



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 8, 2008 – Meeting #1  
Sacred Heart School, Cornwall

### Present:

#### **SEAC Members:**

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

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

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

#### **Regrets:**

Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant  
Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE  
James Borer, Parent

#### **Guests:**

Frances Spagnolo, Principal, Sacred Heart  
Nancy Kelly, SSW, Sacred Heart  
Stephanie Burke, Principal, Bishop Macdonell  
Pam Dunk, Board Crisis Worker  
Joe Sparling, Grandfather  
Diane Bartlett, Parent  
Christina Nichols, Parent  
Agnes McDonald  
Christina Van Putten  
Roxanne Westenbrock

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Song – “The Calling” (words and music by Jim Roberts)

## **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests to Sacred Heart School, in Cornwall.

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

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

## **V. New Special Education Advisory Committee Members – Nominations**

Sue Wilson explained the process for nominations.

Easter Seals Ontario has put forth Joe Sparling to be a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC) has put forth a recommendation that Christina Nichols represent the association.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby

VOICE has put forth a recommendation that James Borer stand for their association.

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Ruby Mekker

Motion will be brought forward to the Board for approval.

## **VI. Association Updates**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Rose-Marie Martin, on behalf of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario made a request for information regarding the Special Education budget. This information will be shared at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting in May, 2008.

Questions directed toward the OPA Student Assessment Project will be placed on a future agenda in which the OPA Project is tabled.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario has just received funding from the Ministry of Education for an IEP Resource Project for Parents and Students, which will ultimately result in the development of a web-based resource for parents and students about their consultative role in the development of Individual Education Plans (IEP). The project addresses the need to inform parents, guardians and students about their roles and responsibilities in the creation and implementation of IEP's for students with special education needs. The project will be completed by the end of March, 2009, and then the Ministry of Education will translate the materials into French.

A Resource Guide for Elementary Classroom Teachers (Kindergarten to Grade 3) is currently being developed and is expected to be distributed to all school boards in the Fall, 2008. At that time it will be shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee.

#### Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

##### **Community Inclusion Project**

Human Resources and Social Development Canada has agreed to fund for another year this program. It seeks to build on work already started across Canada to enhance inclusion in three major areas:

- education
- organizations
- communities

##### **Passport Mentoring Initiative**

This program currently involves eight (8) regions working with 104 students from 39 schools within 18 boards. It has 91 mentors with prospects of increasing that number. A review of the program by the Ministry will complete its first phase in early April, 2008. This program is a valuable tool in the process of transitioning students from school life to the world at large.

##### **Conference 2008**

##### **Theme – Citizenship – Define it! Desire it! Demand it!**

The keynote address will be delivered by Justin Trudeau. Session streams include Leadership and Culture, Recreation and Leisure, Living the Life, Education and Careers, A Pop Culture Look at Disability and Rights and Freedoms. It will inaugurate the first ever Community Living Ontario Innovation Awards. The conference takes place in Markham on June 11-13, 2008.

#### Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

##### **Workshop – Healthy Minds, Healthy Classrooms!**

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, 2008

Guest Speakers – Susan Hess, President of Parents for Children's Mental Health and Dr. Lynne Beale, Psychologist

### **Workshop Description**

- Anxiety and Depression
- Mental Health Issues in our Classroom Today
- Tourette's Syndrome
- A parent oversees the effect of Military Deployments on Children
- Managing Mental Health in Schools

### **Roles of Educational Assistants (EA's) –**

Parents of Integration Action for Inclusion are interested in acquiring information about the roles of Educational assistants. This information will be provided at the next SEAC meeting.

## **VII. Presentation – Virtues Project – Nancy Kelly, Student Support Worker Sacred Heart School, Cornwall**

This innovative project began last year at Sacred Heart School, in Cornwall. The values of our faith are promoted throughout the Virtues program. Nancy shared her vision of where she is going through the year in order to create her plan. The purpose is to help build character, create a school of caring and respect, and to foster faith development in our school. A primary resource was shared: **Virtues Project** – 52 virtues are featured with lesson plan support. Nancy described the process of how she works in collaboration with parents and teachers to promote virtues within the school on a monthly basis. She shared some of her strategies that she uses with her students and together all enjoyed listening to her obvious passion and successes.

## **VIII. Special Education Department Updates**

### STOMP and HAWK

**Professional Learning Team Meeting:** April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we held the 4<sup>th</sup> PLC in both regions of the board. Differentiated Instruction Support Teachers were invited to a day of professional learning. Many strategies were shared, and teachers had plenty of time to reflect on their practice and gain support from each other. There was a particular focus on assessment for learning, as we discussed the need to give students meaningful feedback that they can use to improve their own learning. We also had an opportunity for collaborative marking of student work, which resulted in rich discussion.

**School Embedded Professional Development:** Christine Campeau and Michael Gloccheskie have been supporting teams of teachers as they meet in schools to further implement STOMP and HAWK. Each school has identified a focus based on their specific needs, and with support of the Consultants, they are using a half-day to meet in teams. This gives the Differentiated Instruction Support Teacher an opportunity to discuss the many strategies that they are sharing in classrooms, as well as to plan the next steps with the team.

### Autism (PPM 140)

All Special Education Resource Teachers have been asked to attend a training session focused on Transitions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This is to help support the implementation of Policy Program Memorandum 140 from the Ministry of Education this year. The half day sessions are being held in families of schools. We have tapped the school support teams in CHEO and Pathways to help us provide the training. Schools are being given an excellent resource provided by CHEO to help with transition planning.

### Safe Schools

A Board team went to Toronto for a Safe Schools Symposium hosted by the Ministry of Education. Best practices were shared from Boards across Ontario. Restorative practices were a major focus and our team will be visiting schools in neighboring Boards to see these approaches in action.

Our Board Crisis Workers organized and delivered a training session on Bill 212 with all Student Support Workers. There was a focus on school based prevention and intervention programs to promote positive behaviour. Best practices were shared and highlighted amongst the team.

One of the sub-committees continues to work on developing resources to be used throughout the Board. Building Communities of Peace is a document that will provide support to parents, students, and staff as they work together to promote a positive school culture.

Dr. Hawes responded to the requests for sharing of information from the CODE project and OPA project by indicating that they will be reviewed during the next SEAC meeting when the annual review will be shared. Roles and responsibilities of Educational Assistants (EA's) will be provided in the next meeting.

## **IX. Chair Update**

Sue Wilson presented an invitation. The Prescott-Russell Services to Children and Adults and CTC Prescott-Russell are pleased to invite anyone to the official launch of its Communities That Care (CTC) initiative. CTC is based on prevention science research to promote youth development and prevent behavioural problems such as violence, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancies, dropping out of school and youth delinquency.

## **X. Good News Sharing**

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

## **XI. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meeting**

Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

**XII. Closing Prayer**

Brian Peters led the group in the Board Prayer.

**XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney