



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 31st, 2010 – Meeting #1

Board Office, in Kemptville

5:45 p.m.

(Note: Quorum was established at 6:20 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:

William Gartland, Director of Education
Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher
Diane Bartlett, Parent
Liz Harrison, CUPE

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a Lenten prayer entitled, "*The Passion*".

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson welcomed all the SEAC members, guests and introduced Director of Education, William Gartland.

- Mr. Gartland addressed the group and expressed his appreciation for being invited to the meeting.
- He expressed his pride in the work done by our CDSBEO Special Education Team, under the leadership of Dr. Donaleen Hawes.
- Mr. Gartland reminded the group that the needs of our Special Learners is the responsibility of us all, and he thanked the Trustees and parents for their continued support.
- He thanked the SEAC members on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Management, for the work we do on behalf of all Special Learners and for organizing the upcoming CDSBEO/SEAC Special Education Symposium on April 26th, 2010, from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., at St. Michael Catholic High School, in Kemptville.

I. Approval of Agenda

Sue Wilson requested that we add the MACSE February, 2010 Update to the agenda.

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

II. Approval of Minutes – January 27th, 2010

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Dave Connors

III. Association Updates

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Conference: The 57th Annual Conference and AGM for Community Living Ontario will be held on May 26-29th, 2010, in Richmond Hill. The keynote speaker will be Alvin Law. More information can be found at www.communitylivingontario.ca.

Other Information: A package entitled, “*Inclusive Education: Media Relations Toolkit*” is available. It presents a comprehensive overview of inclusive education with specific examples of activities that would suit any organization (a copy was shared).

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Rose-Marie Martin

Upcoming Meeting: The next Ottawa-Carleton LDA Parent Support Group meeting is March 4th, 2010, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at 160 Percy Street, in Ottawa.

Other Information:

- “*IEP 101 for Parents and Students*” will be available soon on the LDAO website.
- LDAO’s online SEAC training course is now available.
- Information around Bill 157 – Keeping Our Kids Safe at School and Special Needs Students was shared.
- LDAO’s response to the Learning for All Consultative Questions regarding differential instruction and Learning for All was shared.
- Information around customer service for persons with learning disabilities was shared.
- A support group meeting for parents is being held on Thursday, April 1st, 2010.

Autism Ontario – Dave Connor

Upcoming Conference: An Autism Conference was held on March 25-26th, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza, in Ottawa. The keynote on March 25th was Paula Kluth, and her address was entitled, “*You’re Going to Love this Kid: Teaching and Supporting Children on the Spectrum*”. John Clements was the keynote on March 26th, and his address was entitled, “*Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour: Empathy and Analysis in Working through the Behavioural and Emotional Difficulties of Children with ASD*”.

Other Information:

- Autism Ontario offered a “March Break Reimbursement fund” that can provide up to a maximum of \$400 per child (more information is available on the website).
- April is Autism Awareness month and April 2nd, 2010, is Autism Awareness Day around the world.
- In Ottawa, Autism Ontario is organizing a registry launch with the Ontario Provincial Police to aid in the search for a missing person with Autism.
- Autism Awareness has a package available to all schools (this is available on the Autism Ontario website).

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

Upcoming Meeting: A meeting was held on February 24th, 2010.

Other Information:

- Ruby will be presenting on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at two high schools in the Ottawa area.
- Ruby has offered to repeat the presentation to any interested high schools in CDSBEO.

IV. Department Update

The Special Education Department is sponsoring a series of Autism Workshops in various locations throughout the Board starting February 18th, 2010, and running until April 29th, 2010. Topics include: “An Intro to Autism”, “Anxiety and ASD”, and “Make and Take”. The series is open to all teachers and support staff.

The Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds II collection was on display at The Groundz Gallery, Mill Street, in Almonte, for the month of February.

Plans are well underway for the CDSBEO/SEAC Symposium on April 26th, 2010.

V. Learning for All Presentations

Dr. Donaleen Hawes and Tom Jordan shared information about the February 3rd, Special Education focused, Professional Development Day for our Teachers, Educational Assistants, Student Support Workers, Itinerant ABL Workers and Crisis Response Workers.

Educational Assistants, Student Support Workers and other support staff gathered at the North Grenville Centre where well known author, Ron Morrish, was the keynote speaker in the morning.

In the afternoon, participants chose from a variety of different breakout sessions. The afternoon consisted of two one-hour breakout sessions where participants chose from topics of interest. Each breakout sessions was twice. The sessions included:

- Restorative Practices in a Catholic School
- Supporting Our Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Low Vision Students
- An Introduction to Personal Safety While Working with High Needs Students
- Building Quality Behaviour, Routines and Character
- An Introduction to Anxiety and ASD Students

Our elementary teachers gathered in one of four locations throughout the Board where they spent the day on Learning and Targeting Achievement for All. The day was broken down into three main components:

- Keynote Address – Learning and Targeting Achievement for All – Making Reading, Writing and Thinking Connections. CDSBEO’s framework that actualizes the Ministry document was highlighted.
- Participants chose from a variety of small group breakout sessions.
- Grade-facilitated sharing sessions enabled teachers an opportunity to share effective practice.

Dr. Hawes shared that the success of the day was due to a large part because of the collaborative efforts between Special Education and our School Effectiveness, Religion & Family Life and Curriculum Departments.

Sue Wilson thanked Dr. Hawes and Tom Jordan for the presentation to the group.

VI. MACSE Update

Sue Wilson distributed the MACSE minutes and asked members to share the information with their Associations, and to bring any comments/suggestions to Sue Wilson for our next meeting and she will pass it on to our local.

VII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a closing prayer.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.