



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING March 25th, 2009 Board Office, in Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
James Borer, VOICE
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education
Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator
Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource
Teacher, St. Mary School, Chesterville

Regrets:

Jason Edge, Autism Ontario
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living

Guests:

Rhonda Peterson, Student Support Worker,
St. Joseph School, Gananoque
Diane Bartlett, Parent

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All motions and many agenda items were deferred as a majority of Special Education Advisory Committee members were not in attendance.

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in a prayer.

**** Minutes will be presented for approval at the next SEAC meeting on April 29th, 2009.**

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests.

III. Approval of Agenda

Deferred.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Deferred.

V. Association Updates

Joe Sparling – Easter Seals – Ontario

Mr. Sparling informed the Special Education Advisory Committee that the Annual Easter Seals Telethon will be broadcast on Sunday, April 5th, 2009. As well, the Easter Seals Paper Easter Egg campaign will be commencing shortly. People are able to purchase “eggs” which will help send a disabled child to an Easter Seals Camp this summer.

Mr. Sparling recently received a manual of the Guidelines and Definitions of a SEAC Easter Seals representation along with a Code of Conduct which he will sign and return to Easter Seals.

James Borer – VOICE

Mr. Borer shared the schedule of events for the **VOICE ENABLING DAY** scheduled for April 4th, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Research Wing of CHEO (Rooms 144, 145, 146). Presentations include:

- a) The New Auditory Verbal Mentorship Program
- b) Special Education and support of deaf and hard of hearing children taking the oral approach within the mainstream of schools of Ontario
- c) What have you done for us lately? VOICE head office

Interested registrants should RSVP by March 29th, 2009 by calling 613-346-1671 or via e-mail VOICEenablingday@gmail.com

VI. Department Updates

Differentiated Instruction through FROG, HAWK and STOMP

DI Support Teachers participated and networked together during professional learning sessions in January. They shared examples of good instructional strategies in both small and whole group presentations that included critical thinking, assistive technology, media, and reading-writing connections. They also shared useful tips as both classroom practitioners and leaders within their schools – all on the journey of helping DI happen for our learners. We look forward to further school-based support over the next few months, refreshing guided reading through FROG, and consolidating essential FROG, HAWK and STOMP strategies for elementary learners.

Targeting Achievement for All – Making Read, Write, Think Connections

On March 3rd school teams were brought together to consolidate the best practices found in FROG, HAWK, AND STOMP, and connect essential components of these practices in reading, writing and thinking which will benefit all learners but are essential for those who struggle. An all encompassing resource is being developed to support the implementation of the essential strategies found in FROG, HAWK and STOMP. Released in a magazine-style format over the next year, “Targeting for All” will allow teachers at all grade levels to have essential strategies at their fingertips.

There was a request for this presentation to be shared at SEAC on a future agenda.

VII. Board Special Education Annual Review Process

Special Education Advisory Committee members were guided through the various sections of the Annual Report detailing which sections would require changes. All members were offered the opportunity to make suggestions and possible proposed changes.

In light of the fact that we have many new SEAC members, Dr. Hawes went through how the Addendum to the Annual Review is developed throughout the year and how SEAC is an important part of the process. The workings of an effective SEAC were discussed. One of the highlights of that discussion included:

- SEAC members are encouraged to request presentations and information from Board staff as the need arises. The Board will always strive to provide the information in a timely manner and provide rich presentations as requested. Motions are not required for information to be provided.

VIII. Ministry of Education Initiatives

There is a grant under Safe Schools – safe, equitable and inclusive schools. Inclusive education strategies is our main area of focus and the Department is looking to extend the

purchase of our Redcat Soundfield system. We want to ensure that all Grade 1 classrooms have this great piece of equipment which positively impacts on student learning.

IX. Restorative Practices Overview

Brian Peters presented the Restorative Practice Framework, which is part of our Board's response to Bill 212, the Safe Schools Act. Utilizing a Socratic engagement style, the framework incorporates explicit practice, being firm and fair, the continuum of restorative practice, fair process, the restorative questions, a restorative practice checklist and a theoretical basis. By engaging in this framework, schools build on existing practices that already work; it is not meant to replace what is deemed effective but rather to enhance it. Schools embracing the Restorative Practice Framework report a safer, more connected environment with higher levels of student achievement as existing and new practices are framed through the restorative lens.

X. SEAC Orientation Process/Binder

Deferred.

XI. Correspondence Received

No correspondence was received.

XII. Business Arising from the Minutes – deferred to next meeting

- Lyn Ziraldo, Former Chair of MACSI, was contacted to attend a future SEAC meeting. She is available to come in June. The focus would be on developing and promoting SEAC. Special Education Advisory Committee members felt that it would be better to wait until September or October, 2009, as our June meeting is required to make recommendations on the Annual Report.
- SIP Review
- Survey on Board Assessment Tools for Needy Students

XIII. Chair Update

The revised school calendar has been changed. Students will start back to school Tuesday, September 8th after Labour Day. Wednesday and Thursday before the holiday, staff will be back in the schools and will participate in professional activities. The May Elementary Special Education PD day has been cancelled.

Prescott Russell Coalition Against Drugs – initially scheduled for this spring is being deferred until October, 2009.

XIV. Good News Sharing

Members and guests shared “Good News” stories/events.

XV. Next SEAC Meeting

Wednesday, April 29th, 2009, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

XVI. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the closing prayer – “Good News for All – Celebrating Integrity”.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: James Borer