



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 27th, 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
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario
Diane Bartlett, Easter Seals – Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

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

Regrets:

James Borer, VOICE

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

Absent:

Nancy Kirby – Trustee
Joe Sparling

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 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: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – September 1st, 2010

The following change was made to the “draft” minutes that were previously distributed:
Add the Autism Ontario September 2010 Association Report

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Dave Connors

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker

- A summary copy of the report; *Advancing Effective Educational Practices in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*
- The summary is organized under the following headings:
 - *What We Seek;*
 - A provincial strategy where the province plays a pivotal leadership role.
 - *Recommendations;*
 - That all educators receive training to support FASD students.
 - *Making the Case with Schools and Districts;*
 - Range of placements for FASD students,
 - Develop expertise in an Education Consultant,
 - Work with parents to better understand the Spec Ed process in each board.
 - *Collaborating with Partners;*
 - Collaboration between various Government Ministries is necessary,
 - Partnerships with Community Agencies need to be developed/expanded to better serve students and their families.
 - *Assess the Effectiveness of the Solutions;*
 - Research projects should be used to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives.
- A full copy of the report can be found at:
<http://www.fasdontario.ca/groups/intervention.htm>

Easter Seals – Ontario – Dianne Bartlett

- Easter Seals Ontario now has a Provincial Coordinator-Special Education. In her role, Alison Morse will be supporting Easter Seals volunteers who are members of the school board SEACs and providing families with information about special

education. Easter Seals is looking for more volunteers to become involved as SEAC members across the province.

- Easter Seals Ontario has new section on their web site, “Special Education Resources” which includes
 - A list of pro-active organizations like SEACs, MACSE
 - Info on planning entry into school
 - Resources for school age years
 - Planning for graduation
 - Useful websites
 - Resources specific to physical disabilities
- In the month of September 2010 we all celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the passing Bill 82 in the Ontario Education Act, which was monumental legislation in the history of Special Education in Ontario.

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Conferences/Events

- The Inclusive Education for All Students Conference will take place on Friday, October 29th and Saturday, October 30th in North Bay. Presenters include Shiela Bennett, Dr. Gordon Porter, Marilyn Dolmage and Kathie Snow.
 - The conference will give parents, advocates and educators the opportunity to explore challenges and opportunities that come with moving inclusive education forward.
- The End Exclusion 2010-Disabling Poverty/Enabling Citizenship Conference will take place on Nov 1 and 2 at Delta Hotel in Ottawa.
 - This event is presented by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Canadian Association for Community Living in partnership with Canada Without Poverty.
 - It is supported by Community-University Research Alliance (CURA)

Local Initiatives

- Community Living North Grenville has just completed a three-day peer review with CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Services)
- The local team spent approximately 2 years to prepare for this audit.
- There were only 18 recommendations (none of them major) out of a total of 780 possible checks that were examined.
- The CARF team was very complimentary of the organization.
- A full report will be delivered in about 6-8 weeks.

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

No update at this meeting

Autism Ontario-Dave Connors

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Autism 2010, a Conference by The Geneva Centre for Autism will be held from Wednesday, November 3rd to Friday, November 5th, 2010 in Toronto.

- This event will include presentation on: Aspergers Syndrome, Behaviour, Bio-Medical News, Communication, Challenging Needs, Current Issues, Education, Sensory Issues, Current Research, Family Issues, Social Skills, Early Intervention, First Hand Accounts and Treatment Approaches
- The keynote speaker will be Temple Grandin.

Christina Campbell from Family and Children Services of Lanark also shared that October is Child Abuse Prevention month and the Family and Children's Services in Leeds & Grenville will be amalgamating over the course of the next 18 months.

IV. Department Update

- Our October 1st Elementary and Support Staff Special Education Professional Activity Day was a resounding success.
- We hosted another Roots of Empathy Training Session on October 5th so that we will be able to offer the program in more locations.
- We did co-hosting a Level II Threat Assessment Training on Oct 12th and 13th and will be co-hosting more upcoming Threat Assessment Training on the following dates:
 - Level II on November 23 and 24 in Cornwall
 - Level I on November 25 and 26 in Kemptville
 - Level I on November 30 and December 1 in Brockville
 - Level I on December 2 and 3 in Smiths Falls
 - We are also moving forward with our Community Threat Assessment Protocol development.
- Dr. Hawes, Susan Wilson, Gord Greffe (Associate Director) and Tom Jordan attended a Ministry of Education Special Education Funding Forum on October 15/2010. The meeting was an information/feedback gathering session for the Ministry. The group left with a number of unanswered questions.
- Our Board sent a number of people to be trained in the use of the *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths* (CANS) tool for students in a Care and Treatment Classroom (Section 23).
 - The instrument will be very useful in determining treatment goals and setting priorities for care.
- The Department, under the direction of Brian Peters, will be releasing a *Restorative Reflections* Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is create a forum in which people committed to implementing restorative practices in their schools can share their experiences and stories and ask questions to help clarify their daily practice and overall understanding.
 - Brian and Pam Dunk also facilitated a two day Restorative Circle Training session on October 19 and 20
- We are inviting all Differentiated Instruction Teacher/Coaches (DI's) to our upcoming in services to clarify the DI's roles and responsibilities, look closely at the coaching model, and make connections with read, write, think through the models of Frog, Hawk and Stomp. We will also explore some flexible grouping practices;

- This year we will dig deeper into our practice through establishing a “Flex in Action” classroom in each school. November 12th will be a Special Education Professional Activity Day for all of our Secondary Teachers,
- Tuesday, November 2 will be the day for the Western Group,
- Wednesday, November 3 will be the day for the Eastern Group.
- November 12th is a Secondary Special Education Professional Activity Day;
 - All Secondary teachers will be gathering at St. Michael CHS on this day. The organization of the day will follow;
 - ***Achieving Literacy for All-*** All teachers and administrators will join together for a prayer and attend an opening session led by Superintendents of Education. The presentation will frame how as a Board we are committed to achieving literacy for *all* students,
 - ***Small Group Workshops*** -There will be two workshops offered which are focused on specific topics such as: *Differentiated Instruction, Using Assistive Technology to Personalize Instruction and Linking Math, Science and Technology,*
 - ***Sharing How We Support Students*** Teacher sharing session will be lead by teachers in our system who are actively differentiating instruction and reaching all students.
- CDSBEO Assistive Technology update;
 - We have hired on teacher Co-ordinator, Matt Hubbard and two teachers, Jameson Lee and Farran Hart,
 - We have also hired 4 Educational Assistants,
 - This team will be provide training across the entire Board to build student and staff capacity.

V. **Presentation: Early Learning/Special Needs Reference Group**

Tom Jordan introduced Margaret van Beers, MSW, RSW, who is the Manager of Clinical Services at the Child Development Centre, Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston.

- Marg started by sharing copies of a resource folder from the Child Development Centre will all present. The package contained:
 - Information about the Child Development Centre,
 - Background information/guiding principles for the Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Special Needs Early Learning Reference Group,
 - A copy of a letter from the Ministries of Education, Health and Long Term Care and Children and Youth Services regarding *Services for Students with Special Needs/Special Education Needs and the Early Learning Program in Year One, 2010-201,*
 - A copy of the PowerPoint presentation
- Highlights of Margaret’s presentation were as follows:
 - The Lanark Leeds & Grenville Early Learning Reference Group formed in February 2010
 - This group is associated with the BEST START tables in Lanark, Leeds & Grenville

- The purpose of this tri-county approach is to provide a forum for discussion around issues as they relate to the implementation of early learning and special needs and to act a resource for all three school boards in the district
- Members include representatives from the school boards, Infant and Child Development Programmes, Preschool Speech and Language, and Association for Community Involvement. Children's Mental Health, Children's Treatment Centre, Best Start Planners, Southeast Autism Programme and Special Needs Resource Programmes.
- Part of the discussion focused what impact ELKP (Early Learning Kindergarten Programmes) will have on existing services and how changes in pupil adult ratios will affect programming.
- The important role of parents and the process of engaging parents were also discussed.
- It was recommended that together we develop community protocols to ensure a smooth transition building on what currently exists.
- To be successful many of the existing community programmes and services for children with special needs will need to be integrated into the school day.
- Margaret then opened up the floor for questions.

Sue Wilson thanked Margaret for making the long trip from Kingston to present to our group this evening and suggested that as we go deeper with the ELKP (Early Learning Kindergarten Programs) we will want to take another look at where on this journey.

VI. Correspondence Received

1. A letter from Easter Seals-Ontario
2. A letter from Association for Bright Children
3. A letter from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Group of Ottawa

Sue Wilson reminded all Associations, that they are asked to submit a letter nominating a Representative, and an Alternate, by November 12th, 2010

VII. Approval of the Nomination for the Representative for the Association for Bright Children

“That SEAC approve the nomination of Christina Nichols to sit as the Association for Bright Children (ABC) Representative on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: Karen McAllister
Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

VIII. Approval of the Nominations for the Representatives for the Easter Seals Ontario Association

“That SEAC approve the nominations of Joe Sparling to sit as the Easter Seals Ontario representative, and Dianne Bartlett to sit as the Easter Seals Ontario Alternative Representative, on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Dave Connors

CARRIED

IX. Approval of the Nomination for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Association

It was decided to table this request until our January 2011 SEAC meeting.

X. Good News Sharing

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

XI. Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 24th 2010 at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

XII. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an OUR FATHER.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by:

Seconded by:

CARRIED

Sue Wilson thanked all members and guests for coming out this evening and adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.