



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 14, 2006

St. John Bosco School, Brockville

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action of Leeds  
and Grenville  
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario  
Gerry Samson, Trustee

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

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

### **Regrets:**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education

### **Guests:**

Sue Shannon, Program Resource Teacher –  
Community Liaison, UCDSB  
Irene Tweddle, Education Assistant (CUPE)  
Ruby Mekker, Teacher, St. Mary, Chesterville  
Robin Reil, Trustee  
Sylvia Shackles, Principal, St. John Bosco School  
Dan Lesser, Vice Principal, St. John Bosco School  
Rhonda Peterson, SSW (CUPE)  
Dianne Samson, Parent  
Pat Cook, Parent

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

Sue also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder workshop.

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Paula Perrault led the group in an “Opening Prayer”.

Motion put forward to accept the regrets as listed; Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living, and Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education.

Moved by: Gerry Samson

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

Amendment to agenda, add the following items to Correspondence Received:

- Draft Community Guidelines for Public Consultation
- Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Christina Edge

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Gerry Samson

Seconded by: Ann McGahey

## **IV. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

Sue Shannon, Program Resource Teacher – Community Liaison, Upper Canada District School Board, gave a brief overview of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

A few key points:

- only preventable syndrome
- Sandy's Law, passed by the Ontario Government, stipulates that any establishment that sells or serves alcohol must display a sign warning of the hazards of drinking during pregnancy.
- prevalence is 1-6 in 1,000 births
- estimated lifetime cost is \$1,000,000/individual
- one occasion of "social drinking" (4-5 drinks) during pregnancy can cause permanent brain damage
- Alberta Study screened all children who were in care; 50% were identified as having Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The number has rose to 70% of children in Permanent care.

Sue also identified the statistics on secondary deficits or difficulties;

- 75% will have mental health issues
- 60% will have trouble with the law
- 65% will be confined in prison, treatment center or institution
- 60% display inappropriate sexual behaviour

- 65% will have drug or alcohol difficulties

Sue shared some key resources. Many can be borrowed from the Special Education Department.

- Damaged Angels
- TIPS – Thoughts, Ideas, Practices and Strategies
- Programming for Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Worth the Trip (video)

## V. Association Updates

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

- Siblings Workshop will be offered again this year. Currently in the planning stage.

### Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario

- September 20 & 21, 2006, 12 experts from the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders met on the invitation of the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Children and Youth Services. The purpose of this reference group is to advise the two Ministers on effective evidence-based educational practices to meet the wide range of needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Autism Ontario held its annual Special Education Advisory Committee representatives training event on November 3 & 4, 2006, in Toronto.
- There is a new movie: Snowflake, about a woman with Autism. Based on the true story of Ros Blackburn, a British woman with autism, who was a speaker at the International Symposium on Autism this past October.

## VI. Special Education Department Update

### CODE Update

- **S.T.O.M.P.** = Success Through Optimizing My Potential (for students), and Strategies That Optimize Modality Processing (for teachers)
- The Ministry will be visiting on December 7, 2006. They will meet with central staff, as well as teams from the pilot schools.
- Dr. Hawes also shared that the 2005-06 H.A.W.K. project was highlighted at the Supervisory Officers meeting in November. Bruce Drewitt commented that the CODE projects have demonstrated a dramatic impact on Special Education students.

### Transformation Initiative

- Paula Perrault briefly highlighted key points in the Special Education Transformation Initiative memo, dated October 12, 2006. She highlighted the Ministry's attempt to streamline processes in order to reduce administrative requirements.
- Paula also shared that the Special Education Department has submitted the required IEP's as part of the Ministry review.

## **VII. Correspondence Received**

- Special Education Transformation Initiatives – memo dated October 12, 2006
- Ontario Court of Appeal Overtures

## **VIII. Business**

- Draft of Communication Guidelines have been posted on the Board website for a two week period
- Parent Involvement Committee will meet with the Director on November 30, 2006

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

- Gifted Website
- Anti-Bullying Guideline Draft Policy
- Transitions – Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
- Roots of Empathy
- Transition to Adulthood
- Speech Pathology
- O.A.T.A.

## **X. Good News Sharing**

Members shared good news stories from across our counties.

## **XI. Next S.E.A.C. Meeting**

- Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Board Office, in Kemptville

## **XII. Closing Prayer**

Sue Wilson led the group in the “Board Prayer”.

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

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Ann McGahey

**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!*