



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 26th, 2011
Board Office, in Kemptville
7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Ruby Mekker, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Association

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets

Karen McAllister, Trustee
James Borer, VOICE
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario
Diane Bartlett, Alternative Representative for
Easter Seals – Ontario

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order as an “*Informational Meeting*” at 7:01 p.m.
(Note: Quorum was established at 7:16 p.m.)

Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an Easter prayer entitled, “*Absolute Light*”.

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson asked all members and guests to introduce themselves and expressed her thanks to all for coming this evening.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – February 23rd, 2011

Moved by: Dave Conners

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

May is Community Living month and some of the local activities planned will include:

- A pancake breakfast on May 4th, 2011 at the North Grenville Municipal Centre from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. The local association is extending a special welcome to local high school students for this event (and hoping for a good turn out from this group).
- Two newspaper features which will focus on local families (one will feature Patrick Brauneisen).
- Marcus Dickie, the local Community Living Co-ordinator of Volunteers, has tentatively booked Norman Kuntz to speak to our local high school students. Norman has overcome large barriers in life himself, and is well versed in presenting to this age group. St. Michael CHS, Kemptville, will be hosting two of these student assemblies.
- The association's flag will be flying at the Municipal Centre during the month of May, and they are hoping to have a display at the Dandelion Festival.
- May 18th, 2011 is the official "Community Living Spirit Wear Day".

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

No report at this time.

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

- It was recently decided that Cornwall will remain the main chapter in Upper Canada and that they will continue to handle all administration for the group.
- Across the province, May is the month that most annual general meetings are taking place in the local chapters.
- Bishop Macdonell Catholic School, Cornwall, hosted an ASD Information Night on March 30th, 2011. The local chapter of Autism Ontario helped to facilitate this evening. The event was very informative and well attended.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Association – Ruby Mekker

- The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Association has been busy presenting to Ottawa area schools.
- The next association meeting is being held on April 27th, 2011.

IV. Department Update

We hosted Violence/Threat/Risk Assessment Protocol Consultations that included our representatives from our Principals, Police Partners, Mental Health Partners and other community agencies. The meetings took place on the following dates;

- March 29th, 2011 in Prescott-Russell
- March 30th, 2011 in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
- March 31st, 2011 in Leeds & Grenville
- April 1st, 2011 in Lanark

The latest rounds of Violence/Threat/Risk Assessment Training took place on;

- April 5th & 6th, 2011 – Cornwall
- April 7th & 8th, 2011 – Smiths Falls
- Both of these sessions were full and had waiting lists.

On April 7th, 2011 we hosted a Police Protocol meeting that included representatives from a large number of police departments across our eight counties, and representatives from the Upper Canada District School Board. The purpose of this meeting was to begin the process of revising our existing Police/School Board Protocol.

We also hosted a “*Lock Down Procedures*” in-service on April 7th, 2011 that also included a large number of representatives from various police departments across our Board, community partners and staff from both School Boards. Mark Allen a recently retired OPP officer, and noted expert in the field, was the keynote presenter.

The department is hosting a number of Special Education Resource Teacher meetings. These meetings provide us with the opportunity to share/discuss a number of updates with staff, with a large component of the day focused on our new IEP template. These days are scheduled on;

- April 15th, 2011 – Smiths Falls
- April 26th, 2011 – Smiths Falls
- April 28th, 2011 – Cornwall
- May 9th, 2011 – Cornwall

V. Presentation: A4 = Assessing Achievement in Alternative Areas

Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant, CDSBEO, presented on the Ministry of Education’s A4 Project (Assessing Achievement in Alternative Areas) which is designed to help address the needs of exceptional students who are not accessing the regular curriculum.

The presentation focused on the work of a regional group of School Boards (which included CDSBEO) that created a tool and website that would help teachers plan and track the

progress of students with intellectual disabilities (from Grades 7 through the age of 21), with a focus on Functional Life Skills. The tool, which takes the form of a binder, is designed to support students and teachers whose placement is mainly in regular classroom settings. It features a list of alternative curriculum areas/goals/strategies and assessment ideas. The binder is designed to be individualized (i.e. not every student will need to work on the skills in every section).

The presentation also featured a tour of the A4 companion website that was developed to support the project www.thea4ideaplace.com. Together the binder and the website will help make planning, tracking and reporting more sequential and clear to students, parents and staff.

VI. New Business

- Update on the Annual CDSBEO Report on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – four draft sections were distributed to members for feedback;
 - Section V – Educational and Other Assessments
 - Section VI – Special Education Placements Provided by the Board
 - Section VIII – Special Education Staff (2010-2011)
 - Section XI – Accessibility of School Buildings

The remaining updated draft sections (with the exception of Section II – Program & Services Model/Special Education Funding) will be emailed out to Special Education Advisory Committee members over the next three weeks. Section II – Program & Services Model/Special Education Funding will be distributed at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on May 25th, 2011.

There will not be a formal presentation at the May 25th Special Education Advisory Committee meeting as the Annual Report will be the main focus.

- An Update on Emergency Planning and Special Education Students;
All schools are required by legislation to include plans for Special Needs students in the event of any kind of an emergency evacuation. These plans must include:
 - an identification of who will need assistance
 - an individual plan for each student, identifying specific requirements (i.e. if a student is in a wheelchair, there must be a plan to safely transport the student to a main level exit)
 - an assignment of specific staff members to be responsible for specific students
 - all of these plans are developed in consultation with our community fire department partners
 - these plans are signed off by the local fire departments

VII. Good News Sharing

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

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25th, 2011, at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an Our Father.

X. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m., and thanked everyone for coming out this evening.