



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 10, 2008

St. Francis de Sales School, Smiths Falls

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario
James Borer, VOICE
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education
Dawn Fewer, Coordinator of Special Education
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Guests:

Stephen Zukowski, Teacher
Michael Millotte, Teacher
Derek Haime, Principal
Liam Merkley, Student
Alec Demidoff, Student
Tammy Demidoff, mom

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer

Students led us in prayer

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed the group

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Ruby Mekker

IV. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

V. Association Updates

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – requested information about the dedicated PD day in the next school year. Donaleen Hawes responded by indicating that the May PD day would be hosted by the Special Education Department. The focus was yet to be determined and SEAC was encouraged to contribute ideas.

Rose-Marie Martin requested information on the Board's involvement on Shared Solutions – Dispute Resolution. Several Board teams participated in sessions hosted by the Ministry of Education throughout the year.

Finally, Rose-Marie Martin requested that the Boards 2007-2008 action report on Character Development initiatives be provided to SEAC. A response to this will be tabled at a future meeting.

Christina Edge, Autism Ontario Guest speaker from Geneva Centre on Friday, June 27th

VI. Department Updates

Staffing has been given out to schools and principals have been reviewing as the special education team support the process in light of the needs of next year. Schools and consultants are greeting new families and helping with transition planning.

Education for All K-12 Resource Guide – With the high success of the Education for All K-6 document, the ministry is expanding this resource to all grades. All stakeholders were invited to a consultation session hosted by the Ministry of Education. Our Board sent a team of 13 people, including two SEAC members. The day was very informative, and we look forward to working with this new document.

SIP – Special Incident portion renewals – schools are gathering the data and consultants are applying for renewals of this grant. This is an important grant for our high needs students.

V11. Assistive Technology in Action – Students & Staff of St. Francis de Sales School

Student Demonstration: ELMO – St. Francis student, Liam Merkley, with the support of classroom teacher, Stephen Zukowski, demonstrated the use of a document reader called the ELMO. This is a fantastic tool which allows documents to be shared with large groups of students in a very visual, hands on, way. It records thinking and progress over time. This assistive technology has captured the attention of both students and teachers alike. Lessons have become more dynamic by offering colourful larger life experience. Many students with special needs respond very positively to learning when this tool is incorporated into the lesson. Various schools throughout our Board are beginning to use this piece of technology with positive results.

Kurzweil 3000: Michael Millotte presented the effectiveness of the coloured version of Kurzweil 3000. Kurzweil is a software program and is a scaffolded reading, writing, and study skills solution for struggling learners. The coloured version makes the text truly come alive, taking full advantage of the graphics and colours used by the publishers in various textbooks.

VIII. Report to the Ministry on Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2008 – Feedback and Recommendations

- SEAC host a parent night designed to increase knowledge on a variety of topics related to special education
- A glossary of terms to be included in the in the annual plan
- Fetal alcohol syndrome website be provided in future reports

The report was approved by the Board.

Motioned by: Sue Wilson

Seconded by: Christina Edge

IX. Correspondence Received

LDAO newsletter

X. Chair Updates

Sue Wilson shared the process of the Education for All consultation session which she attended. From May 14 to June 5th 1400 stakeholders were invited to give input into the new document. It is expected to be released in the Fall of 2008 and in print by early 2009.

XI. Good News Sharing and Presentations to Members

Members shared a variety of items

XII. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meetings

- Wednesday, September 3, 2008, at the Board Office, in Kemptville

XIII. Closing Prayer

Led by Brian Peters