



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children of Ontario  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
James Borer, VOICE  
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario  
Dave Connor, Autism Ontario

#### **Board Resource Staff:**

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

#### **Regrets:**

Nancy Kirby, Trustee

#### **Guests:**

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher  
Dianne Bartlett, Parent  
Liz Harrison, CUPE

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Dr. Hawes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Hawes welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

### **Opening Prayer**

Tom Jordan led us in an opening prayer for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Two items were added to the “Correspondence” area on the agenda that was distributed prior to the meeting:

- we received a copy of the November 2009, Thresholds Newsletter from the Leeds and Grenville Thresholds Committee.
- we received information about an upcoming Autism Workshop, in Brockville.

## **II. Approval of Minutes – November 25, 2009**

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

## **III. Association Updates**

### **Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen**

Upcoming Conferences: Community Living Ontario (CLO) is hosting its annual conference on May 26-29, 2010, at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel and Suites, in Richmond Hill. Online registration opens in February, at [www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca).

Other Information: The Canadian Association of Community Living (CACL) has published the results of a survey conducted during the 2007-2008 school year. The focus of the survey was to gauge the experiences of school-age children and their parents on a wide range of topics. Results of the survey can be accessed through the Community Living Ontario website.

Fran also shared that Inclusive Education Week 2010 will be the week of February 15-21, 2010.

### **Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – Rose-Marie Martin**

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences: The Ottawa Carleton Chapter of the Learning Disabilities Association will be hosting a Parent Support Group session on Thursday, February 4, 2010, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at 160 Percy Street, Ottawa. Interested people can call 613-567-5864, or email [ldao@rogers.com](mailto:ldao@rogers.com) to RSVP or to obtain more information.

A community outreach workshop will be held on February 18, 2010, at York University (this initiative is part of Project ADVANCE). The workshop will cover topics on Advocacy Skills, Academic Readiness Skills, Assessment & Diagnoses, and Transitions, Accommodations & Supports. The cost for registration is \$40.00, and the deadline to apply is February 18, 2010. Space is limited, so interested people are invited to contact Jacqueline Chang at 416-736-2100, ext. 55338, or [jackiech@yorku.ca](mailto:jackiech@yorku.ca) to register or to obtain more information.

Other Information:

- York University is hosting a six (6) week summer institute on Project ADVANCE, which prepares students with LD to succeed in their university studies. It is open to any student with a diagnosed learning disability who is planning on attending any college or university in September, 2010. Interested people can view the website at [www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/projectadvance.html#apply](http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/projectadvance.html#apply).
- In addition, a one day Project ADVANCE community outreach information session for Service Providers will be hosted on Thursday, February 18, 2010, at York University.

**Autism Ontario – Dave Connor**

Upcoming Conferences: the annual Autism Ontario Regional Meeting will be held in Cornwall on January 29-30, 2010.

New Initiatives: Autism Ontario has released the results of the 2008 PPM-140 Survey. This report represents an analysis of opinions on the implementation of PPM 140. The original survey was made available in November, 2008, by Autism Ontario to parents in all publically funded elementary and secondary schools in Ontario. The report can be viewed on the Autism Ontario website.

**Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling**

Upcoming Meetings: the next meeting for Easter Seals – Ontario (Eastern Ontario Chapter) will be in Kemptville on Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

New Initiatives: the Annual Snowarama will be hosted on February 7, 2010.

Other Information:

- The budget for the fiscal year is \$20,214.00. With the Bowl-a-thon, Snowarama, Gold Tournament and other planned activities, this financial goal is attainable. Last year, Easter Seals – Ontario sponsored seven (7) children to Camp Merrywood at a cost of \$14,000.00.
- There are workshops available in Toronto on S.E.A.C., but the local chapter has not been able to send anyone yet.
- A province wide conference call that was scheduled for January, 2010, has been re-scheduled until February, 2010.

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – Ruby Mekker**

Ruby shared an idea that was used by a high school to increase public awareness around Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder whereby senior students facilitated workshops to the new students. More about the initiative can be found at:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20091217/NEWS04/912160350/1010/news/04/Presentations-teach-kids-to-take-care-of-their-kids>.

#### **IV. Department Update**

Information was shared about the following initiatives:

- a) Bill 157 – Keeping Our Kids Safe at School
  - Recently passed legislation deals with changes to Safe Schools legislation around duty to report; staff response, informing parents, supporting students and the delegation of authority.
  - We partnered with the Religious & Family Life Education Department in the hosting of a training day for school teams on December 7, 2009. A number of resources were distributed to assist schools with this training.
  
- b) CDSBEO had a five person team present for the IEP Review Meeting, December 4, 2009, which was facilitated by Bob Spall from the Ministry.
  - Province is gathering feedback in preparation for a new edition of the IEP Guide.
  - A number of questions to explore were asked of the group.
  - Results from the province indicate that the parental feedback loop is sometimes lacking.
  - There will be an IEP Resource portal housed on the LDAO website for students and parents.
  
- c) Prescott-Russell Services to Children and Youth Open House
  - Sue Wilson and Tom Jordan recently attended an Open House, in Clarence, where they were able to listen to a number of staff members describe programs and resources that are available.
  
- d) The upcoming February 3<sup>rd</sup> Professional Activity Day will be focused on Special Education.
  - Educational Assistants, Student Support Workers and other Support Staff will be gathering at the North Grenville Centre where well known author, Ron Morrish, will be presenting a keynote address in the morning, and participants will be choosing from a variety of different breakout sessions in the afternoon.
  - Our elementary teachers will be gathering in one of four locations throughout the Board where they will spend the day on Learning and Targeting Achievement for All. The day will be broken down into three main components:
    - 1) Keynote Address: Learning and Targeting Achievement for All – Making Reading, Writing and Thinking Connections. CDSBEO's framework that actualizes the Ministry document.
    - 2) Participants will choose from a variety of small group breakout sessions.
    - 3) Grade-facilitated Sharing Sessions

## **V. Election of Chairperson**

Dr. Hawes facilitated the election process whereby:

- Sue Wilson was re-elected as Chairperson.
- James Borer was elected as Vice Chair.
- Rose-Marie Martin was elected as Alternate Vice Chairperson.

## **VI. S.E.A.C. Summit Discussion**

James Borer presented a proposed structure for the upcoming S.E.A.C. Community Outreach Evening which is scheduled for April 22, 2010, at St. Michael CHS, in Kemptville. Various ideas on how to structure the night were discussed.

It was decided that:

- The evening would start with a meal at approximately 5:30 p.m..
- S.E.A.C. and community partners would be invited to setup information carousels.
  - All Associations will be invited to setup a carousel booth.
  - In addition, the Department can provide a couple of carousels such as:
    - Safe Schools/Restorative Justice (could also be a possible workshop)
    - Assistive Technology
    - Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds
- A discussion took place about how many breakout workshops would be best, numbers ranging from 6-3 were discussed.
  - It was decided that there be three or four – 45 minute workshops focusing on:
    - Parents as Advocates / Support for Parents of Special Needs Students
    - The IEP/IPRC Process
    - Supporting the Mental Health of our Students
    - Restorative Practices
- Potential ways to promote the event were discussed.
- Joe Sparling, Rose-Marie Martin and Christina Nichols volunteered to join James Borer to form a Sub-committee with the Special Education Team to further plan the event.
- Action Items resulting from discussion:
  1. The department will check to see if the gym is booked.
  2. James asked everyone around the table to contact their agencies and potential community partners to see who might be interested in setting up a carousel and;
    - provide a couple of lines describing what the focus of the carousel could be
    - provide this information to James Borer or Tom Jordan by Friday, February 5, 2010.
  3. All members were asked to begin to think about potential facilitators for the workshops.
  4. James will investigate securing a celebrity Welcoming Ambassador for the evening.
  5. James will obtain a cost estimate for the food.

6. Dr. Hawes will investigate the possibility of using some Parent Involvement money to help pay for the food.

## **VII. Feedback from the Draft Policies**

Sue Wilson invited members to share any feedback/questions/concerns that they had about the proposed policies: Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies and Accessibility Standards for Customer Care.

- A discussion took place around the “paraprofessional” category.
- Members were invited to share any additional feedback with either Dr. Hawes or Tom Jordan and it would be passed on to Carole Flaro.

## **VIII. Feedback on IEP In-service**

In addition to the feedback Tom Jordan shared during the Department Update:

- Rose-Marie Martin provided some feedback from LDAO.
- Sue Wilson provided her notes from the December IEP Review Meeting that the CDSBEO team attended.
  - Sue invited the group to read her notes and suggested that S.E.A.C. may want to replicate the experience at a future S.E.A.C. meeting.

## **IX. Threat Assessment Training In-service Feedback**

Sue Wilson recently attended a Threat Assessment Training two day workshop in the Brockville area.

- 60 people in total (20 from CDSBEO) attended
- this event was sponsored by CDSBEO in conjunction with the UCDSB and our Community Partners (Police, first Responders, probation, mental health)
- this training was very received and will be repeated
- Sue Wilson shared copies of her notes that she took at the in-service.

## **X. New Business**

- Received the November 2009, THRESHOLDS Newsletter from the Leeds and Grenville Thresholds Committee.
- Sue Wilson shared some information provided by Trustee Reil about an upcoming Autism Workshop, in Brockville.
- Questions were asked about how the new Early Learning Initiative (all day kindergarten) will affect CDSBEO in general, and Special Education in particular.

**XI. Next Meeting:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Board Office, in Kemptonville.

## **XII. Good News Sharing**

Members shared good news stories from across the CDSBEO.

**XIII. Closing Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in a closing prayer.

**XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.