



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 24, 2008

St. Michael CHS (Library), Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Christina Edge, Autism 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
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
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Irene Tweddle, CUPE Representative
Karen McAllister, Trustee
James Borer, VOICE

Guests:

Patty Maddigan, Parent
Diane Bartlett, Parent

Movement to excuse Karen McAllister and
James Borer

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in an opening Prayer

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed Jason Edge to our Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Ruby Mekker

IV. Approval of Amended Minutes

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

V. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

On November 17 to 21st there is CACL's 50th Anniversary conference at the Westin Ottawa Hotel. Topics range from activist history to closing of institutions, from legal reform challenges to organizing for future change. The evenings are devoted to visual arts displays celebrating achievement. For more information please register online at www.cacl.ca before November 9th or call -778-338-4142.

Bill 77: Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act will replace the current bill called The Developmental Services Act which was passed in 1974. There is some resistance and serious concern on the part of service providers.

Registered Disability Savings Plan was discussed. Lobby groups are working to get the Ontario government to change this policy, but so far it is not a guarantee.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Several items were brought forward requesting confirmation and or direction from the Special Education Department. Donaleen Hawes responded to each item, bringing clarity to the process of how information is brought forward to the Special Education Advisory Committee for discussion at different times throughout the year.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children is offering a SEAC Workshop on Saturday, November 8th, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario. SEAC reps who are not VOICE members are welcome to attend for a fee of \$50. More information can be found at <http://www.voicefordeafkids.com>.

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario SEAC reps and alternates will be offered online SEAC training in early 2009.

Jason Edge, Autism Ontario

Child and Youth Wellness Centre, in Brockville, which is one of our community partners, will be holding an Autism Training session for all of their staff on October 9th, 2008. Christina Edge will be presenting information on autism as well as information on Autism Ontario.

Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

Joe is taking part in the organization of the Easter Seal Society of Ontario golf tournament. He shared a handout which details the cost of the various assistive equipment made available of needy children through fundraising efforts.

VI. SEAC Member Nomination – Autism Ontario

Motion recommending Jason Edge sit as an alternate for Autism Ontario.

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

VII. Presentation

Ruby Mekker, Special Education Resource Teacher at St. Mary, Chesterville, shared Occupational Therapy Strategies that are useful in the classroom.

VIII. Department Updates

- **Individual Education Plan** - This year the focus for our support staff in the Special Education Department is the IEP. Developing and implementing an IEP that meets the needs of the student requires a team effort including board support staff. This year we will continue to learn how to best support this process.
- **Capacity Building in Our Schools** – Differentiated Instruction Support Teacher (DI) is a .3 position in our elementary schools. Their primary responsibility is to develop a capacity of school teams based on the Ministry document, “Education for All”. In our Board, the DI teachers support the implementation of HAWK (Higher Achievement through Writer’s Know-How) and STOMP (Success Through Optimizing My Potential). This year we have had our initial meeting with our team, hosted by Lead Teacher Consultants, Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau.
- **Assistive Technology** – We have offered the schools a cost share opportunity to acquire a document camera called the ELMO, as well as an LCD projector and cart. The ELMO allows the teacher to present information and demonstrate in a highly visual, colourful manner – often essential for our students with special education needs. It is being targeted to support the DI role as they work collaboratively with other teachers modeling lessons in classrooms.
- **Visual Assessment Portfolios** – Donaleen shared two new draft documents; one to support Grade 2 teachers, and one to inform parents on the visual assessment portfolios.

- **New SERT In-service** – On September 24th and 25th, we held our regional SERT meetings. New SERTs were invited to spend a day learning about the various aspects of the resource teacher's responsibilities and the support staff available to them.
- **Autism Update** – this year we will continue to focus on implementation of PPM 140. This policy program memorandum from the Ministry of Education was released last year. This year we will continue to train teachers and support staff to develop capacity around developing and implementing transition plans and incorporating ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) strategies when appropriate for students with autism. Our School Support Partners, CHEO and Pathways, have coordinated a joint calendar of training which will target ABA and Transitions. They will offer a series of seven (7) sessions each month. The sessions will be hosted by Catholic and Public schools throughout the Boards.
- **Restorative Practices Retreat** – October 3rd PD Day – pilot schools are St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School - Hammond, Bishop Macdonell - Cornwall, St. Joseph – Gananoque, and St. Francis de Sales – Smiths Falls.
- **Teacher of the Deaf** – A .5 Teacher of the Deaf has been hired. PLC's with Lori Murphy.
- **Communication Strategies** – in response to the request from the Special Education Advisory Committee to improve communication strategies regarding SEAC, we have updated the Board website to include SEAC members + their e-mails, confirmed that the Special Education Parent Handbook is available on the website, and sent a memo to school principals requesting the following items:
 - post the monthly SEAC dates and locations in monthly newsletters complete with a schedule of the SEAC dates for the 2008/09 school year
 - remind parents that detailed minutes and agendas are available on the Board website, suggested that they could possibly include a link on the school website
 - every month the minutes and agenda will be forwarded to the principals, please ensure a copy is forwarded to the Catholic School Council Chair
 - a copy of the Special Education Annual Review is provided to schools in September, please communicate the availability of this document to your school community
- **ARTS** – Gallery Celebration – Donaleen Hawes and Brian Peters attended the Arts Celebration at the Mill of Kintail, in Almonte, on September 19, 2008. Many parents, teachers and students attended this exciting event. The proud artists took time to sign their prints that were sold throughout the evening. Many prints were sold, and to date, over \$1,000 has been donated to the Good Samaritan Fund. The collection of original art pieces will be displayed at the Board Offices throughout the CDSBEO throughout this school year.

IX. Planning Process for Orientation of New SEAC Members

In a future meeting the SEAC Learning website hosted by the Ministry of Education will be shared. The website is <http://seac-learning.ca/>. A binder of this material was shared with new members.

X. Correspondence Received

None received.

XI. Business

No new business.

XII. Chair Update

Canadian Catholic Trustees Association is meeting in Ottawa on Thursday, September 25th, 2008.

XIII. Good News Sharing

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

XIV. Next SEAC Meeting

- Wednesday, October 29th, 2008, at the Kemptville Board Office, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

XV. Closing Prayer

XVI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Christina Nichols

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

