



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 2007

Board Office, in Kemptville

### Present:

#### **SEAC Members:**

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee  
Nancy Kirby, Trustee  
Karen McAllister, Trustee  
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community  
Living  
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for  
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville  
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario  
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA

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

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education  
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education  
Paula Perrault, Special Education Co-ordinator  
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant  
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant

#### **Regrets:**

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities  
Association of Ontario

#### **Guests:**

Patty Maddigan, Parent, St. Mary-St. Cecilia  
Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE  
Nicholas Lutz, student, Holy Trinity CHS  
Paul Mantha, Resource Teacher, J. L. Jordan  
Dave Conners, parent, Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Carol Seguin, parent, Holy Trinity and Iona  
Academy  
Betsy Lapierre, parent, St. Finnan  
Kim MacLennan, teacher, Holy Trinity CHS  
Lise Lutz and Jack Haines, parents, Holy Trinity

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

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

Karen McAllister lit a candle to help us remember all of the students whom we serve.

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Tom Jordan led the group in an opening prayer.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

### Addition to the agenda:

A Gifted Website Presentation was added to the agenda, as **Item III (a)**.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Fran Brauneisen

### **a) Gifted Website Presentation**

Rod McLeod presented some background information on the Gifted Website Project and introduced Nicholas Lutz, a student from Holy Trinity, and Kim MacLennan, a teacher from Holy Trinity. Nicholas has been instrumental in the creation of this Board-wide Website. Kim has assisted Nicholas in this project.

- Nicholas shared that the website is intended as an enrichment tool for gifted and talented students throughout the Board.
- Nicholas provided an overview of what the website will look like and how it will work. He designed the website to be simple and appealing to the eye.
- The various pages of the website contain links to other resources (Board and otherwise).
- Nicholas walked the group through the Math link, showing us how a student, teacher, or parent can select the level that is appropriate. From here there is a large number of links (and short explanatory notes) that would help someone looking for more resources at that level.
- There are additional enrichment aids that are linked into the package that can be updated from time to time.
- All of the enrichment aids are archived so that they can be accessed in the future.
- Nicholas has developed a manual to go with the program to help others learn about and update various components.
- There is a “contest” link that students can participate in to test their knowledge of various subjects.

Rod McLeod thanked Nicholas and Kim for all the time that they have put into developing this resource, and for taking the time to share this with the group.

Sue Wilson also thanked Nicholas, his family, and Kim for the excellent presentation.

#### **IV. Association Updates**

##### Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Nothing to report at this time.

##### Christina Edge, Autism Ontario

Christina attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the local Autism Ontario Chapter on April 29, 2007.

- Ed Mahony was the keynote speaker
- Mr. Mahony's message centered around positive intervention strategies
- Christine presented the department with a copy of "Positive Intervention: A Practical Approach to Using Positive Behaviour Supports with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder", by Ed Mahony

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

Suzanne attended the recent Darcy Elks presentation on Inclusion Works. She reported that the weekend was very successful.

- the sessions helped Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville to develop and refine their vision
- Darcy Elks also presented to educators and parents at J. L. Jordan, in Brockville, on April 16, 2007

Suzanne shared the contact information for the upcoming Special Education Advisory Committee Training Session which will be held June 2 and June 3, 2007, in Toronto.

Suzanne will be attending the upcoming Canadian Community Living Conference at the end of May, in Toronto.

Information was also shared about Community Rehabilitation and Disability;

##### Studies Inclusive Education Summer Institute 2007

- this professional development opportunity runs from July 3-20, 2007, in Calgary, through the University of Calgary
- topics include Ethics of Caring and Inclusion, Adapting Curriculum in Schools from K-12, and Addressing Challenging Behaviours in the Classroom
- further information can be obtained by contacting Beth Parrott at (403)220-2271 or [parrott@ucalgary.ca](mailto:parrott@ucalgary.ca)

#### **V. Department Updates**

The Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Asperger Support Group is moving ahead with staff training in the Carleton Place area. A 3-part training series for teachers will take place on May 16, May 23 and May 30, 2007, at Notre Dame Catholic High School. A Parent Support Group is also being organized.

Pam Dunk and Tom Jordan attended a Ministry of Education, Alternative to Suspension, information gathering session last week. Proposed legislative changes to the Safe Schools Act will make it mandatory for all School Boards to offer some type of program for students facing longer term suspensions. The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is already a partner in two ABE (Alternative Behavioural Learning Environment) programs, which will help to fulfill this requirement.

Tom Jordan met with Paul McGarvey, Regional Passport Coordinator, South East Region. Paul is looking for ways to inform people as to what the Passport Initiative is, and how people can access it. It was suggested that perhaps he could start with an information flyer, talk to the Special Education Advisory Committee, principals, and hold parent information sessions.

Our Special Education Team has a large number of members presenting at the PA day on May 11, 2007;

- Angie Lencewicz is doing a **Mean Girls** presentation, in Kemptville
- Andrea Ross, April Helmkey, Sheri-Anne Taylor and Ann Faurschou are presenting on **Literacy and Learning** in both Cornwall and Brockville
- Rod McLeod and Judy Dallas are presenting on **Differentiated Instruction** at the Kemptville site
- Pam Dunk and Sue Giff are presenting on **Child Protection Legislation** to secretaries and custodians at the North Grenville Municipal Complex, in Kemptville. They have also coordinated the efforts of our community partners to present on **Child Protection** to the secondary school group in Kemptville, and on **Sexualized Behaviour in Children** to the Brockville group
- Dianne Gauthier is presenting on **Child Protection Legislation** to the Cornwall group
- Paula Perrault has coordinated with our ASD partners who are presenting on **Autism Spectrum Disorder** at the Brockville and Cornwall sites

#### STOMP-CODE Project (Council of Directors' of Education)

Paula presented an update on the STOMP-CODE Project;

- we are just finishing the last of the in-school portion
- Michael Glofcheskie and Gloria Stowell, our two consultants on this project, presented to the Board of Trustees last week at St. Thomas Aquinas, in Russell
- an increased emphasis on the development of resources (binder, etc.) will be the focus of late May and June, 2007
- Michael and Gloria will be presenting to the Special Education Advisory Committee at the meeting scheduled for June 12, 2007

## VI. **Livie's Loonies for CHEO Presentation**

Sue Wilson introduced Carol Seguin (a parent from Holy Trinity and Iona Academy) and Betsy Lapierre (a parent from St. Finnan's) to the group.

Carol and Betsy provided some background to the **Livie's Loonies for CHEO** project;

- Carol's daughter, Olivia, has been struggling with many complex medical issues since birth
- the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) has been instrumental in providing the life-saving medical care that Livie has needed
- Carol and Betsy wanted to do something so that CHEO would be able to continue to provide excellent care for children and their families in Eastern Ontario

A very powerful, spiritual and moving powerpoint presentation that chronicled the journey that Livie and her family have experienced was presented.

It was reported that the Livie's Loonies for CHEO project has raised \$7,000 (and climbing). Livie's story will be shared on the CHEO Telethon on Sunday, May 13, 2007, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Hawes suggested that sharing this story with all of our principals across our system would provide many more students and staff members with the opportunity to learn more about this incredible story. Carol and Betsy agreed to participate in this, and offered to help in the facilitation of this idea.

Sue thanked Carol and Betsy for starting this incredible initiative, and for sharing this important story with us.

## **VII. Update on the Annual Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education in the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario**

Paula Perrault provided members of the group with a draft copy of what is ready thus far;

- Paula reminded the group that this is an addendum year, which means that only sections that need to be updated, will be submitted this year (the Ministry of Education has indicated that the format of this report will be changing for the 2007/08 year)
- Paula walked the group through the draft handout highlighting changes and additions to this year's report
- Paula asked the group to review this draft copy, and if any errors or omissions are noted to contact Shelley Strickland either by e-mail at [Shelley.Strickland@cdsbeo.on.ca](mailto:Shelley.Strickland@cdsbeo.on.ca), or by phone at 800-267-7945, ext. 205, before the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on June 12, 2007.

### **Special Education Funding Presentation**

Dr. Hawes and Tom Jordan presented a powerpoint on the 2007/08 Special Education Funding situation within the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario;

- this powerpoint included an overview of where we started, and where we anticipate we will be by the end of 2007/08
- some possible scenarios were presented, explained and discussed

Dr. Hawes shared the staffing recommendations that Senior Administration is endorsing for 2007/08, that will be going forward to the Board of Trustees for approval. She also explained that the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario must follow certain staffing protocols around staffing by the end of May, 2007 (declare all known surpluses and redundancies).

A number of questions were raised by the members of the Special Education Advisory Committee which were addressed by Dr. Hawes and Trustees.

It was moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee write a letter to the Ministry of Education to express concerns around the current Special Education Funding model and the impact it is having in the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. A draft copy will be brought forward to the next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

Sue Wilson recommended that the seven 2007/08 staffing recommendations that were brought forward by the Department, be endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney

#### **VIII. Topic for Future Meeting**

- Ontario Psychological Association Project

#### **IX. Correspondence Received**

- A copy of a letter of concern from the Toronto District School Board, to Minister Wynne, expressing funding concerns, was shared.

#### **X. Chairperson's Update**

Sue Wilson shared the following information;

- our Trustees recently met in Toronto with the Minister of Education
- the Minister of Education had many positive things to say about Catholic Education, which was very reassuring in light of some of the press coverage around the "one system" movement

**XI. Good News Sharing**

Members and guests shared many items of good news with the group.

**XII. Next S.E.A.C. Meeting** – June 12, 2007, at the Board Office, in Kemptville – **All SEAC members are asked to read over the Annual Report information that they have received thus far. Please bring the 2005/06 Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Annual Report to the meeting.**

**XIII. Closing Prayer**

Members of the group shared the “Board Prayer”.

**XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Sue Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Christina Edge

**We invite all parents and interested staff to attend SEAC meetings, and for SEAC members to bring guests to each meeting.**

*We are people of God ..... Transforming the world!*