



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 30th, 2009

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
James Borer, VOICE

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Christine Campeau, Junior Teacher Consultant
Michael Glofcheskie, Junior Teacher Consultant

Regrets:

Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario

Guests:

Dianne Bartlett, Parent
Rhonda Peterson, CUPE

Meeting Called to Order

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Sue Wilson welcomed the group and had members and guests introduce themselves.

II. Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan led us in a “Prayer to Begin the School Year”.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

IV. Approval of Minutes – June 10th, 2009 and June 29th, 2009

Minutes – June 10th, 2009

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

Minutes – June 29th, 2009

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

V. Presentation – Targeting Achievement for All

Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau

Dr. Hawes introduced Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau, Junior Teacher Consultants.

- Michael described the Facilitating Reading for Optimum Growth (F.R.O.G.) Re-launch in CDSBEO which had a very positive impact on all school teams. The F.R.O.G. Refreshed binder was shared.
- A review of the principles of Targeting Achievement for All was shared. Michael and Christine described some upcoming launches that will involve all Teachers from Grades 4-8, with their Special Education Resource Teachers and Administrators using the department developed magazines as a focus.
- Christine talked about the first magazine (Systematic and Explicit Instruction). The magazines feature best practices and research concerning reading, writing and thinking. The objective is to help teachers see how these three important skills fit together.
- These resources are very user-friendly and when fully implemented, will help all learners.
- Special Education Advisory Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions.
- Sue Wilson thanked Michael and Christine for providing ongoing updates to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

V1. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Upcoming Conferences:

The Canadian Association for Community Living is sponsoring a National Conference which will be co-hosted by themselves and the New Brunswick Association for Community Living. The conference will take place in Dieppe, New Brunswick on October 23-24, 2009, at the Ramada Plaza Crystal Palace. It will address topics ranging from quality education from the early years to the transition from school and life-long learning; aging parents and

adult children; what happens when parents are no longer living; how to get the message of inclusive communities to the rest of the world; a look at the UN Charter and the role of community living in making it a reality in Canada; and a presentation of the Freedom Tour by People First of Canada. The conference will take place on October 23-24, 2009 in New Brunswick.

Other Information:

Fran attended a two day workshop given by Dr. David Pitonyak in July, 2009. Dr. Pitonyak is a Behavioural Specialist headquartered in Virginia. Dr. Pitonyak shared information that everyone in the audience could relate to and use either in work, social or family settings. Dr. Pitonyak will be returning to this area in 2011, and has expressed an interest in returning to North Grenville.

The Association has received a report completed by Matthew Burley and Connor Nicholls, conducted in association with Queen's University – CURA Project. It is entitled, "Whaddaya Think Now?" and looks at attitudes students have in regards to fellow students with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. It was conducted in the local high schools, but compiles the results as a "Kemptville" assessment. It was not able to fulfill its original intention due to issues beyond the control of the presenters. A summary is available to anyone interested.

The next meeting for the Association of Community Living is October 21st, 2009, in North Grenville.

James Borer, VOICE

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

One event that was highlighted is the Queen's Park Lobby Day for Project Kids H.E.A.R. The focus of Project Kids H.E.A.R. is to achieve enacted standards for care in Health and Education for children who are hard of hearing or deaf. James was selected by the Multiple organizations to lead this project. To date, he has meet and discussed our issues with the Premiere, Dalton McGuinty, the Ministry of Children Youth Services, a number of MPPs, multiple media outlets both local and national, and the Chair of our Board, Mr. Ronald Eamer. James will keep our Special Education Advisory Committee informed as things progress.

New Initiatives:

VOICE was recently contacted by the Director of Project Child Advocacy, Pro Bono Law Ontario, as a result of our press release concerning the upcoming Lobby Day. This is an organization of Lawyers specializing in the rights of children to be properly supported at school as well as dealing with other school related issues such as expulsion. This is an organization that provides pro bono services based on a families income. Their website for your benefit is www.childadvocacy.ca.

Other Information:

James noted that the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is one of the few Boards in Ontario that can be held up as a model for supporting hard of hearing or deaf children. Through its commitment in hiring a second Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf, utilizing one time funding to purchase sound field systems for Grade 1 classes, and enrolling in the Verbal Educator mentorship program, it has taken some truly significant steps towards properly supporting the children whom VOICE represents. James expressed appreciation that when talking with the politicians and media, he can use our Board as an example of how these kids can be better supported!

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

The Annual General Meeting for the Learning Disabilities Association of Ottawa-Carleton will be held on October 26th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the United Way Building on Coventry Road, in Ottawa.

S.E.A.C. Planning:

An update PACC on the SEAC calendar was shared that has a suggested overview of topics to be addressed over the coming academic year.

Resource Services Library:

The Resource Services Library provides an online catalogue of the books that have already been transcribed into alternate formats that can be accessed by parents and teachers, but the registering of a student and the ordering must be done through the school.

Recent LDAO Legislative Responses:

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario Legislation and Policy Committee has developed and submitted a response to the 2008 Report of the Auditor General on Special Education, and a submission on the Provincial Interest Regulation consultation. These documents and the LDAO responses to two mental health consultations will be placed with other policy documents in the Public Policy Section of the LDAO website www.ldao.ca/aboutLDs/legislation.php.

Inclusive Education:

The Ministry of Education now has an Inclusive Education Unit, under the Instruction and Leadership Development Division. Over the next year, School Boards are being asked to review and/or develop, implement and monitor an *equity and inclusive education policy*. Inclusive education is defined as “education that is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all students” and promotes an environment where “diversity is honoured and all individuals are respected”. Diversity in this context is widely defined, but includes students with special education needs.

Secondary Policy and Program Update:

The Ministry of Education has released an *Education Policy and Program Update* that outlines all the changes to secondary school policy, programs and curriculum since the 1999 *Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements*; www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/secondary/oss/epp.pdf.

VII. Department Update

Restorative Practices Update

- We held a very successful Summer Institute in August, 2009.
- On September 2nd and 3rd, 2009, we hosted Restorative Practices Retreat Days in four locations across the Board;
 - each location involved multiple schools;
 - Brian Peters is following up with the school assemblies and parental information evenings.

Autism Training

The Ministry of Education's PPM 140 continues to be implemented throughout the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. All Teachers, K-12, who are teaching children with autism were invited to attend one of several training opportunities throughout the Board. Our school support partners from CHEO teamed up with Special Education Consultants on a presentation and working session on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA), and the IEP.

Principal/Student Support Worker In-service Days

The Special Education Department hosted two regional Principal/SSW days on September 16th and 17th, 2009. The purpose of these days was to discuss roles, responsibilities, best practices and share resources.

New Resources in the Schools

The Special Education Department did cost share with a number of schools on:

- FROG/HAWK/STOMP support materials
- RedCAT soundfield systems
- ELMO's, LCD projectors and carts

Differentiated Instruction Update

- We are supporting all School Teams by continuing to place a great emphasis on the value of differentiated instruction;
- Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau spent a day with our new DI Teacher-Coaches on September 18th, 2009, and they will be working with all of our DI Teacher-Coaches in the near future;
- Michael and Christine will also be spending time with all of our Junior, Intermediate and Primary Teachers throughout the next few months to support and launch our teacher resource magazines.

Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds

- Our Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds collection from schools in the Eastern part of our Board was on display at Logan's Gallery, in Cornwall, during the month of September, 2009;
- An opening night celebration was held on September 17th, 2009, and was well attended by students, parents and staff.

CODE Update 10

- We have received \$10,000.00 for a new K-1 initiative which will be an extension of our Grade 2 OPA Project.

Professional Development Plan

- The February PD day will have a Board-wide Special Education focus;
- Plans are still be finalized, but it looks like we will have large group sessions for part of the day with small group breakouts;
- Our focus will be to continue to assist our School Teams.

Student Support Leadership Initiative

We are entering the third year of this initiative which is designed to have School Boards, Community Agencies and Service Providers work closer together to benefit students and their families.

Building Partnerships for the Future: Towards Reculturing Special Education

- We received some resources from CODE (Council of Directors of Education) over the summer:
 - a DVD which highlights the benefits and lessons learned from the CODE projects across the provinces was received;
 - a discussion template that can help with planning and goal setting.

Board and School Improvement Planning

- Thus far, plans for Special Education students are embedded throughout the present Board and School Improvement Plans;
- In the 2010-2011 school year, Special Education will become the 5th pillar on the Board Improvement Plans (along with Literacy, Numeracy, Pathways and Catholic Community Culture and Caring).

VIII. New Business

Leave of Absence Request

- Sue Wilson shared that we received an email from Suzanne Whitney asking for a leave of absence for this school year;
- Sue has asked if the Association could provide a replacement for the year.

A discussion took place about alternate members for all Associations. Sue Wilson reminded all members present that if all associations could provide an alternate member, it would ensure that there is continuity and enhanced representation.

S.E.A.C. Goals for 2009-2010 School Year

- Members were asked to identify items for discussion at our next meeting
- Sue provided the group with the opportunity to share some initial thoughts around goals for next year

Letters to the Minister of Education

- Sue shared two DRAFT letters from our Special Education Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education, concerning the lack of children's mental health services in Eastern Ontario and the high cost of transportation for our special needs students.
- It was recommended that we revise the transportation letter to provide a comparator (such as CDSBEO is 3x the size of PEI).

Parent Reaching Ahead Grants

- Sue Wilson shared some information about grants which are available to Parent Groups, Associations, School Boards and Post Secondary Institutions;
- A discussion took place as to whether or not this type of grant could be used to help sponsor a SEAC Special Education Parent Information Open House (to try to attract more parents to promote SEAC and the Associations);
- The deadline to apply is **October 16th, 2009.**

IX. Chair's Update

Email Circulation of Association Reports

- Sue thanked the Special Education Team for creating the Association template and reminded the members to email their reports to members, Dr. Hawes and Tom Jordan;
- Members were asked to try and send reports by the Friday before the SEAC meeting.

Prescott-Russell Coalition Against Drugs Conference

All members received an invitation to the Prescott-Russell Coalition Against Drugs Conference which will be held on October 28th and 29th, 2009, at the River Rock Inn, in Rockland.

SEAC Elections

Sue reminded the group that we currently run our elections in January, so that it corresponds with the term of all of the Board of Trustees.

Autism Association

- Neither Christina nor Jason Edge is able to represent Autism Ontario on SEAC this year;
- The Association is continuing to attempt to recruit a new representative for SEAC.

SEAC Special Education Parent Information Night

A discussion took place about re-visiting the idea of hosting a SEAC Special Education Parent Information Night;

- It was suggested that perhaps the spring would be a reasonable timeframe;
- James Borer volunteered to put a proposal together and submit an application to the Parent Reaching Ahead Grants on behalf of our SEAC.

X. Correspondence Received

MACSE Annual Report 2008-2009

- The next meeting will be held on October 16th and 17th, 2009
 - Suggestions should be forwarded to Sue Wilson by Thanksgiving weekend.

MACSE – June 10-11, 2009 – Minutes

- Sue shared that the next steps in the plan talk about children's mental health, SEAC and communications and ideas to improve communications to and from MACSE and SEACs

XI. Action Items for Next Meeting

- Members were invited to review Council of Directors' of Education (CODE) website
- All members were asked to give some thought to set our annual SEAC Goals and to be prepared to discuss further at the next meeting.
- James Borer volunteered to investigate the Parent Reaching Ahead Grant application process further on behalf of the group.
- Members were asked to review the minutes from the June 10-11, 2009, MACSE meeting and the MACSE Annual Report and bring any questions or comments to the next SEAC meeting.

XII. Next Meeting

Monday, October 26th, 2009, at the Board Office, in Kemptville

XIII. Good News Sharing

Members shared good news stories from across the CDSBEO.

XIV. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a closing prayer.

XV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen