



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2008 – Meeting #1

Board Office, in Kemptville

Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Nancy Kirby, Trustee
Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for
Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville
Christina Edge, Autism Ontario
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario
Ruby Mekker, Member-at-Large

Board Resource Staff:

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
Brian Peters, Principal of Special Education
Judy Dallas, Special Education Consultant
Rod McLeod, Special Education Consultant

Regrets:

Karen McAllister, Trustee
Dawn Fewer, Special Education Coordinator

Guests:

Irene Tweddle, Vice President, CUPE
Paul Mantha, Vice Principal, Bishop Macdonell
Rhonda Peterson, SSW, St. Joseph, Gananoque
Diane Bartlett, Parent
Joe Sparling, Grandfather
Dave Conners, Parent

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Sue asked us to keep in our prayers, Hannah Walker and Sophie Lauzon.

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in a prayer, “The Principles of Catholic Teaching”.

II. Welcome and Introduction

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

III. Approval of Amended Agenda

Moved by: Suzanne Whitney

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin

IV. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Rose-Marie Martin

Seconded by: Nancy Kirby

V. Association Updates

Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community Living

Nothing to report at this time.

Christina Edge, Autism Ontario

Together for Autism PSA Release: “The Happiest Day” – has now been released to all the major networks in Ontario. Now it is imperative to spread the news across the province and contact all local stations. For more information, visit the link www.togetherforautism.ca.

Rose-Marie Martin, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

October Reports

In his presentation on the Special Education Advisory Committee Training Webcast in September 2007, Bruce Drewett, Director of the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, spoke about the changes to the way statistical information is reported to the Ministry in the new Ontario Student Information System format. Eventually the new system will make it possible to break down data in various ways to look at trends. Some Boards may take a while to figure out the new way of reporting, but Bruce assured Special Education Advisory Committee members that the October report information should still be available to Special Education Advisory Committees.

Resource Services Library

Special Education Advisory Committees should assure that special educators in their Boards know about the Resource Services Library at the W. Ross MacDonald Provincial School. The Resource Services Library (RSL) loans alternate format materials such as Braille, large print, e-text, tape or daisy digital audio to school boards in Ontario, for the use of students who are *print impaired*. Each student and advisor (school contact) must be registered with the RSL prior to using the services. The RSL maintains a website which contains a searchable catalogue of the books that have already been transcribed into alternate formats. The catalogue is accessible to parents, but the registering of a student and the ordering must be done through the school: <http://rsl.psbnet.ca/rs12005/Login.aspx>.

Educational Opportunities

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario is sponsoring an Educators’ Workshop series: www.ldao.ca/news.php.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children has sessions on parent advocacy and collaboration in the IEP development process at their annual conference on May 3, 2007:
www.voicefordeafkids.com/article_pop.asp?artID=65

Suzanne Whitney, Integration Action for Inclusion of Leeds & Grenville

What is the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)?

- a plan that will allow funds to be invested tax free until withdrawal
- helps parents/others to save for long-term financial security of a child with a disability
- similar to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)

What is the Canada Disability Savings Grant (CDSG)?

- a program designed to augment funds in the RDSP through government contributions
- fund 100% to 300% of annual RDSP contributions
- maximum annual amount of \$3,500
- criteria depends on the Beneficiary's family's net income

“Creating A Vision For The Future” – A Family Gathering

Saturday, April 26, 2008 10 a.m., to Sunday, April 27, 2008 12:00 p.m.

The Glen House Resort, 1000 Islands Parkway, Gananoque – 613-659-2204;

website: www.glenhouserestort.com

- \$25.00 registration for the workshop – payable in advance to BDACI
- Subsidies are available
- For more information you can contact Amanda Fenlong, Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement, 2495 Parkedale Avenue, Unit #4, Brockville, phone – 613-345-4092, fax – 613-345-7469, email – cominv.bdaci@ripnet.com.

Suzanne Whitney attended an Inclusion to Action conference – **“Revolutionary Common Sense”** by Kathie Snow – www.disabilityisnatural.com. Details were shared.

VI. Presentation on Bill 212 – Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education

Dr. Hawes presented an update on Bill 212 Safe Schools – Creating Communities of Peace with a particular focus on the following:

- Catholic Codes of Conduct
- Promoting Faith, Positive Behaviour and Progressive Discipline
- Social Justice and Anti-Bullying
- Restorative Programs including Suspension and Expulsion

Discussion took place around the use of “*assets*” as described in the powerpoint. There will be training for teachers and support staff in April and September, 2008.

VII. Special Education Department Update

STOMP Launch! (STOMP = Success Through Optimizing My Potential)

STOMP has kicked off its official launch with Grade 7 and 8 teachers board-wide. The binder is now in its final form and Michael Glofcheskie and Christine Campeau have in-serviced teachers by providing them with an action-packed day as they dig deeper into STOMP – a model for differentiating instruction focused on critical thinking skills.

Differentiated Instruction Support Teachers

Our 2007-2008 *CODE budget* for STOMP and HAWK, combined with funding support from the *Student Success Initiative in Differentiated Instruction for Grades 7 and 8* allows us to offer school teams the opportunity to meet and grow together! This focus will promote further development and embedding of DI practices, and also consolidate professional collaboration on many levels! Departments working and sharing together for the betterment of classes.

Special Education Resource Teacher Central Meeting – December 4, 2007

All elementary Special Education Resource Teachers came to Kemptville for a full-day session. This was a wonderful opportunity for our special education teachers to learn about the role of the differentiated instruction teacher, and how they can work collaboratively to support the implementation of HAWK and STOMP. They also learned about the OPA project which focuses on developing visual assessment portfolios for high needs students in Grade 2.

Autism (PPM 140)

All of the Educational Assistants and Student Support Workers were invited to attend the first of a two-day training course which focuses on teaching children with autism using the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis. The Geneva Centre for Autism provided this training. We also held a session for school teams which focused on the principles of ABA and how these strategies can be implemented within the IEP. Consultants will provide training to Special Education Resource Teachers on transitions for students with autism spectrum disorder. This will be done in family of schools using the Professional Learning Community format. An excellent resource for transitions will be provided to all schools.

OPA Visual Assessment Portfolio

Kara Casey and Catherine Olmsted have just finished working with Phase 1 schools, and have begun working with Phase 2 schools. By April, all schools are expected to have been visited. In the spring, they will go back to schools to complete Tier 3 (full psycho-educational assessments) on the highest needs Grade 2 students. They are also working on developing a resource which includes numerous literacy games for parents to use with their children.

Bill 212 (An Act to amend the Education Act in respect of behaviour, discipline and safety)

Special thanks to the many staff, trustees and parents who sat on the administrative, advisory and sub-committees to launch all of the work with Bill 212. We will continue to work throughout the next few months to develop training opportunities and provide resources for all staff and students.

Bill 212 – Reminders for Schools to Complete in February and March

- establish safe schools team
- put into place reporting procedures to allow students to report incidents of bullying safely
- review and create school bully prevention plan and add it to school improvement plan
- review and revise school code of conduct
- begin to develop and implement a school-wide policy on progressive discipline

Special Education Annual Review

We are beginning the process of reviewing special education programs and services. You are invited to give your input as you consider the needs of students in your schools. Please forward this information to the Special Education Team.

People Matters

There have been many changes in the Special Education Department. We have added:

- Andrea Harrison, Speech/Language Pathologist
- Leigh-Ann Ellis, Psycho-Behavioural Consultant
- Trudy Rook, Behavioural Consultant – Prescott Russell
- Cindy Beck, ISSW – Cornwall Area
- Trudy Scott, ISSW – ABLE Site in Prescott
- Tim O’Neil – ISSW – ABLE Site in Smiths Falls
- Tracy Doyle – Itinerant/ABLE
- Shari King – Itinerant/ABLE

SIP

Thanks to all the staff who provided information to prepare these claims. We submitted over 20 – a huge increase which should provide some much needed funding to our highest needs students that we give so much support to. A teleconference took place February 11, 2008, with the Ministry and everything went well. Preliminary feedback is that the claims will all be approved.

Meeting the Needs Conference

Next year we will be hosting the conference. It is scheduled for October 1-3, 2008, at Isaiah Tubbs, in Picton. We are looking for teachers to share their best practices through presenting. Please contact Rod McLeod if you are interested.

VIII. Annual Report

Every year we must present an Annual Report. This year there will be **amendments only** made to the existing Special Education Plan. We will be discussing portions of the Review at the March and April Special Education Advisory Committee meetings. Brian Peters reported that the Special Education data will be reported in a different format this year (due to OnSIS).

IX. New Business

Ruby Mekker will provide information on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She will forward the website.

X. Good News Sharing

Deferred until next meeting.

XI. Upcoming SEAC Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 8:00 p.m., at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

XII. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the Board Prayer.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Fran Brauneisen

Seconded by: Suzanne Whitney