



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
St. Michael CHS, Kemptville  
7:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Nancy Kirby, Trustee  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children of Ontario  
James Borer, VOICE

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

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

#### **Regrets:**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

#### **Guests:**

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher  
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE  
Chris Walasek, Student Trustee  
Diane Bartlett, Parent

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

### **Opening Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in "*A Prayer Before a Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting*".

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Sue Wilson welcomed Chris Walasek, our Student Trustee, and had the group introduce themselves.

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Addition "New Business":

- Questions were asked about making our schools fully accessible and what was done with surplus special education equipment.

It was decided to make a change going forward to all our minutes where we would list regrets and absents separately. If a member informs us that they will be absent, it will be considered a "Regret". If a member is unable to inform the group, it will be considered an "Absent".

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: James Borer

Sue Wilson then asked for a motion to excuse Joe Sparling and Rose-Marie Martin from the meeting.

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: James Borer

## **II. Approval of Minutes – Meeting #1 and #2 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

**Meeting #1 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Dave Conners

**Meeting #2 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

Moved by: Dave Conners

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

## **III. Association Updates**

**Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen**

- Upcoming conference on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, however, the website does not contain a lot of information. Themes this year are not directly connected to education.
- The recently announced Government wage freeze and funding formula are causing concerns in the sector.
- Fran will share the AGM newsletter next time.

**Autism Ontario – Dave Conners**

Upcoming Meetings:

- AGM meeting is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is the Autism Ontario AGM in Toronto.

- A recent Assistant Deputy Minister memo was discussed with the group:
  - The Ministry and Autism Ontario both want to make sure that with the new Early Learning Initiative, that there is no overlap of services.
  - It will be important that service providers co-operate to make sure that the students receive the best service possible.

#### **VOICE – James Borer**

- May is hearing and speech month.
- The annual VOICE Conference took place at Guelph University. Lori Murphy and Debbie Balog, our Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, attended this conference.
- Draft Guidelines have been released by the Ministry to support Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is in good shape in terms of compliance with these guidelines.
- James has been offered the opportunity to go to Joyce Public School, in Toronto, where FM systems are incorporated into every classroom.

#### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker**

- Ruby recently facilitated a couple of presentations at St. Michael, in Orleans, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with teachers.
- It was suggested that the presentation would be good for a PD Day.

#### **Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols**

- No report at this time.

### **IV. Department Update**

- Restorative Practices Formal Conference Training took place recently (in the East and West)
- We facilitated a meeting with our administrators and Dr. Darcy Santor, from the CHEO Centre of Excellence on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. We are finalizing the logistics of signing up all of our Gr. 7-12 students to Yoo Magazine, which is an online mental health resource for students and parents.
- Flexible Grouping meetings for teachers and administrators were held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (two in the East, and two in the West).
- A number of people participated in Threat Assessment Training on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Cornwall, and on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 in Smiths Falls. In addition, we had a number of people attend a half-day Introductory Session on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Two FROG Refresh sessions were held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Another Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds is planned for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Board Office, in Smiths Falls.

- The Student Support Leadership Initiative grant has been extended for another three years.
- A question was asked about what happens to surplus equipment purchased for our Special Needs students. Also, what is the process for redistributing this equipment?
  - Dr. Hawes shared with the group that equipment should not be sitting unused for a long period of time at any school.
  - Sometimes the equipment is redistributed within the same school.
  - If the school doesn't have a need for it, then we try to provide it to another student in the system.
  - It is not clear if we are ever allowed to sell the equipment (in some cases, we have given the equipment to the family if the code has changed).

#### V. CDSBEO/SEAC Symposim – April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Sue Wilson thanked all the members for their hard work in pulling the evening together. She also thanked Diane Bartlett and Rhonda Peterson for helping set up the SEAC carousel. Sue noted that she had heard many good reports from people in the communities that we serve.

Sue opened the floor for feedback:

- A couple of parents didn't attend because their Association was not represented.
- James shared the event with other SEAC Reps from other areas of the province and they expressed an interest in hosting a similar event.
- We have two groups who are possibly interested in joining SEAC as a result of the event.
- Teachers and Principals appreciated the workshops. They felt that the sessions appealed to all exceptionalities.
- People seemed to like the format (i.e., the ability to move around and visit the carousels with their dinner).

#### VI. Special Education Annual Report: Special Education Funding and Proposed Staffing

Dr. Hawes shared various DRAFT sections of the *Report to the Ministry on the Provisions of Special Education Programs and services*.

- The funding section was highlighted with revenue, expenditures and the variance between the two, were discussed.
- This year our funding is more challenging than it has been in the past:
  - SEPPA (Special Education Per Pupil Amount) is up a little bit over 2009-2010, but it is far less than the 3% increase in staffing costs;
  - SEA (Special Equipment Amount) has increased, but this is used for specific equipment needs and not for staffing;
  - High Needs Amount is down by over \$310,000.00; and

- SIP (Special Incidence Portion) is reduced by approximately \$77,000.00.
- We did receive \$115,314.00 for an ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) Expert:
  - this funding is now in the grants, which means it is considered stable funding and therefore, we are going to hire an ABA Expert.
- Even with the proposed cuts, we will still be \$808,301.00 over in Special Education.
- We are requesting that the Board continue to provide \$735,549.00 from the Learning Opportunities Grant (LOG) to support Special Education costs.

### **Recommendations**

- That we maintain our current total number of Resource Teachers;
- That we increase current permanent Educational Assistants by approximately 10;
- That we decrease 22 Student Support Workers and provide up to one Student Support Worker (SSW) at Secondary Schools, and up to half at the elementary schools;
- That we second two half-time Itinerant Teacher Consultants to assist with the professional development of classroom teachers in implementing and supporting Targeting Achievement for All, and the differentiation of instruction;
- That we implement the Special Education staffing allocation for each school, according to the models provided;
- That we adjust staff to reflect any additional increases or decreases to the grants received by the Board.

### **Motion**

That the Special Education Advisory Committee support the recommendations as presented.

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Dave Conners

The motion was carried however, there were a number of Special Education Advisory Committee members who were opposed.

## **VII. Correspondence Received**

Ministry of Education – response to Sue Wilson’s letter

- Members who want copies will be able to obtain at the next meeting.

IEP Online Workshop for Parents and Students

- It was decided to bring this issue forward at the next meeting.

**VIII. New Business**

It was decided to table the Safe Schools Policy/Walkie-Talkies discussion to the next meeting.

A question was asked if the Special Education Advisory Committee would consider making a recommendation to the Board that all schools be fully accessible. It was decided to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

**IX. Next Meeting:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

**X. Good News Sharing**

Members shared items of good news throughout our eight counties.

**XI. Closing Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in a Hail Mary.

**XII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.