



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 27, 2008

Board Office, in Kemptville

### Present:

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children of Ontario  
James Borer, VOICE  
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – 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  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant  
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

#### **Regrets:**

Nancy Kirby, Trustee  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for  
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville  
Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE

#### **Guests:**

David Connors, Parent

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Judy Dallas led us in a prayer celebration, “Month of Mary”.

#### **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests to the Board Office, in Kemptville.

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

Moved by: Christina Edge  
Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

### **IV. Approval of Minutes – Meeting #1**

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen  
Seconded by: Christina Edge

### **Approval of Minutes – Meeting #2**

Moved by: Christina Edge  
Seconded by: Karen McAllister

### **V. Welcome New Members**

Sue Wilson welcomed the new members which were approved at the last Board meeting;

- Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
- James Borer, VOICE
- Joe Sparling, Easter Seals - Ontario

### **VI. Association Updates**

#### Christina Edge, Autism Ontario

On August 18-22, 2008, the Geneva Centre will be providing training at six locations throughout the province. The location for our Board is Ottawa.

On June 27, 2008, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., there will be a workshop on Transitions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provided by the Geneva Centre at the McIntosh Inn, in Morrisburg.

#### Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Fran shared a media release by Saskatchewan Association for Community Living concerning “Section 178 of Bill 29”.

To read Bill 29, Section 178, follow this link:

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/bills/PDFs/Bill-29.pdf>

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

On April 25-26, 2008, a Family Gathering was held in Gananogue, “Creating a Vision for the Future”. Darcy Elks led families to reflect about vision. This was well attended and received.

On April 30, 2008, Suzanne Whitney attended an Education Conference which was held at Yorkdale Holiday Inn, in Toronto. “Key Elements to Building Inclusive Communities” was presented by Michelle Dagnino. Michelle is the Executive Director of Youth Action Network and works with youths at risk. She talked about inclusion as more than a set of strategies or practices. It is an educational orientation that embraces differences and values the uniqueness that each learner brings in the classroom.

Upcoming Events:

- **Building Successful Inclusive Schools through Innovative Thinking – 3 Keys to Successful Inclusion: Innovation-Support-Conflict Resolution**, Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Markham Hilton Suites  
**Register online at:** [www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)
- Brockville & District Association for Community Involvement Annual General Meeting will be held June 10, 2008, at the Brockville Country Club.  
**Guest Speaker** - David Coombs, Principal of BCI, in Brockville
- June 21-22, 2008, workshop on “**Inclusion Works**” held by Darcy Elks for the Durham Family Network.
- **Defining a Rights Based Framework Advancing Inclusion of Students with Disabilities**, September 25-27, 2008, at the Renaissance Toronto Airport Hotel.  
**Register online at:** [FallForum2008@gmail.com](mailto:FallForum2008@gmail.com)

Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Christina shared a brief history of the various courses offered by the Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC) in the Ottawa region. The next sessions will begin in October, 2008, with registration in September. Information was shared about the gifted programs offered by the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

June 21, 2008, there is a book launch “Beyond the Ordinary” a compilation of eight young authors compiled by Jane Hill – [www.abcontario.ca](http://www.abcontario.ca).

Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

Easter Seals provides families with handicapped children a helping hand by providing financial help along with Camp Merrywood which provides much needed leveling of the playing field for these special needs children. During the winter months, Easter Seals provides for these special children support to enable them to take an active part in schools programs through providing financial aide for wheel-chairs, ramps, lifts for the home and other necessary items; and the ensuring of the proper projects through the Special Education Advisory Committee in cooperation with the School Board. Presently, Easter Seals is running a golf tournament to raise money.

Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large

Ruby shared information about a conference she attended, “**Healthy Minds, Healthy Classrooms!**” – April 25-26, 2008. The conference included several presentations: Anxiety and Depression, Mental Health Issues in our Classrooms Today, Tourette’s Syndrome is More than Just a Tic, and Managing Mental Health in Schools.

One book series was suggested: **“When Something is Wrong – Ideas for Teachers, Ideas for Families”** – written by the Canadian Psychiatric Resource Foundation. You can order this online at [www.cprf.ca](http://www.cprf.ca)

## **VII. Special Education Department Updates**

**CODE Update** – our last Professional Learning Community meeting was held this month and the focus was assessment for learning. Teachers shared strategies that were being used effectively in classrooms and there was a lot of opportunity for further learning and discussion.

On April 22, 2008, the Ministry visited our Board to get an update on the CODE projects featuring HAWK and STOMP. They were able to visit a classroom at Sacred Heart School, in Cornwall, and see a classroom in action. The meeting was very positive, and together we celebrated the many successes we have had over the last three years.

**Autism – PPM 140 Update** – May 9, 2008, was the second day of training from the Geneva Centre for all Educational Assistants (EA’s) and Student Support Workers (SSW’s) in our system. Staff could choose to receive a Certificate of Participation or a Certification of Achievement.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) – Families of Schools met throughout the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. Our Autism Spectrum Disorder partners, Pathways and CHEO, led the workshops with a focus on transition planning.

**Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Project** – the report to the Ministry was shared. Dr. Hawes’ shared a sample of the Visual Assessment Portfolio with the Special Education Advisory Committee members.

## **VIII. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June, 2008**

This report was shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee members. The focus was on special education funding and proposed staff allocations. Members were asked to review the report and offer input for the next meeting.

## **IX. Correspondence Received**

No items received.

## **X. Chair Updates**

Sue Wilson shared information about a telethon for the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) to be held the first weekend of June, 2008.

Livie's Loonies – Sue shared a sample of the fundraising package from Iona Academy. Everyone is encouraged to support this very beneficial fundraiser.

Sue will be attending the Education for All meeting on May 30, 2008.

**XI. Good News Sharing**

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

**XII. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meeting**

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at St. Francis de Sales School, in Smiths Falls

**XIII. Closing Prayer**

Brian Peters shared a celebration of learning, “Exceptional Art from Exceptional Learners”.

**XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen