



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

8:00 pm

St. Mary Catholic High School

40 Central Ave.

Brockville, On. K6V 4N5

### Present:

#### SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Debbie Sabourin, Alternate Member for the  
Association of Community Living  
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario  
Ruby Mekker, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder  
Association  
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals Ontario  
Diane Bartlett, Alternative Representative for  
Easter Seals Ontario

#### Board Resource Staff:

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

### **Regrets**

James Borer, VOICE  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children

### **Guests**

Rhonda Peterson

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

### **Opening Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Prayer to Live as a Child of God*".

### **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: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

CARRIED

### **II. Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2011**

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Dave Conners

CARRIED

### III. Association Updates

#### Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

- Justin Bartlett, a student at St. Michael CHS in Kemptville recently raised almost \$60.00 for Easter Seals during the Kemptville Dandelion Festival. The local Association raised \$1900.00.

#### Association for Community Living – Debbie Sabourin

- Cathy Botham (from the local Association) will be receiving an award
- The Annual General Meeting of the local Association will be held on June 15 in Kemptville

#### Autism Ontario – Dave Conners

*No report at this time*

#### Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association – Ruby Mekker

- The Children's Aid Society of Toronto is running a FASD Certificate Program for Teachers
  - The FASD Association sees the Educating system as crucial for changing outcomes for FASD children.
- On Tuesday, June 7/11, 6 people with FASD (ranging age from 6 to 42) talked to the local association about the triumphs and struggles.

### IV. Departmental Update

- A very successful Student Support Worker/Itinerant Able Worker sharing and networking day was hosted on Friday, May 27/11.
- We will be offering Summer Institute Training session for staff in late August in partnership with our partners at CHEO and Pathways for Children and Youth.
  - We also recently met with both CHEO and Pathways to review this past school year and make plans to continue to support our ASD student during the 2011-2012 school year.
- We hosted another Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds workshop on Wednesday, June 1/11.
  - Special thanks go again to Sarah Jaynes (teacher at Notre Dame Catholic High School) and Mieke Stacey (Educational Assistant at Notre Dame Catholic High School) for organizing and facilitating this wonderful event.

### V. Presentation: Dr. Darcy Santor from the CHEO Centre of Excellence Mental Health and Youth..... A Growing Concern

**(Note: this presentation took place starting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic School-immediately preceding this 8:00 p.m. SEAC Meeting)**

- Dr. Darcy Santor from the CHEO Centre of Excellence and founder of My Health Magazine ([www.myhealthmagazine.net](http://www.myhealthmagazine.net)) presented to SEAC, parents and staff. His presentation focused on the seriousness of the needs and ways in which school, parents and communities can help address these needs. He also demonstrated how

students can access My Mental Health Magazine which is an online Mental Health and Wellness resource for students, parents and staff. All of our Grade 7-12 students in CDSBEO have access to this valuable resource.

#### **VI. Annual Report to the Ministry of Education Update**

Dr. Hawes and Tom Jordan reported that the DRAFT 2010 CDSBEO Annual Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Program and Services was presented to CDSBEO Board of Trustees at the Tuesday, June 7/11 Board Meeting. An in depth analysis was provided to the Trustees and the SEAC recommendations were reviewed. The Board of Trustees was extremely pleased to hear that the SEAC recommendations had received unanimous support from SEAC member this year.

#### **Motion to Approve the Annual Report**

**“It is recommend that the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario approve the Annual Report on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services, 2010-2011, and the accompany staffing and budget recommendations included as presented on June 7, 2011.”**

**Moved by:** Karen McAllister

**Seconded by:** Ruby Mekker

**CARRIED**

#### **VII. New Business**

- The 2010-2011 SEAC Goals and Priorities were reviewed and the following goals/priorities were preliminarily set for the 2011-2012 school year (subject to review in August 2011):
  - Invite Jill Bobula (author) to share some of her books on Special Needs Learners,
  - Provide a presentation on the implementation of our new IEP software/tools,
  - Review the CDSBEO Parental Communication tools/strategies as a means to continue to improve the communication and enhance parental involvement,
  - For the Department to identify a staff member who can provide school teams with information, assistance and resources for FASD,
  - Share best practices with regards to preparing high needs students for staff changes,
  - To review the learning opportunities for staff and students with regards to MyHealthMagazine (online mental health resource).
  
- Attendance at SEAC and Alternate Association Members
  - Trustee Sue Wilson expressed thanks to all for the successful efforts to expand our membership this year and for recruiting Alternate members
  - Sue reminded the group that Ministry Regulations inform us that missing three meetings (without an Alternate to step in) is problematic.
  - All Associations were asked to please try to find an Alternate member over the summer (if they have yet to be successful).

#### **VIII. Good News Sharing**

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

**IX. Next Meeting Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 pm at the Kemptville Board Office**

**X. Closing Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in a *Hail Mary*.

**XI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m., and thanked everyone for coming out this evening, wished everyone a safe and happy summer and presented certificates of appreciation to SEAC members.