



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

shalom
Acting justly...
Living peacefully...
Celebrating joyfully!

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 30th, 2011

Board Office, Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living
Debbie Sabourin, Alternate Member for the Association for Community Living
Claire Hubbard, Alternate Member for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario
Diane Bartlett, Alternate Member for Easter Seals Ontario

Board Resource Staff:

Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
Ruby Mekker, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association
Dave Conners, Autism Ontario
James Borer, VOICE

Guests:

Lisa LeClair (Parent – Holy Cross School,

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and welcomed all members and guests. Sue had all members and guests introduce themselves and thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in an *Advent Prayer for SEAC*.

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes – October 26th, 2011

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Diane Bartlett

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

A telephone conference call was held on November 30th, 2011 – a report will be forthcoming at the next meeting and the regularly scheduled meeting of the Local association will be held on December 1st, 2011.

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

Upcoming Conferences: The Commence 2012 conference will be held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North on February 8th and 9th, 2012. The event will feature workshops, keynote speakers and success stories designed to inspire professionals and educators to help young people with a developmental disability to succeed in the final years of high school, and assist transition to the adult world. This conference is sponsored by Community Living Ontario and Passport Mentoring. Registration is available through the Community Living Ontario website, www.communitylivingontario.ca

New Initiatives:

- The Community Living Ontario website has made available a series of youtube videos and webinars called Inclusive Education 101. Sample topics include IPRC, IEP, Assert Your Vision, Co-teaching in an Inclusive Classroom, Main Obstacles to Education, etc. (some of this is international, so issues presented are from countries other than Canada).
- The Southeast Regional Education Committee came into being when efforts were made to close Kinsman School, in Cornwall. This group continues to meet to prepare a parent tool kit for parents of children with special needs to help them understand their rights and work their way through the education system. They would also like to assist with the webinars named on the Community Living Ontario website. They are asking the Board to consider posting a link to that website where they will be posting future information (CDSBEO currently has a link to the national association, but not the provincial one).
- Marilyn Dolmage is scheduled to present during Inclusive Education month (January) in Brockville and Cornwall. A workshop is also planned for February 27th, 2012, with Gordon Porter (Director of Inclusive Education Canada) and Deidre Smith (Manager of Standards of Practice, College of Teachers in Ontario) who are co-authors of a book

featuring 25 stories written by teachers and families about what works regarding education of students with developmental disabilities.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association – Claire Hubbard

There is a meeting next Tuesday that will deal with transition to work and supports outside of the home.

IV. Department Update

CDSBEO now has DRAFT copies of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)/ Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) Transition Planning Protocols and Procedures for Young People with Developmental Disabilities for both the South East Region (which includes Lanark, Leeds, Grenville and points west), and the Eastern Region (which includes Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott Russell and points north). These draft copies are now being circulated for consultation. It is hoped that all parties will be in a position to sign off by the end of February, 2012.

Lori Murphy developed and presented a workshop entitled, *Welcome to IPAD 2: Another Innovative Step Towards Inclusion for All*, to groups of educators who support deaf and hard of hearing students (as well as other exceptionalities) in London in October, and in Kingston in November. The feedback was very positive.

The Department hosted a very successful Professional Activity Day for our Educational Assistants and Student Support Workers on October 28th, 2011, in Kemptville.

We were represented at a meeting with some of the key staff from CHEO's Centre for Excellence on November 1st, 2011 (along with representatives from other school boards and agencies in the area). The discussions centered on Mental Health initiatives in our schools and what the centre could do to support our efforts.

Tom Jordan was part of a CDSBEO Board Team that attended a Ministry sponsored *Equity and Inclusive Education Symposium*, in Ottawa, on November 4th, 2011. Our presentation to the group featured some of the Education for All and Restorative Practices resources.

On November 16th, 2011, the Department brought in some of our staff members (Principals, EAs, IAWs, Crisis Workers) who work in or support our specialized settings/programs (ABLE, Turning Points, and Section 23). The day focused on the sharing of best practices, looking at some case studies and research with a goal of developing more precision in goal setting and data collection in these programs.

We participated in the Provincial Safe Schools Working Teleconference on November 18th, 2011 that was hosted by Jennifer Harewood Kokoue, who is a Sr. Policy Advisor, Safe Schools Unit of the Ministry of Education. The teleconference included a number of representatives from the Ministry of Education, as well as educators with responsibilities for

safe schools issues from across the province. The purpose of the Working Group is to provide:

- a forum for feedback and advice on various aspects of Safe Schools policies and initiatives, as well as strategic linkages between Safe Schools and other Ministry policies and initiatives;
- an opportunity for the sharing of challenges, effective practices and new evidence on safe schools issues.

CDSBEO is supporting and working with the Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement (BDACI) in their efforts to “ramp up” the promotion of Inclusive Education month this school year. CDSBEO is looking at helping to promote the activities/events with our parents and staff members. Plans are underway to invite representatives from all our eight counties to the events.

Trudy Rook and Tom Jordan represented the Department at the official opening of the new offices of Addiction Services of Eastern Ontario (ASEO), in Hawkesbury, which was hosted by Dr. Suzanne Filion and her staff on November 24th, 2011. We were able to find out more about what ASEO can offer to our students and families in Prescott-Russell and some valuable contacts were established.

V. Presentation One

Jill Bobula, author of such books as *Eager Eddy: The World's Most Active Dude*, *Daydreaming Dakota: The World's Greatest Daydreamer*, and *Anxious Annie: The World's Greatest Counter*, shared her books on children with special needs.

- Besides being an author, Jill is a mother of two, one of which has special needs. Jill did a lot of research looking for resources to support her child and discovered that there was not a lot of resources out there to help special needs students (and their peers) understand themselves and celebrate their gifts. As a result, Jill and her sister Katherine, have written a series of children's books on children/students (aged 4-12) who live with Attention Deficit Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, Tourette's Syndrome, Dyslexia and Depression.
- Lesson plans have been developed that compliment the Ontario Curriculum (available free of charge on the website www.wildberryproductions.ca) and the materials are now being converted to electronic PDF files. All of the books are approved by the Ministry of Education Ontario (as well as other provinces/areas).
- The books are written in a very positive light and help to share accurate information and build acceptance. Each book has a character that lives with the particular condition. The books are available on the website www.wildberryproductions.ca with discounts available to schools and school boards.
- Jill is also very involved in the local chapter of the Tourette's Syndrome Association that meets once a month at the Royal Ottawa Hospital.
- Jill can be contacted at jill@wildberryproductions.ca, or by phone at 613-823-0675, for more information about the books or support for Tourette's Syndrome issues.

Presentation Two

Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant, provided an overview of CDSBEO's ongoing efforts/plans/progress with respect to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

- Rod reviewed some of the history of the accessibility legislation requirements in the Board. CDSBEO started with a comprehensive survey of all facilities and developed a multi-year plan. The challenge is that there is no additional money to take care of the improvements.
- AODA has very specific guidelines and timelines. We are now obliged to meet around the following five areas: Customer Service, Employment, Information and Communication, Transportation, and Accessible Built Environment. The Ministry's goal is to have a fully accessible Ontario by 2025 (this will include public and private organizations).
- Rod reviewed how the Special Education Department/Board is meeting the needs/challenges of our students with respect to AODA through targeted support and prioritizing the many needs. The challenge is that there is no additional money supplied by the province to make the improvements/fix the deficiencies.

VI. New Business

Request by St. Andrew Catholic Parent Council to host a future SEAC meeting.

- It was decided that SEAC would be happy to take St. Andrew Catholic Parent Council up on the invitation to host a regularly scheduled SEAC meeting. It was agreed that the SEAC meeting scheduled for April 25th, 2012, would be the best choice.

Request from Ruby Mekker for a leave of absence from SEAC from November 2011 to March 2012.

Motion:

To accept Ruby Mekker's request for a leave of absence as the Representative for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association and that Claire Hubbard, Alternate Representative for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Association be in attendance during the duration of Ruby's absence.

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

CARRIED

Review of our 2011-2012 SEAC Goals and Priorities (established at the SEAC meeting June, 2011)

- Invite Jill Bobula (Author) to share some of her books on special needs learners. Completed at the November 30th, 2011 SEAC meeting.
- Provide a presentation on the implementation of our new IEP software/tools. Completed at the September 28th, 2011 SEAC meeting.
- Review the CDSBEO Parental Communication tools/strategies as a means to continue to improve communication and enhance parental involvement.

- 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 MyHealth Magazine (online mental health resource).
- At the SEAC meeting on August 31st, 2011, the following additional ideas were put forward for consideration:
 - A presentation on Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Completed at the November 30th, 2011 SEAC meeting.
 - An update on Technology.
 - Review the training of staff for people with disabilities.
 - Review the Emergency Preparedness Procedures.
- All SEAC members are invited to send in their ideas for rank ordering these priorities as it will be difficult to complete all of these goals/priorities this school year.

VII. Good News Sharing

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

VIII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 25th, 2012, at the Board Office, in Kemptville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in *Our Father*.

X. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Debbie Sabourin

CARRIED

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m., and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.