



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 12, 2006

Board Office, Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds and Grenville
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Andrea Ross, Speech Language Pathologist
Sheri-Anne Taylor, Speech Language Pathologist

Regrets:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of
Education
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Guests:

Lynn Lalonde Villeneuve, (Chair) Catholic School
Council, St. Jude , Vankleek Hill
Irene Tweddle, Education Assistant (CUPE)
Ruby Mekker, Teacher, St. Mary, Chesterville
Patty Mattigan, Parent, St. Mary-St. Cecilia,
Morrisburg

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
All members introduced themselves.

1. Opening Prayer – Advent Wreath

Two candles on the Board Advent wreath were lit and Tom Jordan shared a Christmas reflection with the group.

II. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

III. Approval of Minutes

One correction to the November 14, 2006, Special Education Advisory Committee minutes was to include “for Inclusion” in Suzanne Whitney’s member identification. The corrected information should read; Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds and Grenville.

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Ann McGahey

IV. Speech & Language Presentation

Andrea Ross and Sheri-Anne Taylor, Speech-Language Pathologists, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, were introduced and welcomed. They noted that the Speech-Language profession is regulated, and that all Speech-Language Pathologists must be registered with the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Ontario.

A discussion of roles (Board support staff, school teams, home and community partners) and responsibilities took place. The three main functions of a Speech-Language Pathologist within the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario are:

- assessments
- consultation with parents and school teams
- referrals to and from outside agencies and partners

Andrea and Sheri-Anne shared a number of different testing materials used in the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, and discussed the uses and implications of the materials.

Sue Wilson thanked our guests for coming and sharing their valuable information with the group.

V. Association Updates

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds and Grenville

- Marilyn Dolmage has received a prestigious award from Inclusive Education Ontario for all her hard work and dedication.

Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario

Nothing to report at this time.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

- concerns regarding the IPRC process changes were discussed
- the Ministry's IEP review was discussed
- the need for a Board developed Informal Dispute Resolution Process was identified
- information regarding the Parent Reaching Out Grant websites were shared;
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/parentalinvolvement.pdf
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html
- a request was made for the October Report – Special Education exceptionality numbers and suspension data

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

The binder, “Kids Belong Together” was presented;

- excellent tool for School Boards and Community partners to use
- developed over a three year period by Community Living Ontario
- in the future, trainers will be working with Boards to study and implement

A valuable website was also shared – www.inclusiveeducation.ca

- this website contains information from the Canadian Association for Community Living, as well as updates from the Ontario Association for Community Living

VI. Special Education Department Update

Paula Perrault provided a STOMP (Successes Through Optimizing My Potential – Council of Directors' of Education Project) update.

- pilot phases have started
- eight coaches have been selected
- training has started
- our two teacher/consultants (Michael Glofcheskie and Gloria Stowell) are in coaches' classrooms now
- the pilot phase will run until the end of January, 2007
- the coaches will be working in their schools in February, March and April, 2007
- the Ministry of Education was at the Board Office on Thursday, December 7, 2006, to do a preliminary review with our team and a couple of the pilot schools
- Ministry feedback thus far, was positive

Our Section 23 Classroom, in Cornwall, is up and running. Currently, there are six students in the program. The class is housed in the old St. Columban's East Building. Our treatment partner is Laurencrest.

All of the October Report Special Education data has been submitted to the Ministry. This year, for the first time, the Ministry is gathering this data again in March and June.

The Special Education Department will be donating a quantity of new toys/gifts to needy families in the Cornwall area. Members of the team have picked names and are to buy a toy/gift that somehow reflects the personality of that person. The gifts are unwrapped at the team meeting next week and then donated to a worthwhile charity who will distribute them.

Special Education was prominent on the agenda for the Secondary Principal's meeting November 30, 2006. Our team led the Principals through discussions and activities surrounding ways to make the IEP's more accurate, user friendly and useful.

Despite some last minute stress due to a change in speaker, the Student Support Worker/Educational Assistant Central Professional Day (Progress Through Empowerment) was a great success. We have received numerous e-mails from staff thanking us for the day.

VII. Correspondence Received

We have received information regarding:

- School Violence Threat Management Workshop, in Toronto – March 30, 2007
- 3rd International Conference on Bullying, in Ottawa – April 2-4, 2007

VIII. Business

Feedback from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Workshop (November 14, 2006, St. John Bosco, in Brockville) was shared.

Sue Wilson informed the Special Education Advisory Committee of the new Trustees within the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario:

- Karen McAllister who represents Stormont and Dundas
- Todd Lalonde who represents Glengarry and Cornwall

The Special Education Transformation Initiatives – Information Packages were handed out at the last Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. Members of the committee felt that it was important that the following statement from the document be highlighted and recorded in the minutes, **“The Ministry is now reminding Boards that an IPRC is not required when both the school and the parents agree that the students be placed in a regular classroom. We believe that this reminder should allow a substantial reduction in the number of IPRC's.”**

Sue Wilson shared information regarding the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Parent Involvement Committee.

- five parents (representing elementary and secondary across our Board) are on the committee
- two Trustees are on the committee (Sue Wilson, Robin Reil), and as of January, 2007, Bill Gartland, Acting Director of Education
- the committee met on November 30, 2006
- each Catholic School Council received \$400.00 last year to involve parents
- this year, the Ministry has provided \$500.00 to each Catholic School Council
- money has to be spent by the end of August, 2007
- the Parent Involvement Committee is a sub-committee of the Catholic Education Coalition which meets three times a year
- the Parent Involvement Committee will report to the Catholic Education Coalition
- there will be a generic e-mail address accessible to all parents (coming soon)
- a discussion took place regarding whether or not parents of “special needs students” would have a voice on this committee
- Sue Wilson reminds everyone that the Special Education Advisory Committee is definitely the VOICE of the special education students and parents. The committee makes recommendations directly to the Board, and also has an annual report that is prepared and sent directly to the Ministry of Education
- where as, the Parent Involvement Committee is a sub-committee of the Catholic Education Coalition. They will only be meeting approximately four times a school year, unlike the Special Education Advisory Committee who meets 10 times a year
- it is Sue Wilson’s intention, as a member of the Parent Involvement Committee, to share information with the Special Education Advisory Committee
- the next meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee will be held in January, 2007, and one of the parents will be elected Chair

IX. Topics for Future Meetings

- Gifted Website
- Anti-Bullying Guideline Draft Policy
- Roots of Empathy (January)
- Transitions (March) – SOAR Program for Secondary Schools
- Transition to Adulthood
- Update – Psych Money Project (new)

X. Sharing – Special Christmas Message

Paula Perrault shared the storybook entitled, “The Spyglass” (complete with the beautiful illustrations on the screen) while members of the committee shared Christmas treats.

XI. Next S.E.A.C. Meeting – Tuesday, January 9th, 2007, Board Office, in Kemptville

XII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in the “Board Prayer”.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

We invite all parents and interested staff to attend SEAC meetings, and for SEAC members to bring guests to each meeting.

We are people of God Transforming the world!