



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2011

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
Diane Bartlett, Easter Seals – Ontario –
Alternate Representative (arrived 7:35 p.m.)
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario
James Borer, VOICE

Board Resource Staff:

Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Matt Hubbard, Assistive Technology Coordinator
Jameson Lee, Teacher of Special Education –
Assistive Technology

Regrets

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of
Education

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 SEAC Prayer at a Meeting during Winter”.

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

The following items were added to the DRAFT agenda;

- the date of the April 2011 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
- a request for a soundfield system update

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Christina Nicholls

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – January 26th, 2011

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

A copy of the 2010 National Report Card for the Canadian Association of Community Living was shared with the group. This report contains some statistics on how important full inclusion is, and suggests some areas for improvement.

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

It was reported that Easter Seals – Ontario will be sharing a report on how much money the provincial association has recently spent in the Kemptville area, and in Eastern Ontario, at our next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

VOICE – James Borer

VOICE has now gone national with sites in Calgary, Edmonton, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The association will be represented at an upcoming national conference.

Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- The Autism Awareness Centre will be hosting a conference entitled, “Believe in Change” on March 24th and 25th, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Ottawa. This event will feature presentations by:
 - Cindy Schneider on *Setting the Stage for Social Success*
 - Lauren Kenworthy on *Teaching Flexibility and Goal Directed Behaviour to Children with ASD*
 - Gary Mesibov on *Structured Teaching*
- Autism Ontario – Upper Canada Chapter will be hosting Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) information nights on February 27th and 28th, 2011, in Cornwall.

- Autism Ontario is working with the staff of Bishop Macdonell, in Cornwall, to host an ASD information night for families in the Spring 2011 (late March). Plans are still being finalized. More details to follow.

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

- The Association for Bright Children (ABC), Ottawa Chapter, has announced the spring's session of its' very popular, ABC *Take-off* program, Spring 2011 ABC Take-off – *Learn and Grow!*
- These enrichment workshops will take place on Saturday mornings for children and youth, ages 6-14, from April 2nd – May 14th, 2011 (no classes April 23rd), at St. Paul's High School.
- Registration will begin March 3rd, 2011, at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, 102 Greenview Avenue (off Carling and Pincrest), Ottawa, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Spring 2011 ABC *Take-off* brochure is available online at www.abcontario.ca/ottawa

IV. Department Update

The Department hosted an Early Development Instrument (EDI) day for our Senior Kindergarten Teachers from the Eastern part of our Board on February 3rd, 2011. Senior Kindergarten Teachers from the Western part of our Board attended on March 1st, 2011.

The Professional Activity Day for our elementary Educational Assistants was well received on February 4th, 2011. Pat Cole, along with our partners from CHEO and Pathways led the group in an informative day where we looked at transition planning. Our Student Support Workers and Itinerant ABLE Workers met regionally with our Crisis Response Workers on that day as well.

We hosted a Roots of Empathy Refresher training session on February 9th, 2011.

A secondary Differentiated Instruction Support Teacher meeting was held on February 15th, 2011.

February 17th, 2011, we hosted an ABLE/Turning Points/Section (ATPS) Administrator's meeting.

February 18th, 2011, we hosted an ABLE/Turning Points/Section (ATPS) Staff meeting.

V. Presentation

Tom Jordan introduced Matt Hubbard, CDSBEO Assistive Technology Coordinator, and Jameson Lee, CDSBEO Teacher of Special Education – Assistive Technology, assigned to the Assistive Tech Team.

The presentation focused on the need to support our students who require Assistive Technology to enhance their life chances by building a community of support within each and every school. We build capacity in our students and staff through classroom modeling and support. Issues such as planning, training, staffing, sustainability and tracking of results were all focused on in the presentation.

Sue Wilson expressed her thanks on behalf of the group to Jameson and Matt for the excellent and informative presentation, and for all the Assistive Technology (AT) Team, does on behalf of our special learners.

VI. Correspondence Received

- An invitation from the College of Teachers to the Special Education Advisory Committee to provide feedback concerning revisions to the Special Education Part I, II and Specialist Additional Qualification (AQ) course guidelines. Correspondence also included were:
 - the 2003 Special Education AQ course guidelines
 - a feedback form
- MACSE minutes from October, 2010

VII. New Business

The College of Teachers Additional Qualifications (AQ) Courses;

- Tom Jordan provided an overview of the existing (2003) Guidelines for Special Education Additional Qualifications Courses for teachers.
- Members discussed various aspects of the existing guidelines.
- It was decided that a DRAFT copy of the electronic feedback with suggestions from members would be distributed to all in preparation for our SEAC submission to the College of Teachers, which is due on April 1st, 2011.
- Members are invited to add any further suggestions to the DRAFT feedback form.

The MACSE minutes from October, 2010, were shared and discussed by Sue Wilson;

- Members were invited to share any feedback/concerns around these minutes with Trustee Wilson.

Soundfield System update;

- Tom Jordan provided a brief update on the soundfield systems that were purchased before Christmas, 2010.
- The plan is to distribute these systems to Grade 2 classrooms across our Board. Interested teachers will be required to attend a training session where the operation and maintenance of the system will be explained, and they will leave that day with their classroom system.

VIII. Good News Sharing

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

IX. Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30th, 2011, at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

X. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an Our Father.

XI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Diane Bartlett

CARRIED

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m., and thanked all members and guests for coming out this evening.