



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 24th, 2010

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Debbi Sabourin, Association for Community
Living
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario
Diane Barlett, Easter Seals – Ontario
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario
James Borer, VOICE

Board Resource Staff:

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

Guests:

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher
Liz Harrison, CUPE
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
Christina Campbell, CAS County of Lanark and the
Town of Smiths Falls
Rita Brennan, St. Gregory School Council Chair
Catherine Swail, CDSBEO Teacher

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 entitled, “Caring for the Wellbeing of All” to begin the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests and had the group introduce themselves.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – October 27th, 2010

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

III. Presentation – THRESHOLDS – Effective Transition Planning

Presented by: Dave Cody – Developmental Services of Leeds and Grenville, Sue O'Donnell – Career Services, Nancy Fischer – Community Living of North Grenville, and Kerri Steacy – Gananoque and District Association of Community Living

Thresholds began in 2001, with Foundations funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services;

- Thresholds is a project for young people with an intellectual (developmental) disability that focuses on a transition from the education system to the developmental services sector.
- Five (5) agencies work collaboratively to deliver the funding through a Steering Committee.
- The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario and the Upper Canada District School Board are associate members of the Steering Committee, and have representatives who meeting regularly with the five developmental services agencies.
- Referrals for assistance with transition planning, and/or individualized support upon completion of school, can be made through any of the service providers.
- Service providers will work in partnership with local schools, students and their families to ensure timely and quality transition planning takes place.
- The implementation of the individualized plan is based upon available local resources.
- The abilities, strengths and interests of the student must be considered and built into the plan.

There needs to be a strong personal ownership component to a good plan;

- Goals and strategies need to be detailed.
- Who will do what, and when, should be clearly identified.
- Plans should be developed over time and start in Grade 9.
- Student, parent, teacher and agencies should all have input into the plan.
- The plan needs to be positive and proactive.
- The plan should parallel the experiences of other students in the school.

A template Transition Guide was shared;

- This template described various conditions/scenarios that can be used to evaluate under the following headings: Commitment, Collaboration, Creativity.
- Planning Booklets for students, teachers and parents were all developed.
- These tools are meant to help all concerned, better understand the process and utilize the supports available.

Donaleen Hawes and Sue Wilson thanked our guests for providing such an informative and well organized presentation to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

IV. Association Updates

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker

The Ottawa Carleton School Board has invited a group from the Association to speak to support staff at an upcoming Professional Activity Day.

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

No report at this time.

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Meetings:

- Les Vallees (Regional Council of Associations within Community Living Ontario in St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys) will be holding a meeting on January 8th, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at the offices of Community Living in North Grenville. The primary topic of discussion will be the recently released draft of the Strategic Plan for Community Living in Ontario.
- On November 22nd, 2010, the Regional Education Committee published an unedited report of their discussions at a retreat held in Gananoque on October 15-16, 2010. The retreat focused on the meaning of inclusive education, actions and strategies needed to achieve it. Their next meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., at the offices of Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement.

Other Information:

- The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) website contains a section called, “School Leader Interviews” where educators share their ideas on what it takes to make inclusion work. Most of the leaders come from various parts of Canada, but one is from Budapest. They also provide an address where you can send suggestions for additional leaders from schools you know about.
- The Community Living of North Grenville float won 1st prize in the November 20th, 2010 Kemptville Santa Claus parade in the non-commercial category.

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

- Membership in the association has increased by 42%.
- The resource library has been expanded.

- ABC now has representatives on 21 School Boards (and they are working on more).

ABC is concerned about the recent proposed changes to the Special Education funding formula in Ontario;

- ABC working to ensure that School Boards do not cut their budgets.
- ABC believes that early education and resources for identified students must be protected.
- ABC is concerned that although some of Ontario School Boards could receive more funding, a large percentage of boards could receive less funding in the proposed model.

VOICE – James Borer

VOICE recently sponsored a Seminar Weekend;

- Representatives from 42 Boards were in attendance.
- One-day seminar for SEAC representatives for all organizations gave participants time to share ideas and best practices.

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- Autism Awareness Centre will be hosting a conference entitled, “Believe in Change”.
- This conference will be held on March 24-25, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Ottawa. It will feature presentations by:
 - Cindy Schneider – Setting the Stage for Social Success
 - Lauren Kenworthy – Teaching Flexibility and Goal Directed Behaviour to Children with ASD
 - Gary Mesibov – Structured Teaching
- Autism Ontario will have highlights from the recent Geneva Centre meeting for the next SEAC meeting.

V. Department Update

The Department hosted two (2) regional inservice days for our DI Teachers on November 2nd and 3rd, 2010 (one in the West, and one in the East). DI's spent time examining and clarifying their roles and responsibilities, looking closely at the coaching model, and making connections with reading, writing and thinking to support as part of our efforts of TARGETING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL. The groups also spent some time looking a Flexible Grouping Practices.

We have formed an IEP Focus Group to look at gaps in the way we are currently writing IEPs, and to provide suggestions to the software development company we are working with to roll out our new IEP template/software to the system.

November 12th, 2010, was a very successful Secondary Special Education Professional Activity Day.

We are in the midst of another series of Threat Assessment Training;

- Level 2 session was just completed in Cornwall.
- Level 1 session will be held in Kemptville on November 25th and 26th, 2010.
- Two more Level 1 sessions will be held during the week of November 29th – December 3rd, 2010; one in Smiths Falls, and one in Brockville.
- The Protocol Development Steering Committee has also met a couple times and have developed a draft copy of a protocol to share. Kevin Cameron provided some insight/ suggestions on the protocol over the course of the two days of the Level 2 training.

The Department hosted a Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) workshop for all interested K-6 schools;

- The program supplements the reading instructional practices including FROG, which are already in place.
- PALS has been developed through the Research Department at Vanderbilt University.
- Student participation in PALS has proven to be extremely effective in strengthening the performance of high-achieving, average and low-achieving students, and students with disabilities.

VI. Approval of the Nomination for the Representative for the Association of Community Living

“That SEAC approve the nominations of Fran Brauneisen to sit as The Association of Community Living Representative, and Debbie Sabourin to sit as The Association of Community Living, Alternative Representative, on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: Christina Nichols
Seconded by: James Borer

CARRIED

VII. Correspondence Received

- Memo regarding changes to Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)
- PARENTS MATTER Newsletter (from the Ministry of Education)
- October, 2010 Update from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- MCYS/MACSE October, 2010 Update
- June 9th and 10th, 2010 MACSE Minutes (final version)
- SEAC Memo and Survey;
 - All associations were reminded to share the information/questions in the survey with members of their association, and to provide a summary of responses to the Department by December 1st, 2010.
 - The Department will then summarize the responses and submit the completed survey on behalf of the CDSBEO SEAC.

VIII. Business Arising from a Previous Meeting

Sue Wilson shared an excerpt from the minutes of the November 2nd, 2010 Board Meeting where, “Director Gartland provided a review of the current practices and legislation, as stated in the Education Act and Bill 177, and the CDSBEO Governance Manual, regarding trustee communications, i.e. whether individual Trustees should send out correspondence on the Board’s letterhead, and whether the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) should send correspondence directly to the Ministry”;

- The legislation states that an individual trustee has no authority.
- The spokesperson for the Board is always the Board Chair.
- Trustees are to bring to the Board Table any requests to send out correspondence (where it will be discussed as a group).
- The legislation also states that SEAC is an advisory group to the Board.
- Director Gartland has recommended that in the future, when SEAC wishes to communicate with the Ministry, that SEAC bring its concerns forward to the Board of Trustees, who will then share the information with the Ministry.

IX. Motion that Followed Bill 177 Discussion

“That if there is any correspondence that is to go forward from the Board on behalf of SEAC, that SEAC will be notified of any amendments (in the spirit of collaboration) before the correspondence goes forward.”

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

X. Good News Sharing

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

XI. Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011, at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

XII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a closing prayer.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

Sue Wilson thanked all members and guests for coming out this evening and adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

XIV. Approval of the Nomination for the Representative for VOICE (via email on November 27th, 2010)

“That SEAC approve the nomination of James Borer as the Representative for VOICE on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

CARRIED