



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 26/11

Board Office, in Kemptville

7:00 p.m.

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Christina Nichols, Association for Bright
Children of Ontario
Debbi Sabourin, Association for Community
Living
Joe Sparling, Easter Seals – Ontario
Diane Bartlett, Easter Seals-Ontario
James Borer Voice

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent

Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education
Lori Murphy, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf
Debbie Balog, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf

Regrets:

Dave Conners
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was started at 7:00 p.m. with Dr. Hawes as the Chairperson.

Opening Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a prayer titled, *Hope During Winter*, to begin the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Hawes welcomed all members and guests, and expressed her thanks to all for coming this evening.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was recommended that we move Agenda Item # 8 up to Agenda Item #3 in the draft Agenda, and to add the Appointment of the SEAC representative for Autism Ontario under correspondence.

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Sue Wilson

CARRIED

II. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Sue Wilson

Seconded by: Christina Nichols

CARRIED

III. Appointment of New Chair & Vice Chair of SEAC

Dr. Hawes called for nominations for the position of Chair of the CDSBEO SEAC, and Sue Wilson was nominated.

Moved by: Joe Sparling

Seconded by: Karen McAllister

CARRIED

Sue Wilson called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the CDSBEO SEAC, and James Borer was nominated.

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

IV. Association Updates

Autism Ontario: David Conners

- Upcoming Meetings and Conferences.
 - The Autism Awareness Centre will be hosting a conference entitled “Believe in Change” that will take place on Thursday, March 24th and Friday, March 25th, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza in Ottawa.
- Autism Ontario’s Eastern Regional Meeting will be hosted in Ottawa at the Extended Stay Deluxe at 141 Cooper Street.
- The Ontario Provincial Government recently announced funding to expand Autism services and supports;
 - \$25 million to begin in the Spring of 2011 for new ABA based services and research
 - Funds will also be used to establish a new clinical expert committee

Easter Seals – Ontario – Joe Sparling

- Easter Seals Ontario now has a Provincial Coordinator for Special Education. In her role, Alison Morse will be supporting Easter Seals volunteers who are members of school board SEACs. They are looking for more volunteers to become involved as SEAC members in all boards.
- Easter Seals Ontario has a new section on their website entitled “Special Education Resources”.
- Easter Seals Ontario provided a series of questions, which were responded to identify previous SEAC meetings where presentations and information was provided. The questions centered around the following topics: Orientation for SEAC members, CDSBEO’s involvement in the Special Education funding consultation process, SEAC’s priorities and needs, Board Improvement Plan, CDSBEO’s Expert Behaviour Professional, Impact on All Day Learning Programs, Ministry’s SEAC survey, and Sharing of information with school councils and parents.

Community Living Ontario - Debbie Sabourin

- Upcoming Meetings and Conferences
 - COMMENCE 2011 will take place March 10th-11th in Toronto at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North in Richmond Hill.
 - Know Yourself Promote Yourself is a symposium for students, families, professionals and anyone with an interest in "high school to adulthood" opportunities for youth (transition focused). As part of the Passport Mentoring arm of Community Living Ontario, this symposium will include speakers, panels, rotating sessions and hands-on learning. For more information contact:
Blair Groves at mentoring@communitylivingontario.ca
 - The Third Annual re: ACTION4inclusion Youth Conference will be held March 25th -27th, 2011 at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia, ON. This event is sponsored by Community Living Ontario through the Community Inclusion Initiative. Online Registration is available at www.communitylivingontario.ca.

- New Initiatives
 - All staff, volunteers and board members have completed a Quality Assurance Measures training session. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is now preparing a training session to be completed by those who receive support. It is expected to be unveiled in the spring of 2011. Visit www.qamtraining.net for more information.
 - The Ministry is moving forward with plans to implement the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008. The first step is to identify nine regional "application entities" set to open July 1st, 2011. The contact point for south east Ontario (Hastings, Kingston, Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, Lennox, Addington and Prince Edward County) is Extend-A-Family located in Kingston. The other counties located within our board currently do not have a central point of access.
 - Community Living North Grenville is holding a major fundraising event on Saturday, April 2, 2011. It is an evening of fun and laughter with comedian/magician David Merry as well as a silent auction. Tickets are available now at a cost of \$50.00 per person or a table for 8 for \$350.00.

- Other Information:
 - The CARF accreditation came through in early December and Community Living received a 3 year term which is the highest level awarded.

VOICE – James Borer

No report at this time

Association for Bright Children of Ontario – Christina Nichols

No report at this time

IV. Departmental Update

- Threat Assessment Update:
 - The department hosted a number of Level One Threat Assessment Training Sessions in late November/early December.
 - The draft Protocol is nearing completion and will be shared at the upcoming focus groups sessions.
- The department hosted a Differentiated Instruction/Assistive Technology Workshop on December 9th, 2010.
- This year is an Early Development Instrument (EDI) school readiness survey year for all school boards across Ontario. The purpose of the EDI is to provide a community level means of assessing children's readiness to learn before entering school (Grade One). Results are used by Education and other sectors (such as Public Health) to assess the development of preschool age children and to develop/support programs and initiatives.
- We welcome Serge Perreault to our Crisis Response/Behaviorial Consultant team. Serge comes to us with extensive experience in mental health and addictions and will be serving the needs of mainly the Cornwall area.
- PALs (Peer Assisted Learning) Update
 - The Department hosted two Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) workshops for staff, January 12th for Kindergarten - Grade 1 teachers and January 13th for Grade two - six and High School teachers.
 - School teams are now beginning to implement the PALS program in their own schools.
- February 4th, 2011 Professional Activity Day Update
 - Elementary Educational Assistants will be gathering from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Grenville Municipal Complex in Kemptville on the Friday, February 4th, 2011 Professional Activity Day. The day will be dedicated to effective transition planning for our Special Needs students (ASD and others) with full group and breakout sessions facilitated by Pat Cole and our partners from CHEO and Pathways.
- DRAFT School Year Calendar Update
 - A draft 2011-2012 School Year Calendar was shared with the group. Members were asked to forward any feedback to Dr. Hawes.

V. Presentation

Tom Jordan welcomed Lori Murphy and Debbie Balog who are both CDSBEO Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Lori and Debbie gave a presentation regarding the 2010 Ministry of Education draft Guidelines for Programs and Services for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Specialized Equipment allocations were discussed and examples of some of the technologies used (FM system) were demonstrated.

Sue Wilson thanked Lori and Debbie on behalf of the group for providing us with the excellent presentation on the status of the education of our deaf and hard of hearing students in CDSBEO.

VI. Correspondence Received

- FASD letter nominating Ruby Mekker to be the FASD SEAC Representative
- Autism Ontario letter nominating Dave Conners to be the SEAC representative
- MACSE Minutes
 - MACSE has passed a motion that no board should receive less funding then they do today under any new Special Education funding formula

VII. New Business

- Recommendation for the approval of the nomination of Ruby Mekker as the representative for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD);

“That SEAC recommend the approval of Ruby Mekker to sit as the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder representative on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

- Recommendation for the approval of the nomination of Dave Conners as the SEAC Representative for the Autism Ontario;

“That SEAC recommend the approval of Dave Conners to sit as the Autism Ontario representative on the CDSBEO SEAC for the next term.”

Moved by: Christina Nicholls

Seconded by: James Borer

CARRIED

VIII. Good News Sharing

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

IX. Next Meeting: February 23, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Board Office in Kemptville

X. Closing Prayer

Tom Jordan led the group in a Hail Mary.

XI. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: James Borer

Seconded by: Joe Sparling

CARRIED

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m. and thanked all members and guests for coming out this evening.