



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING September 12, 2006 Board Office, Kemptville

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Gerry Samson, Trustee  
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario

#### **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  
Michael Glofcheskie, Junior Teacher Consultant

#### **Regrets:**

Denis Sabourin, Trustee  
Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action of Leeds  
and Grenville

#### **Guests:**

Rhonda Petersen, CUPE  
Irene Tweddle, Education Assistant (CUPE)  
Ruby Mekker, Teacher, St. Mary, Chesterville

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

A candle was lit and Sue Wilson welcomed everyone back to another exciting year at SEAC. Members introduced themselves and especially welcomed Rhonda Peterson, who represents CUPE.

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

Tom Jordan led the group in a prayer called "And So They Come To Us".

#### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Gerry Samson  
Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Ann McGahey

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

### **IV. Association Updates**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

- the report “Special Education Transformation”, released June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, was discussed; this report contains specific issues with regards to SEAC input
- funding for assessments was discussed
- a reminder that on-line training exists for SEAC members at [www.seaclearning.ca](http://www.seaclearning.ca)
- LDAO has officially launched the “Transitions to High School” program (an extension of the existing SOAR resources, which are in place, and have been well received)
- the Annual General Meeting for the Ottawa Chapter takes place on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m., the guest speaker is Jay Mandarino; more information can be obtained at the LDAO office at (613)567-5864

### **V. Special Education Department Update**

We held two regional Special Education Resource Teacher meetings. We gathered SERT’s from the east on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Cornwall Board Office; and from the west on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Smiths Falls Board Office. We reviewed the regular roles and responsibilities, and also spent some time looking for, and gathering input regarding future directions and the big picture. Also, we are looking at hosting Family of Schools SERT meetings and perhaps an on-line forum where questions, concerns and tips could be shared.

Sheri-Anne Taylor has joined our team as a new Speech Language Pathologist, while Trudy Scott and Cynthia Carswell began their roles as Itinerant Student Support Workers. We also welcomed Kara Casey, Psychological Associate, back from maternity leave.

We are fortunate to have the continued support of ASD partners (CHEO and Pathways) to support our school teams. There were two “Make and Take” workshops held regionally in the Board in late August. We are now partnering with CHEO, Pathways and the UCDSB to offer more regional opportunities. Staff from our Board and the UCDSB will be able to take advantage of these workshops.

The Special Education Department is partnering with the Curriculum Department to offer teachers some in-service on Differentiated Instruction in the next couple of weeks. We have several HAWK assessment days coming up, and next we are involved in the New Teacher Induction Program.

Major Department Initiatives are:

- to support and expand teacher's knowledge of the use of technology to benefit special (and all) learners
- to support Intermediate Level education across our system
- to continue to work from the document, "Education for All: The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students with Special Education Needs, K-6"
- to continue to support Junior Level education across our system
- to continue to support successful Primary Level strategies
- to expand the implementation of Multiple Intelligences Lead Program at the Grade 7-10 level
- to continue to work with secondary schools to seek out the best practices in serving students
- a continued emphasis on increasing the safety of staff and students in our schools

CODE Update

Dr. Hawes provided a review of the process last year and updated everyone on the new CODE project opportunity.

- maximum amount obtainable is \$250,000.00
- we must submit our proposal by Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- the turn-around time should be shorter this year in terms of approval
- looking at supporting students and teachers in Grades 7 and 8
- focusing on reading and writing connections, and critical thinking skills
- once again "Education for All" will serve as a major resource guide
- Micheal Gloccheskie and Gloria Stowell will be taking the lead in this new project
- all details have not been finalized
- STOMP has been discussed as a possible title for the project; Success by Optimizing My Potential
- programs like SOAR and Multiple Intelligences Lead Program will be key components in terms of self-advocacy, but sustainable improvement in instruction, is the ultimate goal
- we will continue to update SEAC members on the progress of this project

Dr. Hawes welcomed input on the new CODE project and asked that all future requests in terms of information and presentations be given ahead of time, so we can provide a worthwhile presentation/package.

Dr. Hawes provided an update on the new Assessment money.

- potentially \$18,000.00
- we must submit a plan to access any money
- part of this money is to be used to develop a capacity plan (have to review needs and develop a plan that identifies the most appropriate way to respond)
- JK-4 will be the focus

The fact that we have received two resignations in the Psych Department was discussed by Dr. Hawes; Martina Klein-Beck and Maurizio Piamonte. We are in the process of finding replacements.

A discussion of the CDSBEO Assessment Calendar and the board-wide tools and expectations were introduced. All of the data will be tied into our Board's longitudinal tracking project. More information will be available in the future.

#### Parent Involvement Committee

Dr. Hawes and Sue Wilson provided an update on this initiative.

- presently CDSBEO is in the process of forming this committee
- it will involve School Council members, members of the communities we serve, two Trustees and the Director of Education, Ann Perron
- CDSBEO already has the Catholic Education Coalition
- it is expected that the Parent Involvement Committee will be a natural fit as a Sub-committee of the Catholic Education Coalition
- Sue shared that Robin Reil and herself will be the Trustees on the committee
- requests for members from the School Councils have already gone out

## **VI. HAWK (Higher Achievement in Writers' Know-how)**

Michael Glofcheskie provided an overview of the assessment data that was gathered from the HAWK project that Christine Larue-Campeau and himself have taken a lead role in implementing.

- Michael started by reminding us that **“It is by your wisdom that the hawk soars and spreads its wings toward south.”** (Job 39:26)
- Michael provided an overview of the project
- important components were presented and discussed
- the goal is to close the gap and student improvement for all
- ties to the “Education for All” document were discussed
- feedback from students and teachers involved were highlighted
- impressive data was presented to demonstrate the success achieved
- the value of reading and writing connections was stressed
- data concerning exceptional progress that students with IEP's have made was highlighted
- the next step for our HAWK team will be to work with the school teams to learn how to better collect and analyze data
- the HAWK binder (that will be going to all junior teachers) and some promotional material was shared and discussed
- the value of tools such as alpha smarts (a light weight, portable word-processing device) was also highlighted

Dr. Hawes and Sue Wilson thanked Michael for his presentation.

**VII. Correspondence Received**

Information regarding the Southeastern Ontario Community-University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities upcoming conference – “Voices, Choices and Contributions” was shared. This conference will take place October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**VIII. Topics for Future Meetings**

- Draft Calendar of Topics and Locations  
 Paula Perrault shared a “draft” SEAC Calendar with possible topics and locations for SEAC meetings (for discussion purposes). It was proposed that we look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (with the exception of March). This would fit nicely with the overall Board Calendar.

**It was agreed that SEAC meetings be moved from the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Principals will be asked to note this change in their monthly newsletters and calendars.**

| DATE                                    | LOCATION                           | TOPIC                           |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| September 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2006       | Kemptville                         | H.A.W.K.                        |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2006         | Kemptville                         | Transitions HS Program (LDAO)   |
| November 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2006        | St. John Bosco<br>Brockville       | Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder |
| December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2006        | Kemptville                         |                                 |
| January 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2007          | Kemptville                         |                                 |
| February 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2007        | St. Mary-St. Cecilia<br>Morrisburg |                                 |
| <b>Wed., March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007</b> | St. Thomas Aquinas<br>Russell      |                                 |
| April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2007           | Bishop Macdonell<br>Cornwall       |                                 |
| May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2007              | Kemptville                         |                                 |
| June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2007            | Kemptville                         |                                 |

- Gifted Website
- Anti-Bullying Guideline Draft Policy

**IX. Good News Sharing**

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed and members shared “good news” stories from across the Board.

**X. Next S.E.A.C. Meeting**

- Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Board Office, in Kemptville

**XI. Closing Prayer**

The Board Prayer was used to close the meeting.

**XII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Gerry Samson

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.**