



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING September 27, 2005 Kemptville Board Office

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
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living
Gerry Samson, Trustee

Regrets:

Denis Sabourin, Trustee
John Adams, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education

Board Resource Staff:

Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Guests:

Ruby Mekker - Teacher
Irene Tweddle – CUPE, Educational Assistant

Meeting Called to Order

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

I. Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan asked all present to join him in the prayer “A Reflection of Today’s Educator”. We remembered Michelle Brown, Nicholas Rainville and their families (two CDSBEO students who have recently passed away).

Sue welcomed Judy Dallas and all people introduced themselves and talked briefly about their organizations and roles.

II. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was presented, a discussion about the upcoming S.E.A.C. dates took place.

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Christina Edge

III. Minutes of the June 20, 2005 meeting of S.E.A.C. were approved.

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

IV. Association Updates

Christina Edge, Autism Society of Ontario, announced that The Autism Awareness Centre Inc. is presenting a workshop on November 11 and 12, 2005, in Ottawa, which will address:

- a) Social and Behavioural Concerns for Children with Autism/Asperger Syndrome in the school, home and community.
- b) Visual strategies for teaching children to read and for building foundation skills in mathematics.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

- Discussion of CODE proposal was held.
- Accountability Survey (two questions were addressed);
 - IEP's for non-identified students – “YES”
 - Is there a policy concerning home use of ISA 1 Computers – “YES”
It is a high school issue, do not routinely allow ISA 1 equipment to go home. A concern was raised about families who do not have a home computer but need the technology.
The fact that high schools attempt to provide extended hours to allow all students access to the technology at school was discussed.
A discussion also took place about the use of Service Clubs to help fund computers for home use.
Department was asked if this was a big concern, but based on the number of phone calls, it doesn't seem to be a big issue across the Board.
Department does look at requests in special circumstances on an individual basis.
It was pointed out that all schools were given a high end Special Education computer recently so all schools have access to the latest technology.
Paula's work was recognized and praised (CDSBEO is recognized as a leader in the use of technology in Eastern Ontario).
- Discussion of S.E.A.C. reps sharing best practices took place and Rose-Marie presented a Pathways for Exceptional Students to Secondary School (PES) model.

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

- Presented a whole years list of Assistive Technology Workshops from Bridges – courses range from half a day, to two days and take place in Mississauga. Every course is offered three times so the schedule can accommodate many interested individuals.
- Information about the South-eastern Ontario Community University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities (October 25, 2005 at Ongwanada Auditorium in Kingston) where Dr. David Henry will be the keynote speaker was discussed.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action Leeds & Grenville

- Integration Action met last week.
- Planning a sibling workshop in Brockville on November 4, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. This will provide a chance to discuss issues siblings may be facing in schools, and to discuss their vision for their brother or sister.
- Marilyn Dolmage will be in Brockville to present on inclusive education on Thursday, October 6, 2005, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (further information can be obtained from Suzanne).

V. Special Education Department Updates

Staff participated in the New Teacher Orientation sessions in late August.

We have had some new people join our team since we last met. We welcome Judy Dallas, Michael Glofcheskie, Christine Larue-Campeau, Catherine Lovelace, Dr. Robert Savage and Shelley Strickland.

Judy has joined us in the role of Special Education Consultant, while Michael and Christine have been seconded to the positions of Junior Teacher Consultants for 2005/06. Catherine and Rob have joined the Psych-ed Department (Catherine is full time, and Rob is on a part time basis).

Sandy Nicholls has decided to take a position at Holy Cross School, in Kemptville, she is being replaced by Shelley Strickland, who will be based out of the Smiths Falls Board Office. Kate McPhee (who has always been a very important indirect member of our team) will now be assistant to Mr. Paul Lattanzio, in Kemptville, while Karen Hogan is the new assistant to Dr. Hawes. **Many thanks to Sandy and Kate for the outstanding level of service that they provided to families, schools and the department over the years.**

We experienced a fair amount of movement of students over the summer. As a result, we are looking at some staffing adjustments (some schools are overstaffed, and some are understaffed).

Two meetings were held for new resource teachers (one in Cornwall, and one in Kemptville) in early September.

We had a full day with our secondary Resource Teachers last Friday, and with our elementary Resource Teachers today. The Crisis Response Team will also be providing ASSIST Training (suicide prevention) to our Student Support Workers.

We are once again teaming up with our Autism Spectrum Disorder Partners (Pathways and CHEO) to offer a series of after school training workshops for staff. The sessions will be offered at St. Mary School, Chesterville, and St. Mary School, Carleton Place.

Radium Soundfield Systems – CDSBEO has been conducting our own action research over the last year on the benefits to all students and staff of the use of Radium Soundfield Systems in classrooms. The feedback we have received from the pilot sites has been positively overwhelming. As a result, we have decided to expand the use of this technology and offer it to all of our schools. In order to participate, we are looking for a commitment from the school that the equipment will be used and we would ask that an appropriate staff member attend an upcoming in-service to learn more about setting up, maintaining and using the system.

Major Departmental Initiatives for 2005/06

- To introduce and 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.
- An emphasis on, and support of, Junior level writing across our system.
- Continued support of successful Primary level strategies and the FROG program.
- Implementation of a Multiple Intelligences Lead program at the Grades 7-10 level and to work with high schools to seek out best practices in serving students.
- Continued support and expansion on the use of technology to benefit special learners.
- A continued partnership with The Roberts Smart Centre to provide high quality in-service.
- Continued emphasis on increasing the safety of staff and students in the workplace.

Sue Wilson talked about how our Board theme fits into our vision.

A discussion took place about the Ministry Report – and Sue Wilson thanked the staff for the hard work and professional look of the report.

Many schools have special flag raising ceremonies for the Peace initiative. Peace International – presentation at St. Thomas Aquinas was highlighted.

VI. E.Q.A.O.

Tom Jordan presented an overview of the Education Quality and Accountability Office (E.Q.A.O.) which included information about the website, types of assessments, dates of this year's assessments, purpose of the assessments, accommodations, special provisions, exemptions and special versions of the testing material. An information package was distributed and interested people were encouraged to find out more by visiting the E.Q.A.O. website at <http://www.eqao.com>.

VII. Topics for Future Meetings

Youth and Transitions (Fall 2005)
Web-based Teaching Tool (Fall 2005)
E.Q.A.O. Data (Fall 2005)
CODE Proposal (Fall 2005)
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (Winter 2006)
FROG Program (Winter 2006)
Positive Behaviour Presentation (Winter 2006)

VIII. Proposed S.E.A.C. Dates for 2005-2006

September 27, 2005	Kemptville Board Office
October 25, 2005	Smiths Falls Board Office
November 22, 2005	St. Mary School, Chesterville
January 24, 2006	Kemptville Board Office
February 28, 2006	Kemptville Board Office
March 28, 2006	Cornwall Board Office
April 25, 2006	St. Joseph School, Gananoque
May 9, 2006	St. John Catholic High School, Perth
May 23, 2006	Pope John Paul, Hammond
June 15, 2006	Kemptville Board Office

IX. Children's Mental Health Services

A discussion took place last spring about the lack of services, staff reported that there has been some improvement in this area. Schools in the Eastern Region of our Board are now able to offer services through Children's First.

X. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Ruby Mekker recently attended a conference on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and presented the highlights of the conference.

XI. Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2005, at the Smiths Falls Board Office

XII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in prayer with “ The Board Prayer”

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney