



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 25, 2006

Board Office, Cornwall

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for  
Inclusion Leeds & Grenville  
Gerry Samson, Trustee  
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA

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

Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education  
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator  
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

#### **Regrets:**

Denis Sabourin, Trustee  
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

#### **Guests:**

Ron Eamer, Board Chairperson  
Margaret Benke, Principal,  
Immaculate Conception Catholic School  
Natalie Cameron, Principal,  
Bishop Macdonell Catholic School  
Ruby Mekker, Teacher  
Charlene Rose, Parent  
Kathy Dore, Grandparent  
Patty Maddigan, Parent  
Sandra Howes, Parent

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

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

Tom Jordan led the group in a prayer to reflect the Feast of St. Mark.

#### **II. Welcome & Introductions**

Sue Wilson welcomed all S.E.A.C. members and guests to Cornwall and thanked everyone for coming.

Gerry Samson provided all members and guests with souvenirs from the City of Cornwall. All participants introduced themselves.

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

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney  
Seconded by: Gerry Samson

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

Suzanne Whitney asked for clarification about the Life Skills Inventory regarding the use of school teams and parental feedback.

Moved by: Gerry Samson  
Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

### **V. Association Updates**

Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario  
Nothing to report this month.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion, Leeds & Grenville  
Suzanne will be attending an Integration Action for Inclusion/Family Alliance of Ontario conference called, "Achieving True Inclusion: Living Outside the Box" which will take place on May 5-7, 2006, in Windsor.

Suzanne asked for clarification on the hiring/placement of Educational Assistants to assist special needs students. It was decided to hold these questions until the next S.E.A.C. meeting.

A copy of "Inclusion Matters" (a publication for advocates of inclusion) was shared. It is hoped that copies of this publication will be available for all S.E.A.C. members at the next meeting.

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living  
Nothing to report this month.

### **VI. Special Education Department Updates**

We hosted a HAWK Coach Reflection Day in Kemptville on March 29, 2006. Clips from the gathering were recorded to (hopefully) be integrated into the video we are working on.

Tom Jordan attended a Web Based Teaching Tool – Board Contact Meeting on April 10, 2006. The math screener has been piloted in a few Boards and will be reading for the fall of 2006.

The department hosted a Special Education Principals' Meeting on April 12, 2006, where we sought input from the principals in the areas of best practices, priorities for the future, and challenges.

We have been very busy working on plans for the next school year. The goal continues to be to maximize the level of support available for schools to continue to support initiatives that have proven to be successful (such as FROG and HAWK).

We have received information about various camp opportunities for Special Needs students over the summer. This information is shared with schools as it is received.

- Camp Kirk

Camp Kirk is a residential camp located near Kirkfield, Ontario, for children ages 6-13 with learning disabilities and/or ADHD. One of their main goals is to raise the self-esteem of these children. Further information can be obtained by calling (416) 782-3310, or by visiting their website at [www.campkirk.com](http://www.campkirk.com).

- Camp Towhee

Camp Towhee is a residential therapeutic program for children and adolescents with learning difficulties and related psychological difficulties. It is located near Haliburton, Ontario. The camp provides a three week program for campers ages 10-13, and another three week program for campers ages 12-18. You can receive additional information by contacting an Intake Worker at (416) 486-8055, ext. 233.

#### HAWK Project Update

- Paula Perrault provided an update of the ongoing HAWK (Higher Achievement in Writer's Knowledge) CODE project.
- The project is progressing well. The team at Holy Cross School along with our Junior Teacher Consultants (Christine Larue-Campeau and Michael Glofcheskie) are presenting at the Ministry of Education *Learn, Lead and Succeed – Celebrating Successful Practices in Eastern Ontario* Conference on May 11, 2006.
- Schools are now starting to see very promising results for all students (especially the special needs students) through the data they have been collecting, and are now starting to be analyzed.

#### **VII. New Business**

##### F.R.O.G. Program - Bishop Macdonell

Natalie Cameron (Principal, at Bishop Macdonell, in Cornwall) presented background, an overview, and an update of the FROG program (Facilitating Reading for Optimum Growth).

Natalie gave information and showed the binder that was prepared and shared with all the schools last year. Important points noted were:

- FROG is an approach to make sure that all students are learning, growing and reaching their greatest potential.
- FROG is a research based program for Grades 1-3.
- FROG is designed to maximize the use of our human resources.
- This program is a team effort (special education resource teacher, educational assistant, classroom teacher, trained parent volunteers) working with small groups in the classroom.
- Intensive instruction in the FROG group takes place four to five times per week at Bishop Macdonell. This varies at other schools based on the needs of the students.
- Memberships in the groups is not static .... always changing, always growing.
- The importance of a professional learning community approach is closely linked to FROG's success (staff members meeting regularly to collaboratively discuss challenges and make plans for increased student learning).

Natalie presented data (including EQAO data) which demonstrated the progress that the students at Bishop Macdonell have made with FROG (as one component of a balanced literacy program). She also highlighted the drop in school suspensions and bus suspensions since students have been experiencing more success.

Bishop Macdonell has created a Book Room where materials are leveled and easily accessible. Students, teachers and parents really love FROG and have seen the growth.

An open questions period then took place with the audience. Questions concerning the nature of the grouping of students were addressed.

Later the group watched the Bishop's DVD, Fly Faster – Soar Higher “School on the Rise”. Many positive comments were expressed about the video and the program.

Sue Wilson thanked Natalie Cameron on behalf of the group and the Board for her dynamic and enthusiastic presentation which reflected her continued commitment to special learners.

#### Feedback on Life Skills Inventory Update

- Sue Wilson did receive some feedback from Suzanne Whitney on the Life Skills Inventory handout that was presented at the last S.E.A.C. meeting.
- It was decided that since Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education, was not present at this meeting, that it would be best to table this item at the next S.E.A.C. meeting on May 9, 2006.

### **VIII. Correspondence Received**

Nothing to report.

**IX. Topic for Future Meeting**

- Gifted Website
- Multi-Exceptional Class Presentation
- Anti-Bullying Guideline Draft Policy

**X. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared many “GOOD NEWS” stories/events.

**XI. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meetings**

- Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at the Board Office, in Kemptville
- Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at Pope John Paul II, in Hammond
- Thursday, June 15, 2006, at St. Michael CHS, in Kemptville

**XII. Closing Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in the Board prayer.

**XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Gerry Samson

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney