



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 31st, 2010 – Meeting #2

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:10 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Dave Connor, Autism Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Dawn Fewer, Coordinator of Special Education

Regrets:

Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

Guests:

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher
Diane Bartlett, Parent
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Dawn Fewer led the group in a prayer entitled, "*A Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal*".

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson welcomed all the S.E.A.C. members and guests.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

II. Association Updates

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

The Canadian Association for Community Living has been focusing on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This convention outlines rights and also provides reporting and monitoring procedures. On opening day (March 30th, 2007), 82 signatories, including Canada, signed on. However, the Canadian government has not ratified the convention to date, even though it came into effect May 3rd, 2008. The Canadian Association for Community Living is calling for action to ratify and implement this convention. More information can be found at amacquarrie@cacla.

Community Living North Grenville now has a teleconference set-up in Kemptville. Ted Shuh, Executive Director of the Association for Community Living of North Grenville, has offered their facilities with this teleconference technology to any other community groups to use.

The Association is hosting a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on May 5th, 2010 (more information to follow).

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Rose-Marie Martin

- The online IEP workshop is interactive and people can go through it at their own pace.
- There is an upcoming Special Education Safe Schools Conference on April 29th, 2010.

Autism Ontario – Dave Connor

- Dave attended a workshop sponsored by AutismPro, in Ottawa, March 31st, 2010.
- Tom Jordan and Rod McLeod also attended this workshop.
- AutismPro is a company that offers training and resources so staff can support students on the ASD spectrum.
- They offer different packages to schools and the annual cost ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,700 for their services.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker

- Ruby suggested that a Police Registry (similar to what Autism Ontario is doing) would be a good idea for people with FASD.
- Dave will provide the Autism Ontario contact information and Ruby will take it to her association.

III. Department Update

- The department hosted another Professional Development Day for Educational Assistants, Student Support Workers and Itinerant ABLÉ Workers on March 4th, 2010.
 - Dr. Karyn Gordon was the keynote speaker.
 - The format of the day was similar to our PD Day on February 3rd, 2010.
 - We added workshops on Assistive Technology and Supporting Early Literacy Strategies.
- The department will be hosting a Special Education Principals' Meeting on April 21st, 2010.
 - Dr. Santor, from the CHEO Centre for Excellence, will be presenting on Taking Mental Health to Schools in the morning.
 - One of the resources that he will highlight is the *You* magazine project;
 - *You* magazine is an interactive online resource for students that deals with mental health issues
 - Boards can customize this resource to meet the needs of the system and youth
 - In the afternoon, we will be looking at how we can best support our Special Learners in 2010-2011 by examining issues such as:
 - best practices
 - models of delivery
 - the role of assistive technology

IV. CDSBEO/SEAC Symposium Update

- A Sub-committee conference meeting did take place on Monday, March 22nd, 2010.
- Results from this meeting were discussed.
- Who will be participating in the carousels was discussed (with a couple still being unconfirmed).
- A DRAFT invitational brochure was shared and a number of changes/improvements were suggested and noted.
 - It was decided, if possible, to email the final version to all the schools on Thursday, April 1st, 2010, so that we have a least one copy in their hands for Catholic School meetings the following week, and to follow up with printed copies in the courier (25 for small schools, 50 for larger schools).
 - Bob Spall, Ministry of Education, may be able to do the IEP/IPRC workshop. If he can't, then the department can do it (possibly in conjunction with some from LDAO).
 - Pat Cole can facilitate an *Anxiety and Our Special Needs Students* for us (if we need her to).
 - It was suggested that the letter that was drafted by James, be signed by Sue Wilson and Ron Eamer and then:
 - the letter would be mailed to the MPs and MPPs

- the letter would be given to the Minister of Education at an upcoming meeting in Cornwall
- It was suggested that we send some brochures to Dr. Doyle and Dr. Anna McCormick, Ottawa Carleton Treatment Centre (OCTC).
- We still need to confirm the presenter for the *Family Stressors Around Special Needs Students* workshop.
- We are in the process of confirming the plans for dinner.

V. **Bill 157: Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Presentation**

Tom Jordan presented the following information to the group;

- Bill 157 came into effect in Ontario on February 1st, 2010.
- The legislation affects how all School Board employees handle incidents at school.
- It requires all school staff to report, and those who work directly with students to respond, to incidents that happen in school.

Components of the legislation can be broken down into the following categories;

Duty Report

- Deals with who must report, how they are to report, and how records are to be kept.

Informing Parents

- This section deals with when and how parents of victims must be informed.
- Also deals with certain exceptions to the duty to inform parents and how this must be handled.

Staff Response

- Specifies who must respond to inappropriate behavior.
- Describes the types of inappropriate behavior that must be dealt with.

Support Students at Risk of Victimizations

- Outlines what schools must do to protect students who are particularly at risk of victimization.

Delegation of Authority

- Outlines what must occur when the Principal is out of the building.
- Outlines what must occur when the Vice Principal (if applicable) is not in the building.
- Outlines the roles and responsibilities of a teacher in charge when both the Principal and Vice Principal are absent.

As a result of this legislation, CDSBEO has developed five new administrative policies and procedures to support staff in the implementation of the requirements of this legislation.

Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss some of the ramifications of this new legislation and how it will affect our special needs students. Tom Jordan offered to provide additional information (including copies of the Ministry training DVD) to anyone who was interested.

Sue Wilson thanked Tom for his information presentation.

VI. Good News Sharing

Members and guests shared good news items from across our eight counties.

VII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a closing prayer.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.