



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 29th, 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
Joe Sparling – Easter Seals – Ontario
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Pat Cole, ABA Expert Professional

Regrets:

Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
James Borer, VOICE

Guests:

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher
Liz Harrison, CUPE
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE
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 to begin the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and introduced Pat Cole, ABA Expert Professional, and expressed her thanks to all for coming this evening.

I. Motion to Excuse All Who Sent Regrets for this Meeting

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

II. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the “draft” agenda that was previously distributed:

- Minutes of MACSE Meeting – June 9th, 2010
- SEAC Letter and Survey
- Leave of Absence Request

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

CARRIED

III. Approval of Minutes – September 1st, 2010

The following change was made to the “draft” minutes that were previously distributed:

- under Absent, change Karen McAllister to Nancy Kirby

Moved by: Dave Conners

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

IV. Association Updates

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker

No report at this time.

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

No report at this time.

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Rose-Marie Martin

No report at this time.

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Events:

- A Strategic Planning Day will be held on Saturday, October 7th, 2010, starting at 8:30 a.m., at the Pentecostal Church, Hwy. #43, Kemptonville. This day will include parents, staff and Board members.
- The Provincial People First Conference will be held on October 15th and 16th, 2010, in Toronto.

- The Book Sale will be held (in partnership with the North Grenville Library) on October 15th and 16th, 2010, at the Ferguson Forestry Station, in Kemptville. Any unsold books will be shipped to Nigeria.
- The National Conference will be held October 22nd – 24th, 2010, in Whistler, BC.

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Events:

- The ABC Take-off program, hosted by the ABC Ottawa, provides challenging extra-curricular educational opportunities for bright and gifted students, ranging in age from 6-14 years, on Saturday mornings for six weeks in the spring and fall.
- The Fall 2010 ABC Take-off runs from October 30th – December 4th, 2010, at St. Paul's High School, in Ottawa. Registration Night is October 7th, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Garden Centre, 102 Greenview Avenue, Ottawa.
- After Registration Night, all registrations will be received by mail or drop off only, with payment (cash or cheque only).
- The Course Listing can be viewed online at <http://www.abcontario.ca/ottawa/44>.
- If you would like to receive a copy of the brochure by mail, please send an email with your information to abcottawa@abcontario.ca.

New Initiatives:

- The ABC Ontario reappointment of SEAC representatives is underway, as well as the identification of alternate representatives (where possible).

Other Information:

- The ABC Ottawa Executive meeting was held on September 28th, 2010.

VOICE – James Borer

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Events:

- SEAC Workshop will be held on November 6th, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 Traders Blvd., Mississauga, Ontario.
- The VOICE AGM will be on November 7th, 2010, from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., at the VOICE National Office, Suite 704, 161 Eglinton E., Toronto, Ontario
- The public is invited and encouraged to view the VOICE website at : <http://www.voicefordeafkids.com/>.

Other Information:

- The Association is reviewing the new guidelines on properly supporting children who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf in mainstream schools as issued by the Ministry of Education.
- VOICE is continuing to advocate for changes to the Disability Tax Credit as to be inclusive of all people with hearing loss equally.

V. Department Update

September 15th and 16th, 2010, we hosted Principal/SSW meetings in the East and West. The purpose was to discuss issues and concerns, set direction for the year and share best practices.

September 22nd (in the East) and 23rd (in the West), 2010, we hosted Special Education Resource Teacher meetings.

- Full day in-service for new SERTs, and 0.5 day for returning SERTs.
- For the new SERTs, the half-day focused on key support staff, where to go for help and best practices.
- For all SERTs, half of the day was dedicated to an introduction to the new IEP software.
 - There was lots of excitement as it is customizable.
 - We will be able to link with other databases.
 - We are viewing this as an opportunity to review not only what tools we use to create IEPs, but to focus on writing better IEPs.
- Another round of Level One Threat Assessment Training took place the week of September 13th, 2010.
 - We are moving forward with our partners across the region to develop a Threat Assessment Protocol.
 - We have some Level Two Training sessions coming up:
 - November 23rd & 24th, 2010 - Cornwall
 - November 25th & 26th, 2010 – Kemptville
 - November 30th & December 1st, 2010 – Brockville
 - December 2nd & 3rd, 2010 – Smiths Falls
- We have named our new Addiction partners program at Hanley Hall, “Turning Points”. The program is off to a good start. Staff and students are in place.
- We have reconnected with our CHEO and Pathways Partners to move forward with support for students on the ASD spectrum.
- This Friday is our Board-wide Special Education Professional Development Day.
 - Grades 3-8 Teachers and Administrators will be participating in a day entitled, “*Achieving Literacy for All Continuing the Conversation*”.
 - This day will consist of four main components: Achieving Literacy for All, focus on a student with an IEP, small group workshops, and sharing how we support students.
- A workshop entitled, “*Powerful Early Intervention Strategies to Help Students Struggling with Reading and Writing*” will take place at the North Grenville Centre for K-2 Teachers and Educational Assistants who are supporting students and teachers in this area.
- Student Support Workers and remaining Educational Assistants will focus on “Achieving Success Through Targeted Strategies”:
 - The day will take place at St. Michael CHS, in Kemptville, and it will begin with a session on shaping and responding to behavior for all participants.

- The remaining two sessions will provide specific workshops for EAs and SSWs to participate in.

VI. Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario: Supporting Students with Special Education Needs Through Progressive Discipline, Kindergarten to Grade 12

A copy of this new Ministry of Education document was distributed to members present.

VII. Provincial Association Appointment Update

Important Information:

- The term of office ends November 31st, 2010.
- New Trustees (and re-elected Trustees) will take over at the first meeting in December, 2010.
- Associations are asked to appoint/re-appoint their representatives and an alternate (if possible) via a letter to Dr. Hawes by November 12th, 2010.
- SEAC recommendations regarding representatives will go the Board of Trustees on November 24, 2010.

VIII. SEAC Reminders

- All members are reminded that even though our meetings are public meetings, draft documents are not for distribution.
- Please continue to use the SEAC template when you submit your Association Reports (and please try to have them in by the Friday before our meetings).

IX. Presentation: Connections for Students – Pat Cole, ABA Expert Professional

This Ministry initiative started in January, 2010, and is a result of PPM (Policy & Program Memorandum) 140.

The Connections process is intended to provide a smooth transition of our ASD students discharged from the Autism Intervention Program (AIP), where they receive Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) to our schools where they will continue on with Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). The process provides effective collaboration between professionals, agencies, and helps to reduce anxiety in students and parents. Connections was initially only for students up to the age of six (6), but has now changed as there is no longer an age limit.

CDSBEO is served by CHEO in the East and Pathways in the West.

A Connections Team consists of:

- Parents, caregivers, guardians
- Teachers and support staff
- Principal/Vice Principal
- Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs)
- School Support Program Staff (CHEO or Pathways)
- Autism Intervention Providers (prior to discharge)
- Local agencies if parent wishes

The process:

- Autism Intervention Program (AIP) people let us know six (6) months prior to discharge.
- Connections service is explained to parents and school staff.
- All appropriate consents are signed.
- School Support Program Service is requested from Pathways or CHEO.
- An initial meeting is held to share information, determine roles and prioritize goals.
- The Transition Team communicates and meets regularly for the first six (6) months and for six (6) months after discharge.

A good transition plan:

- Defines the actions that are necessary to help the student achieve his or her goals.
- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Transition Team in carrying out these actions.

The outcomes for students:

- Improved opportunities and academic outcomes (academic, social, emotional and adaptive skills).
- Increased school engagement.
- A more focused IEP that targets specific needs of that student.

Outcomes for parents:

- An increase in parental confidence in a transparent public education process.
- Parental satisfaction with the process.
- The opportunity for parental engagement in the process.

CDSBEO currently has seven (7) Connections cases underway. In all cases, joint observations/goal setting have occurred to ensure smooth transitions between IBI Programs and ABA classroom environments.

X. Correspondence Received

Letter from Provincial ABC

- A copy of this letter was circulated. We responded via telephone and emailed the request.

Letter to Minister Dombrowsky regarding our response letter of February, 2010 correspondence

- This letter was mailed and shared with the Board of Trustees.
- A question was raised at the Board table regarding whether letters should be sent from SEAC or the Board.

All members will be receiving a copy of the MACSE (Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education) minutes from June, 2010 via email.

Letter from the Ministry dated September 29th, 2010, regarding an online survey that SEAC members are asked to complete.

XI. New Business

Rose-Marie Martin will be taking a leave of absence from SEAC for a period of time. Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario is currently in the process of trying to recruit an alternate.

A motion to accept Rose-Marie Martin's request for a Leave of Absence from SEAC was called.

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

A question was asked if we could have Rod McLeod in to present on the ODA (Ontarians with Disability Board Report) in the future.

It was suggested that SEAC should take a look at the CDSBEO Parent Guide to Special Education and suggest changes.

It was also asked if we could revisit the issue of redistributing surplus Special Education equipment.

- i.e., perhaps sold to families or possibly loaned out.

A question was asked about the All Day Kindergarten (Ready to Learn) Program.

- Dr. Hawes and Tom Jordan provided an update reporting that for the most part, things are going well in all the sites.
- As a new initiative, there are always lessons to be learned and we are supporting special needs students in these programs.

XII. Good News Sharing

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

XIII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 27th, 2010, at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

XIV. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an OUR FATHER.

XV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

Sue Wilson thanked all members and guests for out and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.