



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 12, 2007

Board Office, in Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Ann McGahey, Member-at-Large, OECTA

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Paula Perrault, Special Education Coordinator
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Michael Glofcheskie, Junior Teacher Consultant
Gloria Stowell, Junior Teacher Consultant

Regrets:

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Tom Jordan, Principal of Special Education

Guests:

Gerry Samson, former Trustee
Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE

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.

Sue Wilson lit a candle to help us remember all of the students whom we serve.

I. Opening Prayer

Gloria Stowell led the group in an opening prayer.

II. Approval of Agenda

Addition to the agenda: Rose-Marie Martin asked that Home Use of SEA Equipment be added to the agenda if time permits.

Moved by: Nancy Kirby

Seconded by: Christina Edge

III. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Ann McGahey

a) Livee's Loonies Presentation

Donaleen Hawes shared that six schools have raised an additional \$2,533.00. These were funds raised by schools in response to the Livee's Loonies for CHEO presentation that took place at the last Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, and was later shared with principals. Many schools also made donations to the original telethon. A cheque will be mailed to Carole Seguin. Sue Wilson also requested that our thanks be passed on to the participating schools.

IV. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Fran attended a conference sponsored by the Association for Community Living and Community Living Ontario. She shared websites, of particular interest was the Passports for Mentoring website. Fran also explained that during the conference they had many of the self advocates share their personal stories.

Christina Edge, Autism Ontario

Christina shared that she attended the Ministry of Education workshop entitled Implementation of the Policy and Program Memorandum on Applied Behavior Analysis. She was joined by members of the Special Education Team, Principal and Crisis Worker.

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

On May 30-June 1, 2007, in Toronto, Suzanne attended the Ontario Community Living Conference. Over 600+ people attended. Minister Madam Meilleur remarked regarding the closing of institutions, Finance Minister Jim Flarity also spoke during the Conference on a 2% increase to the Ontario Disability Services Program (ODSP) and the new Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The Keynote Speaker Judy Rebeck talked about building a Social Movement for Inclusion.

Suzanne attended workshops on Building a Canadian National Family Network. Dr. Michael Kendrick spoke about transforming Community Service Systems: Politics, Policy and Practice.

June 2-3, 2007, in Toronto, she attended the Special Education Advisory Committee Training Conference which was well done. Bruce Drewett, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs spoke. His presentation focused on various initiatives that are being taken by the Ministry and its educational partners to identify and support effective gap-reducing practices; to engage student, families and communities in building supportive learning environments; and to increase system effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and responsiveness.

Rhonda Martinussen gave an overview of the Education For All document; its purpose, components and recommendations.

Bob Stones, Chair of Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) gave an overview of MACSE with an emphasis on the current areas of focus of the Council in terms of Special Education in Ontario today.

Marilyn Dolmage, Chair of Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAAC), provided a brief overview of the role of PAAC, its membership and activities in which the group is engaged.

Suzanne attended the Special Education Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities, by Lynn Ziraldo, in which she described the mandate of the Special Education Advisory Committee and identified skills that representatives should have to be effective in their role.

Barry Finlay, Director of the Strategic Planning Branch for Special Education, spoke about the issues and influences for special education planning and where we are heading.

Sandy Palinski, Acting Manager of the Program Policy and Coordinated Services Unit of the Special Education Program Branch, spoke about preventing and resolving conflicts in special education.

Jackie Dorssers and Rhonda Jacobson presented an overview of the Parents as Partners, (PAP project), funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which is a parent education program.

Brockville District Association for Community Involvement is launching a book this evening of a Mother's Story of Inclusion. It is written by a parent of a child who attended St. Francis Xavier Catholic School who had successful inclusion. The principal at that time was Keith MacPhee. Our School Board will receive a copy so she hopes everyone will get the opportunity to read this 40 page book.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Safe Schools Amendments

[Bill 212, Education Amendment Act \(Progressive Discipline and School Safety\), 2007](#), has been through the committee process, had final changes, and has been referred to the Ontario legislature for third reading. It will amend the Education Act and replace many provisions of the Safe Schools Act. If you select the above link, you can read the bill, with the crossed out pieces noting the sections that were changed in committee, after two committee hearings.

EQAO Results

Rose-Marie identified that the results of the Grade 10 literacy test (OSSLT) can be found on the EQAO website: www.eqao.com/categories/home.aspx?Lang=E. The results for students with special needs are at www.eqao.com/pdf_e/07/07P024e.pdf. The number of such students who have been successful on the test has fallen slightly in the last two years.

Rose-Marie also requested the Board results, including results for students with special needs, be shared. Dr. Hawes explained that we would have a presentation in the fall once all the results were posted. Rose-Marie also asked if our Board results are tracked by exceptionality. Dr. Hawes explained that the Ministry tracks by exceptionality but does not break it down by individual Boards however, we do have the ability through our central database to do some tracking and monitoring of students with special needs.

Postsecondary transition

One of our Special Education Advisory Committee Reps shared with Rose-Marie a letter from Cambrian College to Guidance Counselors outlining requirements for students who are transitioning to college. The letter mentions the need for psycho-educational assessment for students with learning disabilities and talks about the use of the Northern Ontario Assessment & Resource Centre (NOARC). You can read about NOARC services at www.noarc-cerno.ca. There is a similar program at Queen's University that serves Southern Ontario, the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre: www.queensu-hcds.org/rarc/.

Rose also shared a newsletter on Cyber Bullying and an associated website:
Brokenfriendship.com

V. Department Updates

Dr. Hawes announced that Tom Jordan is moving to a new role as Principal of Religious Education, and Paula Perrault will be taking on the role of Principal at St. Edward School, in Westport. Both of these individuals have made wonderful contributions to the Special Education Department. Brian Peters will be taking on the role of Principal of Special Education. Brian began his career in special education as a Psycho-educational Consultant and then Coordinator of Special Education.

Following the last Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, staffing recommendations were presented to the Board and passed. Unfortunately we did have to declare redundancies, which is never easy. A meeting for all the educational assistants and student support workers was held to explain the realities of the budget situation. It is our hope that we will be able to recall some of these individuals. The department has also been working on the new staffing positions for the 2007-08 school year.

Algonquin College recently announced that two-year programs can be accommodated to extend over three years with no additional tuition costs.

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

Michael Gloccheskie and Gloria Stowell, Junior Teacher Consultants, presented an overview of the STOMP program. Gloria began the presentation with a concrete example of our brain. She explained that this program is to go help students to optimize their potential. Michael shared a power-point identifying key aspects of the STOMP (higher order thinking, Bloom's taxonomy, multiple intelligences, assessment strategies...). The STOMP model incorporates the multiple intelligences into lessons and classroom activities, allowing students to process new information and demonstrate their knowledge in exciting ways.

Sue thanked Michael and Gloria for their work on this incredible initiative, and for sharing with us.

VI. 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

During the 2006-07 school year, meetings were held at five separate locations within the Board. The purpose of these meetings was to give Special Education Advisory Committee members and parents a forum to provide input into the Special Education Annual Plan, and to bring forward any issues that they wished to discuss pertaining to special education in the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. The following recommendations are made:

In 2007-08, it is recommended that:

- we continue to make use of the School Support Program – Autism Spectrum Disorder to build capacity in our staff
- copies of the prayers used to begin each Special Education Advisory Committee meeting in the Annual Report
- the first newsletter of every school includes an insert about the Special Education Advisory Committee and information around how parents can access The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Parental Guide to Special Education
- a chart indicating the number of students served by each model of service delivery be included
- the financial breakdown for the Council of Directors of Education (CODE) project be included

- if a member is absent, any pieces of correspondence or information would be collected and given to them at the next meeting
- we explore the possibility of having schools that have individual websites put a link to the Special Education page on the Board website
- the Special Education Department continue to fully implement and support the use of the Web Based Teaching Tool (WBTT) across the Board
- the belief that all students in the province should have equal opportunity to access services regardless of where a family chooses to live in the province be highlighted
- that the minutes from MACSE are accessible to the Special Education Advisory Committee
- the belief that services to students and their families are available until the students finish their schooling and not end at an arbitrary age such as sixteen be stressed
- the Special Education Advisory Committee minutes are posted, and meeting dates included in school newsletters/calendars

Prior to the completion of the plan, as mentioned previously in this report, the public was invited to meetings to review the plan in its draft form and to provide input.

The final version, once it has been approved by the Board, will be shared in the following ways:

- copies will be provided to all trustees and Board Executive Council
- copies will be provided to all Special Education Advisory Committee members
- instructions on how to access copies will be provided on the Board website
- copy will be accessible on the Board website
- copies will be sent to all Catholic School Council Chairs
- Principals will be informed of the plan and its contents
- Special Education Teachers will be informed of the plan, its contents and how it can be accessed

The complete plan will be submitted along with the following:

- a letter from the Director of Education indicating that the plan complies with the requirements of Regulation 306 and of the Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans document
- a copy of the Board's motion of approval of the plan, including the date of approval
- a copy of any related motions or recommendations from the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee

Letter to the Ministry of Education

A draft 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, was shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee.

OPA Initiative – Ontario Psychological Association Project

Due to time constraints, this presentation will be tabled in the fall, 2007.

VII. Topic for Future Meeting

- OPA Initiative – Ontario Psychological Association Project
- Transition Plans
- E.Q.A.O. Results
- Assistive Technology – Home Use

VIII. Correspondence Received

Letter from Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education

IX. Chairperson's Update

Sue Wilson shared the following information;

At the Canadian Catholic Trustees Annual General Meeting last week, they were informed that the Public Trustees in Ontario defeated the motion to support one school system.

Nancy Kirby shared that the Parent Involvement Committee will hold a summit on Thursday, October 4, 2007, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

X. Good News Sharing

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

The Special Education Department shared an ACD presentation with the members of the Special Education Advisory Committee – Don't Laugh At Me

In appreciation, all of the Special Education Advisory Committee members were presented with a certificate and a copy of the song, for all they do for our very special children.

XI. Next S.E.A.C. Meeting – September 11, 2007, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

XII. Closing Prayer

Members of the group shared the "Board Prayer".

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

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

Moved by: Ann McGahey

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!