



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 28, 2006

Board Office, Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion Leeds & Grenville
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Acting Principal of Special Education
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Denis Sabourin, Trustee
Gerry Samson, Trustee
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Guests:

Irene Tweddle, Education Assistant (CUPE)

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan opened the meeting with a prayer – “Carrying the Cross”

II. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen
Seconded by: Christina Edge

III. Approval of February Minutes

Revision to February 28, 2006 minutes by Suzanne Whitney:
Gerry Samson, Trustee, was present by teleconference.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney
Seconded by: Christina Edge

IV. Association Updates

Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario

Christina shared information about two upcoming conferences:

- **The Geneva Centre for Autism International Symposium**
 - October 25 – 27, 2006
 - Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Adolescence and Beyond**
 - April 24, 2006
 - 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., in Toronto

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion, Leeds & Grenville

Nothing to report this month.

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Fran shared a resource entitled **Kids Belong Together** which will be the focus of the association for the next three years. This resource is designed to promote inclusive education in Ontario. Fran provided all SEAC members with “Kids Belong Together” fridge magnets and pencils. More information can be obtained from the association website www.communityliving.ca. It is expected that all Trustees and the Special Education Department will be receiving a copy of this resource in the near future.

V. Special Education Department Updates

We had approximately 60 CDSBEO staff members attend Dr. Ross Greene’s presentation on Working with Oppositional, Defiant & Explosive Children and Adolescents on March 24th, 2006. Dr. Greene is the author of The Explosive Child. Our Board partnered with Leeds & Grenville Family and Children’s Services, Developmental Services of Leeds & Grenville, and the UCDSB to make this presentation possible.

Student Support Workers (in schools that offer Grade 7&8 in Leeds and Grenville) had the opportunity to attend the Healthy Relationships Curriculum – Train the Trainer In-service on March 22nd, 2006. This session was also open to partners from the UCDSB and other agencies.

We will be hosting a SSW In-service for SSW's in the Eastern region of our Board on April 7th, 2006.

The first Web Based Teaching Tool (WBTT) information session was held at the Cornwall Board Office on March 27th, 2006; and the second information session was held at the Smiths Falls Board Office on March 28th, 2006. Dianne Vandebossche (the WBTT Co-ordinator assigned to our Board) lead a group of interested administrators and teachers through a thorough information session about the WBTT.

Part III of the current ASD after-school workshops will take place at the Cornwall Board Office on March 28th, 2006, for elementary teachers in the Cornwall session; and at the Smiths Falls Board Office on March 29th, 2006, for elementary teachers in the Smiths Falls session. Part III for the secondary teachers in the Smiths Falls session will take place on April 4th, 2006, at the Smiths Falls Board Office.

CODE Project Update

Dr. Hawes, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the CODE project:

Phase 1 Coach Reflection Day will be on March 29th, 2006

- we will be looking at some hallmarks and key events
- we have developed a rubric for the coaches to use to gauge their own learning and the learning that they observe in the schools
- always keeping student success as the heart of the project
- this will provide us with some good feedback and help set some future direction for the project
- part of this day will be incorporated into the DVD which will be shared in the future
- we continue to be very excited about this initiative

Learning to 18 Initiative

Dr. Hawes distributed a Quick Fact sheet – “What Is New?” (which came from the Ministry website.

- we can now count two Co-op credits towards the 18 compulsory credits needed for a high school diploma
- more flexibility for students has been introduced which can help increase the pathways for all students
- more information can be obtained from the Ministry website www.edu.gov.on.ca

Parent Involvement Committee

Dr. Hawes provided an overview of this initiative.

- Ontario Parent Policy was received on March 3rd, 2006 (new to all Boards)
- Paul Lattanzio, Superintendent of Education, will be examining this issue and policy more closely

- the Ministry will be selecting members to serve on the provincial board
- the Ministry is saying that they will be investing \$5.2 million dollars (new money) annually to support this initiative (few details surrounding this money exist at this point)
- this is often reported as \$500 per school in the media, but this is not how it is actually handed out
- Boards are expected to review what best practices are already in place (e.g., The Catholic Education Coalition and School Council Partner's Meetings in our Board) and are to be looking for ways to expand

Provincial Anti-Bullying Initiatives

Dr. Hawes provided an update on this new initiative.

- the Provincial Memorandum on Bullying was received by the Board in March, 2006
- there will be a School Committee and a Board Committee
- the Elementary School Committees will be made up of mostly parents; and the Secondary School Committees will be made up of mostly students
- "Shaping Safer Schools – An Anti-Bullying Action Plan" is available on the Ministry website
- we will be receiving future updates

Autism Spectrum Disorder School Support Program Update

Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator, provided an update on the ASD program.

- the Ministry identified lead agencies across the province
- our Board is served by CHEO and Pathways
- the goal is to work with school staff to build capacity in meeting the needs of the students
- we are impressed with the expertise that the consultants bring to our system, and we are very happy with how flexible the consultants have been in working with us
- the ASD consultants have been involved in workshops, summer institutes and specific case by case training

CDSBEO - Life Skills Inventory Update

Dr. Hawes and Paula Perrault led us through a presentation on the new Life Skills Inventory that CDSBEO has produced.

- this document is now in print and available to all of our school teams
- parental feedback was incorporated into the development of this tool
- skills that the child has mastered are recorded on the inventory, this will help set direction if there is an area of difficulty
- the inventory will be used in conjunction with an IEP and will be shared with parents
- recognized that the Life Skills Inventory will be useful in transition planning
- the tool is designed for elementary and secondary students and will serve as a guide to help parents and educators map out an action plan (individual needs and differences will ultimately dictate what the appropriate goals are)

VI. New Business

PAAC Calendar Discussion

- there was discussion concerning a question that was raised at the last meeting about the PAAC Calendar that Rose-Marie Martin shared: “Do we use this as a calendar or a guide?”
- members felt that it should be used as a guide or we will lose our local flexibility (i.e., members may want information about a topic of interest that is only relevant to a certain area – may not fit into the PACC Calendar schedule)
- consensus reached that it will be useful as a **Guide**

VII. Correspondence Received

Sue Wilson distributed copies of the following:

- Grid Line Newsletter – January/February (published by the Southeastern Ontario Community – University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities)
- CDSBEO letter to Minister Kennedy supporting the position of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
- Support Services available to schools and families in the Leeds and Grenville area

VIII. Topic for Future Meeting

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

IX. Good News Sharing

Members shared a number of “GOOD NEWS” items around the table.

X. Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 25th, 2006, at the Cornwall Board Office

XI. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in the Board prayer.

XII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney
Seconded by: Christina Edge