



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 13, 2007

St. Mark Catholic School, Prescott

### Present:

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for  
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville  
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large  
Nancy Kirby, Trustee  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education  
Jane McMillan, Superintendent of Education  
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education  
Charlotte Rouleau, Principal of Curriculum  
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

#### **Regrets:**

Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator

#### **Guests:**

Kathy Laushway, Principal, St. Mark  
Dan Lesser, Vice Principal, St. Mark  
Paul Edge, Student, St. Joseph  
Jason Edge, Parent, St. Joseph  
Beatrice, Spanish Exchange Student  
David Connors, Parent, St. Mary-St. Cecilia

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

#### **I. Opening Prayer**

Brian Peters led us in a prayerful song entitled "Soldiers". The group offered special prayers for Robyn Fielding, a kindergarten student from St. Peter's School in Cornwall and RCMP Constable Doug Scott, whose funeral mass was held today in Brockville.

#### **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests to St. Mark Catholic School.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Christina Edge

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby

### **V. Celebration of our Gifts**

Paul Edge, a grade 8 pupil at St. Joseph School and a talented violinist presented two of his favourite tunes. SEAC members were impressed with Paul's enthusiasm, obvious talents, and sense of humour. Kathy Laushway, Principal of St. Mark/St. Joseph, thanked Paul and gave him a small gift from the school.

### **VI. Provincial Assessment Results May 2007 – Charlotte Rouleau, Principal of Curriculum**

Charlotte Rouleau's presentation outlined the Board results in reading, writing and math on last year's assessment of grade 3 and grade 6 students. Charlotte pointed out that the name of the assessment has changed to Primary and Junior Assessment to reflect that all teachers' in the primary and junior division are responsible for preparing students for the provincial assessment.

Charlotte pointed out that 28% of our board's students had IEP's (excluding gifted students). The good news is that many of the students, with appropriate accommodations, can meet with success on the Provincial Assessment. Charlotte broke the assessment results into exceptionalities and she showed that our CDSBEO students consistently scored higher than the provincial average.

Charlotte provided SEAC members with a handout identifying effective accommodation strategies. She ended her presentation identifying board wide strategies to enhance student learning (personalized and precise teaching strategies, focused job embedded professional learning, differentiation of instruction, etc.)

### **VII. Special Education Update – Judy Dallas and Brian Peters**

#### Differentiated Instruction Support Teacher In-Service

The Differentiated Instruction Support Teachers came together in late October for a fantastic day of sharing and professional development. Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau hosted the sessions. The focus was to learn a bit more about this new role and set some

goals for back at the schools. A pamphlet has been developed to support school teams as they implement STOMP and HAWK models in their schools.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Training for Teachers, SERTS, Educational Assistants & SSW's

Training opportunities in autism have been finalized as follows:

*November 23<sup>rd</sup>* – Training in ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) strategies for all educational assistants and SSW's;

*November 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>* - Training in ABA strategies for school teams including SERTS and teachers.

Brian shared the Ministry resource, "Effective Educational Practices for Students with ASD". SEAC members felt that all teachers with ASD children should have a copy. Brian agreed to research the cost.

OPA Training

Catherine Olmsted and Kara Casey continue to work with the grade 2 teachers and school teams from the phase 1 schools. The Speech and Language Pathologist will be consulting on cases where speech and/or language issues have been identified. They continue to fine tune the visual literacy portfolio. They will also be sharing the vision of this project with the special ed resource teachers at their next in-service.

## VIII. Association Updates

Christina Edge, Autism Ontario

Christina attended the Annual SEAC Meeting in Toronto. Speakers highlighted the importance of PPM140 and the challenge for boards to offer special education programs using ABA methodology and the important transition planning process.

Christina also noted that boards have been given funding for training for educational assistants, teachers and administrators.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

Suzanne will be attending an Integration Action for Inclusion "Putting Inclusion into Action" conference which will be held on Saturday, November 17 from 9:30am to 4:00pm at the Harbourfront Community Centre in Toronto. This conference is for people who care about inclusion in school and community. The guest speaker is Kathie Snow.

Also, schools are legally required to write transition plans for students aged 14 and over with disabilities. We need to aim higher for students' futures and to generate career development ideas. Perhaps we need to look at this further and to utilize Parent Engagement Funds & Strategies.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

The **IEP Collaborative Review** is complete and the board specific reports went out to Directors.

**SEAC** – We would like to see our Board's specific report sent to their Board of Education.

The Ministry has produced a provincial **IEP Template**, which will be offered, but not mandated.

**SEAC** – How is our Board planning to use the provincial template?

The Education Act, as amended by the Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007, requires school boards as of February 1, 2008, to provide programs for students on long-term suspensions and students who are expelled from all schools in the board.

In accordance with **Policy/Program Memorandum No. 142**, boards must establish programs that include the following elements:

- a planning meeting to determine the specific academic and non-academic program requirements
- a Student Action Plan (SAP) that outlines goals, objectives and learning expectations, including provision for a review of the student's progress with regard to his or her SAP
- a re-entry plan to assist with the student's transition back to school and integration in the school

In the case of students with special education needs, boards are required to provide appropriate support consistent with the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

**SEAC** – How is our Board's policy aligned with this memorandum? How can we as SEAC members be involved in this Board's planning of programs for students who are long term suspension or expelled?

The new **Provincial Parent Board** has been announced, and the applications are now available for the **Parents Reaching Out Grants**:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html)

Applications for school level and for regional/provincial level grants can be made online by October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**SEAC** – **Parents Reaching Out Grants** – I would like to table our SEAC to consider partnering with School Councils to educate parents on accessing special education services, or on the role of SEAC.

### **SEAC Training Opportunities**

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> Webcast Training Opportunity

To view the webcast for the next 30 days, go to <http://oafccd/canadacast.ca>

**SEAC** – I have attached a report submitted by Suzanne Whitney and myself on our training from the webcast and what we have to share with our SEAC.

Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> VOICE SEAC Workshop – 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Quality Inn, in Oakville. Free to VOICE SEAC reps and members, \$50 for non-VOICE members.

For more information and an application form – [www.voicefordeafkids.com/](http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/)

Ministry of Education SEAC Learning website – [www.seac-learning.ca/index2.htm](http://www.seac-learning.ca/index2.htm)

LDAO Online SEAC Training Course to begin in early November, 2007. This course was run as a successful pilot in the spring for LDAO SEAC reps, and the revamped version will be available to all SEAC reps and alternates. It runs for eight weeks, with small weekly assignments, an interactive bulletin board, and a final assignment to be submitted in order to receive a certificate of completion - \$75 for LDAO SEAC reps and alternates, \$150 for others. Details to follow.

SEAC – Would our Board be willing to fund this training for any SEAC member at this table who wishes to undertake any of these training sessions?

**PAAC on SEAC** has revised the attached calendar, which suggests topics to address at SEAC meetings for each month. Some topics are for every year, and some are particular to this school year.

SEAC – I have attached a copy of the PAAC Calendar to be distributed to all SEAC members.

## **IX. SEAC Webcast Training**

Dr. Hawes reported that she had received the written submissions on the SEAC Webcast held on September 15, 2007. Several other members indicated that they would provide written feedback for the next meeting. Information from the written submissions will be shared at the next SEAC meeting.

## **X. Bill 212 Safe Schools – Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education**

On November 2, 2007 the Ministry of Education presented Bill 212 to representatives of CDSBEO principals, representatives, teachers, trustees, parents and non-teaching reps. In her presentation, Donaleen gave an overview of changes to the Safe Schools legislation. Many board policies and procedures must be updated by February 2008 to address long term suspension and expulsion, anti-bullying programs, progressive discipline practices, and board code of conduct.

Dr. Hawes stressed that the board was at the beginning stages of the process and that all sectors of the board will be involved in the development process.

SEAC members asked many interesting questions and look forward to frequent updates over the next few months.

## **XI. Correspondence Received**

Outline of board Autism training sessions

Ministry Resource – Autism

Ministry Document – Dispute Resolutions

**XII. Good News Sharing**

With an excellent turnout to this meeting, there were many *Good News* stories/events to be shared.

**XIII. Upcoming SEAC Meeting**

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at the Kemptville Board Office.

**XIV. Closing Prayer**

The group joined in reading a closing reflection from Mother Teresa entitled, *Something Beautiful for God*.

**XV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Christina Edge  
Seconded by: Karen McAllister