



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29th, 2009

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee

Karen McAllister, Trustee

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Jason Edge, Autism Ontario

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

James Borer, VOICE

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education

Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education

Dawn Fewer, Coordinator of Special Education

Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Nancy Kirby, Trustee

Ruby Mekker, Resource Teacher CDSBEO

Guests:

Cynthia Carswell, SSW, St. Michael CHS

Dave Connors, Parent, St. Mary-St. Cecilia, Morrisberg

Meeting Called to Order

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

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in a prayer, “Living with Gratitude”.

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed all members of SEAC

III. Approval of Agenda – March, 2009

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: James Borer

Approval of Agenda – April, 2009

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

IV. Approval of Minutes – February & March, 2009

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

V. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

May is Community Living Month!

Numerous events planned including media coverage of the people served with one individual being highlighted each week and riding the Big Bike to raise funds for Heart and Stroke. Opening events will be a pancake breakfast on Tues May 5th with Max Keeping in attendance. All proceeds will be donated to “The Giving Garden” in memory of Terry McEvoy.

Community Living Ontario 56th Annual Conference and Board of Directors meeting will be held in Kingston on June 3rd. Fran Brauneisen will be attending this conference on behalf of Community Living North Grenville.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

IEP Resource Project for parents and students online workshop should be ready in May on the LDAO website www.LDAO.ca. Thanks goes to the Ministry of Education for funding the project and to the parent organizations on the Reference Committee for their ideas and contributions.

There is information on Student Success on the following websites:

www.Ontario.ca?MoreStudnetSuccess and www.Ontario.ca/PlusdeReussitedesEleves.

Visitors to the site can:

- sign up to receive the latest about Ontario's high school programs
- Order a copy of the brochure *More ways to succeed in high school*
- Download the *Student Success Credit Tracker*
- Download a fact sheet on graduation requirements
- Find more resources to help their child in high school

Jason Edge, Autism Ontario

The local chapter of Autism Ontario continues to have Parent Support monthly meetings. A lending library of books is also available at the meeting.

The first of the Family activities was held on April 25th at the Gymnastics Academy in Brockville. The youth who attended spent time in the gym trying out various equipment and played games together. A bowling afternoon is planned for May.

V1. Department Update

Community Links - The board website has been updated to include the links to the agencies.

Make the Cut - This is a joint initiative of Carleton University and Algonquin College, providing prospective students with an orientation to the post-secondary environment with a focus on specific resources available for students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. There are two sessions this year, one in the fall in November, and the Spring session is May 6th, 2009. Schools received the information in advance.

Friendship day – Student with vision or hearing impairment went to Carleton University for a day of sports. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teachers, Lori Murphy and Debbie Balog organized this event.

Enrichment mini courses – Many of our students are participating in the popular enrichment mini courses offered at Carleton, Ottawa and Queens University.

Beautiful Art for Exceptional Minds – This is the second year for this wonderful Visual Arts workshop. This year it will be expanded to include two sites, the Smiths Falls Board Office and Cornwall Board Office. We are expecting 30 students to participate and Sarah Janes will facilitate.

Speech Language Pathologist – The Special Education Department has hired Julie McDermid to fill this permanent position. We are thrilled to have Julie join our team.

Donaleen Hawes responded to a request for the board's definition and information on inclusion. She stated that all children can succeed and achieve high expectations with the necessary time and assistance. All students will have an I.E.P. when required to assist for learning, regardless of the placement of the student. The board's vision is in keeping with the soon to be released ministry document Learning for All K-12. The board has an inclusive framework for special education called "Targeting Achievement for All". This framework is designed to support learners at all grade levels. We continue to develop capacity at a school level, and as we learn and grow as a system, we will continue to share with our supporting partners in education, including our parent community.

VII. Anti-bullying Presentation – Cynthia Carswell, SSW, St. Michael CHS

Cynthia Carswell shared a presentation on her school's Anti-Bullying week in November. It was a week which focused on student involvement as they learned how to raise their awareness of bullying. Through a variety of powerful activities and presentations there was a clear message that it is critical that everyone must have a sense of belonging in their community school and that they must continue to work together to achieve this.

VIII. Board Special Education Annual Review Process

In preparation for the Annual Review, a few sections were shared in draft form for SEAC input. We reviewed section 13 which lists the Advisory Committee Members, and a few revisions were made. We also shared the section on student placement in programs.

IX. SEAC Orientation Process/Binder –deferred

X. Correspondence Received – none received

XI. Business Arising from the Minutes of SEAC Meeting – February, 2009

It was the board's intention to share the SIP review process as well as the survey on Board Assessment Tools for Needy Students. Time did not allow for this presentation to take place.

XII. Chair Update – M.A.C.S.E. (Minister's Advisory Committee for Spec.Ed)

Sue Wilson has sought out and established a connection with the new trustee representative for MACSE. Twenty six members sit at this provincial table and they meet three times per year. Sue shared copies of the last two sets of minutes. Sue encouraged each of our SEAC representatives to connect with the member of their organization who sits on MACSE and encourage them to advocate for improved communication between this group and SEAC representatives.

Sue Wilson highlighted the motions contained in the minutes of the SEAC meeting #2 of Feb 25th, 2009. Discussion ensued regarding whether there was a need to formalize requests for information from SEAC where there already is ready access of information by staff of the Special Education Department. SEAC is encouraged to continue to contact Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Special Education, should they have any questions or requests for information.

XIV. Next SEAC Meeting

- Wednesday, May 27th, 2009, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

Action items for the Board:

Number of students from CDSBEO who attended Make the Cut

Request to share the information shared by Autism Ontario with principals and parents through newsletters.

XV. Closing Prayer – Brian led us in the closing prayer

XVI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney