



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 22, 2005

St. Mary School, Chesterville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action Leeds & Grenville
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living
Gerry Samson, Trustee

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Acting Principal of Special Education
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
John Adams, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Denis Sabourin, Trustee
Paula Perrault, Coordination of Special Education

Guests:

Ruby Mekker, Teacher
Christine Campeau, Junior Teacher Consultant
Michael Glofcheskie, Junior Teacher Consultant
Robert Hannigan, Principal, St. Mary's, Chesterville
Patti Madigan, Parent
Mary Lynn Plummer, Parent
Mrs. Kirkwood, Parent

Meeting Called to Order

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

I. Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney
Seconded by: Christina Edge

III. Minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting of the S.E.A.C. were approved.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney
Seconded by: Christina Edge

IV. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living presented a notice from the Municipality of North Grenville regarding a presentation by artist, Alan Shane. A disabled person, Alan Shane uses his own life experiences and struggles to create and celebrate differences in people. The municipality was looking for a partner for sharing the cost in bringing this performance to North Grenville.

Fran also announced that Community Living Ontario would be holding a Federation Day in Kingston on Saturday, December 3, 2005. This Regional Meeting would replace the former Provincial Conference. Items on the agenda include Education, MCSS Transformation, Closure of Institutions and Fair Wages.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action Leeds & Grenville briefly described a workshop on Sibling Rivalry that was recently held in Brockville. The session was well attended and provided for an open discussion on the issue. Suzanne also announced that she would be attending the Federation Day to be held in Kingston.

Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario announced that A.S.O. has sent copies of the Autism Society Quarterly to every school in the Province. This recent edition highlights several articles related to education.

Christina also shared a Needs Analysis Survey that was sent to Secondary Schools in the Province. The purpose of the survey is to gather information on transitions services for students with A.S.O. in the Secondary Schools.

V. Special Education Department Updates

A number of male staff members (including Superintendents Paul Lattanzio and Bill Gartland) attended the Man to Men Conference Breakfast on Monday, October 31st. They had about 40 students from St. Michael and St. Mary attending the day long session that followed. Feedback received from the event was that the day was a very positive experience.

Part III of the ongoing ASD After School workshops will take place on Monday, December 5th at St. Mary in Carleton Place and Tuesday, December 6th at St. Mary's in Chesterville.

Departmental staff has been very busy completing the Net New Needs claim to the Ministry and gathering of data through the October Report process. Accurate results from these two initiatives is critical because it will help us to continue to provide the supports that schools require in order to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students.

We hosted a workshop on a program called Multiple Intelligences Lead (Gr. 7-12) on Friday, November 4th (a.m. for Administrators and p.m. for SERTs and Lead Teachers). As a result of the enthusiasm that was generated by this workshop, we are in the process of planning a second half day session with the creators (Clare Mahon and Teresa Ciancio) that will target specific schools that are ready, willing and able to move forward in implementing the program. We are still working on a date to bring our guests back.

Tom Jordan attended the Web Based Teaching Tool Board Contact Meeting on November 7, 2005. The day was well worth attending. The Board is in the process of finalizing plans with the SEBT Coordinator. Two after school information sessions for all JK teachers and their Administrators will be offered. Later, a one day more intensive training session, will be held for schools that are willing to pilot the use of the tool in their JK classes.

We will be offering a half-day workshop for our EAs and SSWs (in four locations) on the morning of Friday, November 25, 2005. These sessions will be offered in conjunction with our ASD partners who will be the lead facilitators. The topic will be on developing social skills in the special learner.

Our Junior SERTs have been invited to join Junior teachers from their school to a Ministry sponsored writing workshop. Trained Board personnel (from the Special Education and Curriculum departments) will be offering the workshops in both Smiths Falls and Cornwall (training began yesterday in Smiths Falls and will be held in Cornwall during the first week of December).

VI. C.O.D.E. Proposal Update – “Hawk”

Junior Teacher Consultants Christine Campeau and Michael Glofcheskie were introduced and proceeded to provide an overview of the Hawk Program (Higher Achievement in Writer’s Knowhow).

This program is a collaborative effort between the Special Education, Religion and Curriculum Departments. Focus of the program is to consolidate the writing skills of junior aged students (grades 4,5,6) by providing differentiated instruction through flexible, cross level groupings. The students get regular feedback and this progress is constantly monitored. With inclusive instruction, communication and sharing, the students are better prepared to take risks in their writing.

VII. New Business

Sue Wilson spoke briefly about a report on School Bus Air Pollution and Improving Children’s Health. She encouraged the members to read the report and take notice of the recommendations that emphasize better quality air pollution control.

She also highlighted the Ministry's "Stamping Out Bullying" initiative. It is a comprehensive bullying prevention strategy to reduce incidents and change attitudes toward bullying. Schools will be provided with training and resources to help in implementing the program.

Copies of the report and recommendations can be found on the Ministry Website.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- Anti-Bullying Policy

IX. Good News Sharing

All members shared personal highlights and stories of student successes in the community.

Parents also shared their appreciation for all the support that they and their children have received through the hard work and effort put forth by the teachers and staff in Special Education.

Sue ended the meeting by thanking Robert Hannigan and the staff at St. Mary's for allowing the SEAC to come to their school and hosting the meeting.

X. Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at the Kemptville Board Office.

XII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in prayer.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Gerry Samson

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney