



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2006

Pope John Paul II, Hammond

### Present:

#### **SEAC Members:**

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

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

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education  
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education  
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant  
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

### **Regrets:**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario  
  
Denis Sabourin, Trustee  
  
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario  
  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

### **Guests:**

Michael Crossan, Principal, Pope John Paul II  
Eva McHenry, Vice Principal, St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School  
Sergio Coccia, Principal, St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School  
Judith Boucher, Principal, St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School  
Dorothy Ouimet, Parent, Pope John Paul II and St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School  
Irene Tweddle, Educational Assistant (CUPE)

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

Sue asked us to keep in mind the student from Sacred Heart, Lanark, who was seriously injured in an ATV accident last week and had to be airlifted to CHEO. Paula Perrault provided a good news update in that she was speaking with the student's father and she was improving.

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in "A Psalm for Continuing Eastertime" and a reading from the Gospel of John.

## **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Sue Wilson welcomed all S.E.A.C. members and guests to Pope John Paul II and thanked everyone for coming.

## **III. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Gerry Samson  
Seconded by: Ann McGahey

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Gerry Samson  
Seconded by: Ann McGahey

## **V. Association Updates**

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action Leeds & Grenville  
Nothing to report.

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

- The Holy Cross HAWK Team along with Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau (our Junior Teacher Consultants) presented at the Provincial Secretariat on Literacy and Numeracy Symposium, on May 10, 2006, in Ottawa.
- Ministry was in to review the CODE project last week. This review involved interviews of the Holy Cross and Our Lady of Good Counsel teams. Our project will be shared (along with the projects of other Boards) at a Provincial Conference, on June 2, 2006, in Toronto.
- Non Violent Crisis Intervention training sessions took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Smiths Falls, and May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Cornwall. We have at least two more sessions planned; June 14<sup>th</sup> in Smiths Falls, and June 15<sup>th</sup> in Cornwall.

## **VII. New Business**

Paula Perrault shared a section of the Annual Report on the acquisition of adaptive equipment for special needs students (XIV – Equipment Section – Annual Report).

A question was raised about whether or not the Board planned on purchasing more radium soundfield systems this school year. Last year we did purchase one system for every school. Some schools have opted to purchase another system through their own funds. The department does not have plans to make another large purchase of these systems at this time.

A question was raised about whether the equipment is based on the needs of the school, or individual students. The information presented listed ISA 1 equipment acquisitions, which is personalized to the needs of individual students. If a student leaves their existing school, this equipment would follow them to their new school.

A concern was raised about whether or not John Adams should remain on the list, as the VOICE representative. Mr. Adams' occupation has taken him overseas for this school year therefore, not be able to attend any SEAC meetings. A letter has been written to VOICE inviting them to replace Mr. Adams or appoint an alternate. No response has been received regarding this letter.

Dr. Hawes gave an overview of the Annual Report process for the benefit of the guests who might not be familiar with the report, or the process.

Paula Perrault reminded the members that the Annual Report this year will be a condensed version compared to last year. This year it will only contain sections that have changed from the 2005-06 Annual Report to the Ministry.

Dr. Hawes opened the floor to all guests to raise any questions they might have concerning any issues that pertained to this region of the Board;

- a concern was raised about the confusion a parent of a special needs student experiences finding out what services exist, and what is appropriate to meet the needs of one's child.
- accessing services in Prescott-Russell is a concern.
- it was suggested that a questionnaire might be useful to parents to see what information people are concerned about.
- Community Living of Prescott-Russell was mentioned as a valuable resource that might be willing to come in and do a presentation for parents.
- a discussion took place concerning the CDSBEO Parent Guide where the associations have had the opportunity to submit information and important contact numbers.
- the value of the CDSBEO Annual Report to the Ministry was highlighted in terms of contacts, SEAC, and important departmental information.
- the difficulty we face is that the CDSBEO serves eight counties and services vary greatly from one region to another.
- it was suggested that we continue to publish, share valuable websites and contact information through Catholic Parent Councils and school newsletters.
- concern was raised about the lack of speech therapy for kindergarten students (under the age of 6) in Prescott-Russell; one of the therapists with the Health Unit is

presently on maternity leave and the Health Unit has not been able to find a replacement.

- a discussion took place about the fact that speech language services are an inter-ministerial agreement which means that we work with our partners to meet the needs of the child as best we can.
- Dr. Hawes was able to report that CDSBEO has recently hired a new Speech Language Pathologist for the 2006-07 school year. We are very pleased and excited about this addition to our team.

**Motion** = Recommendation that we petition the Ministry of Health and Education to fund and expand the training programs and provision of services for Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists.

Moved by: Gerry Samson  
Seconded by: Ann McGahey

**Recommendation for Annual Report** = All students in the province should have equal opportunity to access services regardless of where a family chooses to live in the province.

- a discussion took place around the minutes from MACSI (Minister's Advisory Council in Special Education) and how they are distributed. Dr. Hawes explained the process and offered to share her copies of the minutes.

**Recommendation for Annual Report** = That the minutes from MACSI are accessible to our SEAC.

- Trustee Samson invited input from the Principals.
  - a concern was raised about how difficult it can be for a parent/school administrator to help families access services.
  - the ability for older students to access existing services is a frustration (eg. students who are over 16 years of age can't access some services).

**Recommendation for Annual Report** = That services to students and their families are available until the students finish their schooling and not end at an arbitrary age such as sixteen.

**Recommendation for Annual Report** = That SEAC minutes are posted and SEAC meeting dates are included in school newsletter/calendar. That the first newsletter of every school include an insert about SEAC and information around how parents can access the CDSBEO Parental Guide to Special Education.

- a discussion took place on the importance of continuing to promote and sing the praises of our Catholic schools in Prescott-Russell.

### **VIII. Correspondence Received**

Sue Wilson shared some very nice prayers that she had received from one of our CDSBEO Faith Ambassadors; Maureen Smith, St. Georges.

### **IX. Topics for Future Meetings**

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

### **X. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared “Good News” stories/events.

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

- Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at the Board Office, in Kemptville

### **XII. Closing Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in the Board Prayer.

Sue thanked all of the participants for attending the meeting and for providing valuable input.

Sue Wilson thanked Eva McHenry for all her years of hard work and dedication that she has given to St. Francis Xavier CHS, and congratulated her on her appointment to Mother Teresa in the fall.

### **XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney  
Seconded by: Ann McGahey

