



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3rd, 2008

Board Office, in Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large
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, Special Education Coordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Guests: Bobbi Stephen - Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer

Brian and Dawn led the group in a Prayer to Begin the School Year

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Christina Edge

IV. Approval of Amended Minutes

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Ruby Mekker

V. Association Updates

Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Christina shared the dates for the Ottawa Chapter's "Saturday Take-off!" sessions which are designed for enrichment for kids aged 6 to 14. The sessions are on Saturdays, October 25 to November 29th at St. Pauls's High School in Ottawa. The fall Brochure is available on-line: <http://www.abcontario.ca/content/view/44/79/#FAQ>

Christina Edge, Autism Ontario Living

Christina shared an article about a program called Best Buddies, which has been launched in a few high schools in Hamilton. The goal is to help provide individuals with a wonderful opportunity for friendship. As part of the program, which is Canadian wide, there will be the 14th annual Leadership Conference in Montreal.

Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

This has been a busy season for Easter Seals. They have successfully sponsored a golf tournament and the O.P.P. held a BBQ and donated the proceeds. For this upcoming season, they are planning another golf tournament with the support of the Kemptville 73's. Joe Sparling has made the commitment to attending all the upcoming Easter Seals meetings in this area.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

Suzanne shared some information about a conference called Defining a Rights Based Framework – Advancing Inclusion of Students with Disabilities. This National Forum will be held in Toronto September 25th to 27th at the Renaissance Toronto Airport Hotel. There will also be a Resources for Inclusion Workshop on November 15th at the Harbourfront Community Centre in Toronto. Suzanne also shared a copy of a newsletter and a coalition information sheet.

VI. Special Education Department Goals/Initiatives for 2008/09

Dr. Hawes shared the goal package for 2008 -2009

Achieve High Levels of Student Achievement:

- ❖ Target higher levels of student achievement for students with IEPs on Board and Provincial assessments by reviewing existing success and setting school specific goals.
- ❖ Identify schools in each region that have high levels of student achievement for exceptional students and identify high yield strategies in 4 key areas including: implementing D.I. (FROG, HAWK, STOMP), using assistive technology, creating safer schools, and coordination and effective use of support staff.
- ❖ Create an assessment rubric for school use to review higher success and full implementation of Board goals in four targeted areas.

Reduce Gaps in Student Achievement:

- ❖ Increase the number of successful credits obtained, the percentage of students with Level 2 and 3, on report cards and improved reading and writing scores on Board CAT 3 and provincial EQAO assessments.
- ❖ Provide effective ABA strategies to use Board wide with students with ASD and focus on transition planning to maximize student success.
- ❖ Develop and track HAWK and STOMP's impact on students by analyzing data provided by CASI and Board HAWK and STOMP rubrics.

Increase Public Confidence of Parents with Students Receiving Special Education:

- ❖ Create a Special Education four page brochure outlining accomplishments, innovative programs and effective strategies to share with parents.
- ❖ Organize and provide a SEAC evening of presentations and workshops for interested parents.
- ❖ Share School Anti-bullying prevention and intervention plans and progressive discipline approach with parents.

VII. SEAC Goals for 2008 - 2009

Seac members discussed and identified the following goals:

- Review Education for All K to 12 for 15 to 20 minutes at each meeting once it is released;
- Create a one page SEAC flyer to promote the committee meetings;
- Develop a sound communication strategy – internally with SEAC members as well as with school communities;
- Ensure the Parent Handbook is available on the board website;
- Provide orientation for new SEAC members;

- Develop a page of acronyms for SEAC members, to be included in this year's annual review.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- ABA presentation
- Transitions
- Board Vision for Technology – to assist exceptional students
- Mental health/Occupational Therapy support for sensory sensitivity
- Department vision on how successes/needs are measured.
- Gifted programs – dual diagnosis

There will be a Special Education Parent Involvement forum which will be held on Thursday, April 30th. More information will follow. Some suggestions to include

- 1) Guest Speaker – yet to be determined
- 2) Demonstration of Kursweil, Elmo, smart boards
- 3) Living the Dream video

IX. Dates and topics for SEAC meeting were shared. All meetings have been moved to Wednesdays because it was a better night for many of our families and associations.

X. Chair update: Sue thanked the SEAC members for their participation and time in SEAC committee. Members were given a certificate to honour their commitment.

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

XII. Upcoming S.E.A.C. Meeting is September 24th, 2008, 7p.m. at St. Michael Catholic High School Library in Kemptville.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the “Board Prayer”.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Suzanne Edge

Seconded by: Christina Edge