



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING September 11, 2007 Board Office, Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education
Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant
Kara Casey, Psychological Associate
Catherine Lovelace, Psycho-Ed Consultant

Regrets:

Karen McAllister, Trustee
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario

Guests:

Tom Jordan, Principal of Religious Education
Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE
Rhonda Peterson, SSW, St. Joseph, Gananoque
Ruby Mekker, SERT, St. Mary, Chesterville
Patty Maddigan, 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 prayer to begin the school year.

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests to the Board Office, in Kemptville, and thanked everyone for coming.

III. Approval of Amended Agenda

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

IV. Approval of Amended Minutes

Amendment - Patty Maddigan was at the last meeting as a guest.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby

V. Association Updates

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

On April 25-27, 2008, Family Alliance Ontario will be holding a Conference in Eastern Ontario at the Glen House Resort, in Gananoque. Darcy Elks will be one of the keynote speakers helping families think about their vision for their sons or daughters. The purpose of the conference is to engage families and bring them together to network. More information will come.

SEAC Web Training Event being held on Saturday, September 15, 2007, by the Upper Canada District School Board.

VI. Special Education Department Updates

Autism Update – Ministry has issued a PPM 140 that asks Boards to incorporate ABA methods into Board practices for autistic students. The primary focus is on planning for transitions. Training sessions were offered to Principals and eight Board members in August. The next step is to develop a Board Plan which includes training for Educational Assistants.

Differentiated Instruction Teacher Support Roles – A D.I. Support Teacher role has been identified in each school and given .3 of their assignment to specifically support classroom teachers with the successful implementation of H.A.W.K. and S.T.O.M.P. The S.T.O.M.P. binder will soon be available to teachers and a launch is in the works.

Speech Language – We have two of our Speech Language Pathologists on maternity leave, and have yet to find replacements. That leaves us with 1.6 people to service our students. The focus for now will be on primary grades.

RedCat Infrared Soundfield Systems - 22 units have been purchased by the Special Education Department and will be given to various Grade 1 Teachers across the Board.

Smart Boards - With the recent wave of SEA claims, we were able to include the ordering of smart boards (12).

Peaceful Schools Initiative will be expanded in our Board

Roots of Empathy extended into the Eastern Region; nine Student Support Workers will be trained to support their schools on this worthwhile program.

OPA - Primary Assessment and Intervention Initiative presentation, by Kara Casey and Catherine Lovelace, was presented to Special Education Advisory Committee. Members requested copies of the presentation.

VII. IEP Review Results

Last spring a team was invited to the Ministry to attend an information session on IEP's. A school-based PLC strategy has been implemented by the Board to assist with addressing the IEP strengths and areas for improvement. Consultants are now going into schools meeting with families of schools. We will re-visit this topic in the future once the Board Team has had a chance to review the results and develop a plan for future direction.

VIII. New Business

SEAC Webcast Training event

IX. Correspondence Received

Nothing to report.

X. Topics for Future Meetings

- EQAO Results
- Mental Health Program offered at St. Mary School, in Chesterville
- Differentiated Instruction – Education for All
- IEP re-visited

XI. Good News Sharing

Members and guests shared "Good News" stories/events.

XII. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meeting

- Tuesday, October 9th, 2007, at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School, in Russell

XIII. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the “Board Prayer”.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby