer 5 sessions per year over the next 3 years. Funding for the program was made available through a Trillium Grant.
- The ABA Program in collaboration with Behavioural Consultation Services will be providing group training to youth using the PEERS social skill development program. This is an 8 week program which offers training to both youth and their parents.

**Shawna Belcourt**

Community Living Peterborough

- Community Living Peterborough is amalgamating with Community Living Central Highlands. The official date for this process is April 1, 2017 and the new organization will be called 'Community Living Trent Highlands'
- Conference for parents and caregivers "Planning for the Best Possible Life" hosted by Community Living will be held on March 25. *(Flyer attached)*

**Michelle Montague**

Kerry's Place Autism Services

- Training, workshops, groups, camps and group learning sessions information attached.

**Debra Beauchamp**

Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough (DSAP)

- DSAP Dreams Bowl-a-thon is February 18, 2017
- A member of DSAP will do the Pete's puck drop on March 2, 2017
- DSAP Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Cake Auction to be held March 18, 2017; donations of cakes for auction would be appreciated.
- Ontario Down Syndrome Day to be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Ontario Museum
- Annual "Golden Gala" is scheduled for April 7, 2017

**C. Information Items:**

1. Correspondence from Nipissing Parry Sound CDSB SEAC (*C.1 attached*)

**D. Old Business:**

**E. New Business:**

**F. Next Meeting:**

1. Thursday, March 9, 2017  
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre  
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items:
  - BEST Program Student follow up
  - Strategic Planning Activities
3. Selection of Member for Opening/Closing Prayer

**Future Meetings**

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Thursday, June 22, 2017

SEAC Agencies Carousal

**G. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Ruth
2. Adjournment.

# Ontario's Well-Being Strategy for Education

## Fact Sheet for Parents

**Well-being** is fundamental to overall student success. Students can't learn if they don't feel safe and welcome at school, if their mental health is at risk and if they don't have the tools or the motivation to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle, both inside and outside of school. Children and students who have strong relationships and a positive sense of self are most likely to reach their full potential.

There are four key components to the ministry's well-being strategy:

- **Positive Mental Health** involves helping school boards develop and implement mental health and addiction strategies and working with staff to support positive mental health for all students, including supporting those with mental health needs or addictions.
- **Safe and Accepting Schools** set out expectations for all school boards to provide safe, inclusive and accepting learning environments that support the achievement and well-being of every student. These expectations include addressing and preventing bullying and creating a positive school climate.
- **Healthy Schools** are key to establishing the learning conditions necessary to help students reach their full potential. With these conditions in place, students are more likely to adopt healthy, active habits and continue with them throughout their lives.
- **Equity and Inclusive Education** involves identifying and removing discriminatory biases and barriers in the system to support student achievement and well-being - by demonstrating respect for our diverse identities and strengths.





# What is Well-Being?

Well-being is a positive sense of self, spirit and belonging that we feel when our cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. Well-being in early years and school settings is about helping children and students become more resilient, so that they can make positive, healthy choices to support learning and achievement, now and in the future.

## What Makes up Well-Being?

The ministry is focusing on four domains of well-being, which include:

- **Cognitive** — the development of abilities and skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and the ability to be flexible and innovative.
- **Emotional** — the ability to learn about and experience emotions, and understand how to recognize, manage, and cope with them. It includes developing a sense of empathy, confidence, purpose and resilience.
- **Social** — the development of self-awareness, including the sense of belonging, collaboration, relationships with others, and communication skills.
- **Physical** — the growth and development of the body, affected by physical activity, sleep patterns, healthy eating and healthy life choices.



Promoting well-being is about fostering learning environments that encompass all four of these domains of well-being. Educators and staff who are motivated and enthusiastic about their work are an essential part of promoting well-being and achievement.

## Next Steps

We plan to work together with our education partners, such as school boards, to determine what well-being looks like, what is needed to support it and how best to measure it. We also want to learn from the good work that has already been done to promote well-being in Ontario's education system. By determining how best to measure well-being, we can also understand more clearly what is needed to create positive learning environments and focus on how this supports everything we do. It also allows us to figure out how to improve student well-being across the province.

In addition to our work with students in elementary and secondary schools, in the future we will also be expanding our focus to include children in the early years system, as well as educators and all staff.

Our goal is that all children, students and staff will feel supported in the areas of cognitive, emotional, social and physical well-being. We know that children and students will be more successful when they have a positive sense of self, spirit and belonging, and the skills to make positive choices.

Ontario is committed to helping students build the knowledge and skills associated with positive well-being, so they can become confident, capable and caring citizens.

Promoting well-being is one of the ministry's four goals outlined in *Achieving Excellence, Ontario's Renewed Vision for Education*. Learn more at [ontario.ca/eduvision](https://ontario.ca/eduvision)

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# Speech, Language and Hearing Association of Peterborough

## SAVE THE DATE!

**FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017**

**(8:30 am to 3:30 pm)**

The Speech Language and Hearing Association of Peterborough  
is pleased to announce an upcoming workshop:

### **Building Early Literacy in the Home and in Early Childhood Centres**

With Janice Greenberg, B.Sc., D.S.P.,

Reg. CASLPO, Speech-Language Pathologist,

Director of Early Childhood Education Services at The Hanen Centre.

Over 35 years of clinical experience working with preschoolers and their families and educators.

A co-author of

*Learning Language and Loving It™* (Weitzman and Greenberg, 2002),

*ABC and Beyond™: Building Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood Settings* (Weitzman and Greenberg, 2010)

*I'm Ready: How to Prepare Your Child for Reading Success* (Greenberg & Weitzman, 2014)

Participants will learn how to:

- Engage children in conversation during book reading
- Promote vocabulary development
- Support children's understanding of stories
- Encourage children to use language to think and learn
- Develop print knowledge
- Build phonological awareness

#### LOCATION

Calvary Pentecostal Church

1421 Lansdowne St W., Peterborough

***Registration will begin mid March 2017***

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# PETERBOROUGH FAMILIES ARE STRONG

## PLANNING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE LIFE

### A conference for parents and caregivers

There are many aspects to plan for, and with, your loved one who lives with an intellectual disability. Are you feeling tired and overwhelmed, unsure what's next, or just want to learn more about what to do and plan for?

No matter what age, in school or an adult, this day of learning plans to bring vision, inspiration and know-how, so you and yours can thrive into the best possible life.

**Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**9am — 3pm**

Registration opens at 8:30am

### A day for you...

- Hear practical inspiring information.
- Come away with a package with steps for planning no matter what age.
- Connect with other families in breakout sessions on topics important to you, build your support network, and more!

### At lunch...

- Gather information from community and agency displays, and meet students from Fleming College Developmental Services Worker Program as they showcase their micro presentations, filled with pertinent information for you.

### Cost

\$20 per person

\$30 for 2 from the same family

### Lunch

Included ~ YUM!

Catered by Fleming Food Services.

### Where

Fleming College, Brealey Campus

Main Entrance, Free Parking

### Do you need...

A subsidy? Transportation?

Childcare? Accessibility?

Call: 705-743-2412 ext 547

**Register TODAY!**

**Call:** 705-743-2412 ext 547 **-OR-**

**Email:** [kbrailey@communitylivingpeterborough.ca](mailto:kbrailey@communitylivingpeterborough.ca)

**Deadline:** March 10th, 2017

**Kerry's Place Autism Services is pleased to offer the following workshops, groups, trainings, camps and group learning sessions:**

**Workshops:**

**Teaching Understanding & Acceptance of an ASD Diagnosis February 17, 2017 - DURHAM**

Knowing you are different but not understanding why can create an enormous amount of stress on an individual. This workshop will examine the why, when and how individuals on the spectrum should be educated about their ASD diagnosis. We will also discuss self advocacy.

**Managing Asperger's Meltdowns March 8, 2017 9am-12pm HKPR**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS ONLY AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO CONFERENCE IN THE HKPR REGION. PLEASE EMAIL TONY GOUGEON AT [tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca). This interactive workshop will help participants to understand the most common causes and triggers of Meltdowns in children and young adults with Asperger's disorder. Prevention strategies and well as intervention strategies will be reviewed and discussed. The process of assessing and determining the meltdown cycles of individual children and creating suitable intervention plans will be discussed.

Note: ONLY AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO CONFERENCE IN HKPR REGION - register with [tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca)

**Sexuality, Relationships & ASD March 8, 2017 12:30-3:30pm HKPR**

This interactive workshop will help participants to understand to develop confident attitudes and be equipped with practical approaches for supporting children and young adults develop a healthy sexuality and relationships through childhood and into adulthood. THIS LIVE PRESENTATION WILL BE VIDEO BROADCAST FROM THIS LOCATION. PLEASE EMAIL TONY GOUGEON AT [tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca) TO REGISTER AT ANOTHER LOCATION.

Note: ONLY AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO CONFERENCE IN HKPR REGION - register with [tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:tgougeon@clhmidland.on.ca)

**ABA Strategies Parents Can Use at Home March 15, 2017 9am-3pm Durham**

This interactive and practical workshop will first review the most research supported ABA based approaches to early intervention (i.e. Pivotal Response Training – PRT, Natural Environment Training – NET, TEACCH, Classic ABA, ect). An in-depth review of how strategies and techniques from each of these approaches can be implemented by parents in the home will be provided. These ABA based techniques are powerful tools that parents can use to support their child's development both prior to, and during the provision of, complementary IBI services.

Note: Light refreshments will be provided.

**CHAP Support Worker Orientation March 25, April 22, May 27, June 17, 2017 9am-4pm Durham**

A mandatory orientation session for potential support workers joining the CHAP program worker bank. Families and their support workers are welcome to attend the orientation. The day includes an introduction to supporting families and their child who has a disability, an



introduction to understanding the meaning of respite, understanding and developing roles, language, community involvement, the support worker's roles and responsibilities with families and [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com). Please bring your own brown bag lunch and arrive at 8:45 as we will start promptly at 9:00

Note: TO REGISTER CONTACT JEANNE GODFREY VIA EMAIL AT: [jgodfrey@dafrs.com](mailto:jgodfrey@dafrs.com)

## **Camps:**

### **March Break Camp: March 13-17, 2017**

This is a 5 day camp full of fun farm activities, games and crafts.

Campers will need to provide their own lunch and snacks.

This camp is for children 8 – 12 years of age

1. Can travel from one place to another within the facility independently
2. Can recognize and communicate the need for help or assistance
3. Needs minimal support/help to meet their own needs
4. With reminders is able to demonstrate community safety skills and awareness of danger
5. Will remain with group (will not wander without notifying the group lead)

## **Groups:**

### **Parent Book Discussion Group February 28, 2017 5:30pm-7pm Durham**

This group discussion will focus on Bill Nason's book, "The Autism Discussion Page: On Anxiety, Behaviour, School, and Parenting". Attendees are encouraged to choose a topic to share from the book (available for purchase at Chapters or Amazon) or from Nason's Autism Discussion Page on Facebook. Please join us for a coffee or tea and an opportunity to discuss helpful strategies for support. This group is for parents and caregivers of individuals with ASD.

### **Adult Peers Support Group**

The ASD peer support group will provide adults with ASD the opportunity to talk about issues that concern them in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Possible topics may include: sharing ideas about how to deal with sensory issues, helpful ways of coping with anxiety and stress, being diagnosed (in your late teens or as an adult), and/or what it means to be an adult with ASD.

### **Skyzone Trampoline Group**

Need to get out and burn off some energy in a fun and healthy way? Then Skyzone is the place to do it! Skyzone is an indoor trampoline park where kids can safely have fun, get fit and make friends. Please see flyer for participant criteria.

## **Group Learning Sessions (GLS):**

### **Funding Options & Information February 8, 2017 6pm-8pm Durham**

This Group Learning Session will focus on a comprehensive overview of Autism related funding available in Ontario. Families can ask questions regarding differences in funding options, eligibility, etc. Note: This is for Parents/Guardians only. Childcare will not be provided  
Note: "This session is for parents/caregivers or adults with ASD only, no childcare will be provided".

### **Understanding Executive Functioning March 9, 2017 6:30pm-8:30pm HKPR**

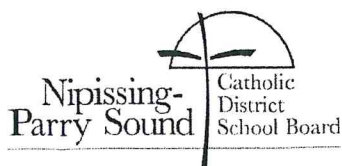
The ability to plan, organize, remember, initiate tasks, transition from one thing to another and manage our emotions are all related to EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS. (EF) In many people with ASD, Executive Functions are impaired. People with this neurological challenge are labeled as difficult, willful, stubborn, but don't believe it. Those with Executive Dysfunction have to work incredibly hard just to get through the day. This Group Learning session will discuss this neurological difference that can make managing school such a challenge for children with autism.

### **Intro. to Autism March 22, 2017 6pm-8pm Durham**

Want to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? Come to this informative presentation to learn the basics about Autism and how it is diagnosed within the new DSM-V criteria. Participants will learn more about common features of ASD including Social Communication, Restricted & Repetitive Behaviour, Sensory Differences, and more. A great first step in your journey to becoming an Autism 'expert'!

Note: "This session is for parents/caregivers or adults with ASD only, no childcare will be provided".

**Online registration:** <https://secure.kerrysplace.org/community>



1000 High Street  
North Bay, Ontario P1B 6S6  
Tel: 705.472.1201 • Fax: 705.472.0507  
Web Site: www.npsc.ca

December 23, 2016

Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Education  
22nd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

COPY

Dear Minister Hunter:

**RE: Special Education Funding Formula**

On behalf of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board and its Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), I am writing in support of the concerns identified by the Toronto Catholic District School Board's SEAC regarding overall reductions in the Special Education Funding formula, in particular, reductions to the Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA). These reductions to funding over time have had a drastic impact on our students with special education needs as we strive to support them to reach their full potential.

With the introduction of the new funding model in 2014-15 that replaced the HNA with the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA), there has been a reduction to our HNA grants each year of the four year phase-in. By the end of the phase-in, in 2017-2018, it is projected to total over \$500,000, representing a reduction of almost 20%. This reduction is having a tremendous impact on our ability to provide the full range of services for our students with special education needs. Although we have been able to access the Special Incident Portion (SIP) grant and use other sources of funding to provide services to students, the cost of providing these intensive supports, which are funded through the SIP, far exceed the SIP funding allocation. The overall impact is placing additional pressures on our system to fully meet the range of special education needs of our students.

Our board's percentage of students with special education needs receiving programs and services is currently 30% which far exceeds the provincial average of 17% (as reported through OnSIS for the 2014-2015 school year). Over the past several years, this percentage has been consistent in our Board, and is similar to other Boards in Northern Ontario. This, in addition to our geographic circumstances, puts our students at a further disadvantage, and efficiency of service is a challenge.

Providing a range of special education programs and services, regardless of identification, is in direct alignment with our Board's mission and vision to support all students to reach their full potential, experience a sense of well-being, and to grow spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. The overall reduction in the high needs portion of the Special Education grant our Board has experienced places a serious pressure on our ability to provide a full range of inclusive services to meet the complex needs of our students.

We respectfully request that the Ministry review the high needs (DSENA) portion of the Special Education funding calculation and reconsider the reductions to funding as a result.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara McCool".

Barbara McCool  
Chair

cc. ☒ Ontario District School Board SEACs  
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association