



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 3, 2008
Board Office, in Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Karen McAllister - Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large

Board Resource Staff:

Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education
Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of
Education
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant
Nancy Kirby - Trustee
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario

Guests:

Tammy Clune, Curriculum Consultant
James Borer, Parent
Joe Sparling, Grandfather
Diane Bartlett, Parent

Meeting Called to Order

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

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in a prayer, "We are Called...to Serve Generously".

II. Welcome and Introduction

Sue Wilson welcomed all members and guests to the Board Office, in Kemptville.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney
Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

IV. Approval of Amended Minutes

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen
Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

V. Association Updates

Association for Community Living

The Community Living Ontario 2008 Conference will be held in Markham in June at the Markham Conference Centre with the Annual General Meeting to follow on June 14, 2008. May 16-18, 2008, the Canadian Downs Syndrome Society will hold its national conference in Ottawa at the Weston Hotel. There is a long list of topics of interest including full inclusion, education, early intervention, literacy, and community living to name a few. Of special interest will be a testimony of achievement and accomplishments of Downs Syndrome people around the world. For more information call 1-800-883-5608 or visit www.cdss.ca.

Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) has expressed disappointment with the recent federal budget. It feels there is no coherent vision and strategy to address the problem of poverty and exclusion. It released its own National Action Plan in 2007 entitled, From Vision to Action which can be found at www.endexclusion.ca

Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community – Leeds and Grenville

Blue Jays Day: Sunday May 4th, 2008 Toronto Blue Jays vs. Chicago White Sox
Join thousands of Community Living members and supporters at the Rogers Centre for our annual “Community Living Day with the Jays”. Great ticket discounts for Community Living.

Recommended Website for parents: www.inclusion.com

Association for Community Living

Fran Brauneisen shared an uplifting article and some information on Downs Syndrome. The article was featured in the Ottawa Citizen on Sunday March 2nd, 2008.

VI. Demonstration of Interactive Whiteboards using a Smart Board – Tammy Clune and Dawn Fewer

Tammy Clune, Elementary Curriculum Consultant, and Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator, demonstrated for SEAC members, some of the abilities of the interactive white board known as the Smart Board. This interactive piece of technology allows lessons to be projected on a board, which is connected to a computer. Teachers and students are able to write notes and capture them electronically – a great application for students who may need assistance with note taking or review. Mrs. Clune and Mrs. Fewer demonstrated how the Smart Board can be used to help students read and write non-fiction, with a particular focus on how this tool supports differentiating instruction within the classroom. The technology is highly interactive and engaging for students who process in many different ways. The technology offers no limit to what can be done, allowing for creativity from students and teachers. The Special Education applications are particularly exciting as students engage in learning in new and innovative ways.

VII. EQAO Accommodations for Grade 3 and 6 – Judy Dallas

Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant, shared the accommodations and exemptions that schools provide to students with IEPs during the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments. See attached presentation.

VIII. Special Education Department Updates

Nothing new to report at this time.

IX. Correspondence Received:

- Thresholds Newsletter
- LDAO Newsletter
- ABC - Association

X. Chair Update

St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School, in Hammond, is hosting the Relay For Life event on Friday, May 23, 2008. Relay for Life is a 12 hour fundraising event run in cooperation with the Canadian Cancer Society. For more information visit the Board website <http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca/hasfhs/relayforlife.htm>

Sue Wilson reminds everyone to please bring the Annual Report to the remaining SEAC meetings.

X1. Good News Sharing

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

XII. Upcoming SEAC Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at Sacred Heart School, in Cornwall

XIII. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the Board Prayer.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Karen McAllister