



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

#### **SEAC Members:**

Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario  
Jason Edge, Autism Ontario  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for  
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville  
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright  
Children of Ontario  
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario  
James Borer, VOICE  
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large

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

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education  
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education  
Dawn Fewer, Coordinator of Special Education

#### **Regrets:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Nancy Kirby, Trustee

#### **Guests:**

Diane Bartlett, Parent  
Dave Connors, Parent

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Fran Brauneisen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Brian Peters led us in a prayer celebrating “All Saints Day”.

## **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Fran Brauneisen welcomed all members and guests.

## **III. Approval of Amended Agenda**

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: James Borer

## **IV. Approval of Amended Minutes**

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

## **V. Association Updates**

### Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

- Suzanne attended the Ontario Human Rights Commission on Inclusive Education, September 25, 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> in Toronto: The Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) 2008 Conference.
- Suzanne attended the Family Alliance Ontario Conference October 3, 4 and 5 in Ottawa “Engaging Families and Building Bridges.”
- Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community Conference November 15<sup>th</sup> in Toronto.
- Workshop December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Toronto on “School Inclusion Works” sponsored by Community Living Ontario.
- CACL (Canadian Association for Community Living) hosting a conference on “A Global Forum on Inclusion” November 19-21 in Ottawa.

### Christina Nichols, Association for Bright Children of Ontario

- The registration night for ABC Take-off Courses was held on October 2, 2008. Fall registrations were higher than usual, with a record of 128 registrations from Ottawa and the surrounding areas.
- The registration for the next Take-off session will be in early Spring, 2009. Should the CDSBEO be interested in distributing the course information for the next session (to principals and resource staff), please let me know the quantities and we will ensure adequate copies are available.
- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a document titled: A Comparison of the Advanced Placement & Ontario curricula was distributed to School Boards across Ontario.
- Ottawa Carleton District School Board – in June, 2006 a consultant’s report was presented to the OCDSB recommending that the number of Secondary Gifted Centres be reduced. The OCDSB is now undertaking a review to determine the number and location of Secondary

Gifted Centres, and will begin the review process by holding two consultation sessions for parents and stakeholders, on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jason Edge, Autism Ontario

- Autism Ontario is hosting their annual SEAC training event for SEAC reps November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, in Toronto.
- Autism Ontario released a new document entitled “Forgotten” – Recommendations for Supports and Services for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

As our children and teens with ASD move to post-secondary education and beyond, there are very few supports for them. Autism Ontario has been working to bring awareness about this situation. The document is available on the website [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities

Rose-Marie shared an invitation to attend the LDAO – Special Education Advocacy Institute on November 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be shared with the schools.

Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

- During a web search, Joe came across an interesting web site - O.F.C.P. It is a member of the Ontario Individualization Funding Coalitions which has developed a framework for building blocks for change. O.F.C.P. recognizes that there are many challenges in implementing strategies for change. O.F.C.P. has annual conferences for caregivers. If possible, Joe will attend the 2009 conference.
- OPP BBQ update – proceeds totaled \$340.00 and was donated to Easter Seals by the Kemptville 73's Hockey team in the name of Justin Bartlett.
- A Bowl-a-thon was held at Kemptville Bowling which raised \$4,752.00. Proceeds went to Easter Seals to help support the many good projects they perform.

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

- Fran attended a meeting in Kingston which delivered the new Ministry guidelines vis-a-vis the funding awarded last Spring. Topic presented was “Building a Provincial Developmental Services System”. It was all part of the new transformation process.

An increase of 2% in base funding was awarded and will not be reduced. However, agencies must redirect an equivalent amount from Residential Services and Central Administration to achieve targets. Each region was given its share based on population and current distribution process.

Provincial Targets as follows: 280 new individuals served in residential services of various descriptions; 253 new individuals served in community participation support programs; 70 new individuals served by vacancy management (reserved for people deemed at risk and must be provided immediate service).

With the current economic uncertainty and talk of government deficits, confidence in future funding allocations is cause for concern.

Increased initiative on the part of the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to define and monitor good board governance and to ensure that agencies know what their roles and responsibilities are.

Fran submitted a copy of the Community Living North Grenville newsletter which contained a synopsis of Bill 77.

## **VI. Safe Schools Update**

The Special Education Department shared the draft version of a booklet entitled “Creating Communities of Peace”. As a Catholic Board, it is our purpose to create safe and caring community schools, which respect individuality, celebrate harmony and strive to promote and develop responsible behaviour based on Gospel values and shared discipleship. This booklet articulates this vision and is a resource for our school community. SEAC members were invited to share their comments.

## **VII. Department Update**

*Meeting the Needs 2008 Conference* – this year CDSBEO hosted this Special Education conference in Picton. It was highly successful in reaching a broad audience of classroom teachers, special education teachers and administrators.

*IEP Website* - As part of the Ministry’s continuing effort to support the development and implementation of effective IEPs, they have developed a website containing sample IEPs for both the elementary and secondary panels. These samples are intended to be a resource to all staff involved in the development and implementation of the IEP. The posted IEP samples can be found at <http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/IEP-PEI/index.html>.

*Geneva Centre Training* – Once again, the Geneva Centre will provide the third of three training sessions for our Educational Assistants and Student Support Workers. The focus is on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) in the classroom and the audience will be Educational Assistants from the elementary panel. It will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Special Education Professional Development Day will focus on the new resource document Education for All which is currently being revised K to 12.

## **VIII. E.Q.A.O.**

Donaleen Hawes presented the 2007-2008 EQAO results for the Board. We have much to celebrate!

### **Grade 3 Students achieving at provincial standard levels 3 and 4**

Writing – 52% - a 26% increase in one year, and 15% higher than the province

Reading – 34% - this is 9% higher than the province

Math – 46% - this is 11% higher than the province

**Grade 6 Students achieving at provincial standard levels 3 and 4**

Writing – 41% - this is an 18% increase in a year, and 13% higher than the province

Reading – 36% - this is 9% higher than the province

Math – 27% - this is 4% higher than the province

**IX. Correspondence Received**

- LDAO – Special Education Advocacy Institute

**X. New Business**

None presented

**XI. Chair Update**

Chair was absent.

**XII. Good News Sharing**

All members shared a piece of good news.

**XIII. Next SEAC Meeting**

- Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at St. Michael CHS (Library), in Kemptville

**XIV. Closing Prayer**

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

**XV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Ruby Mekker

