



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2008 – Meeting #2

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 8:10 p.m.

Special prayers for Hannah Walker, Sophie Lauzon and Loretta Hamilton (former Special Education Consultant with Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry).

I. Opening Prayer

Brian Peters led us in a prayer, “We are Called ... to Walk Humbly”.

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: Nancy Kirby

IV. Feedback from SEAC Webcast

The SEAC Webcast, involving Bruce Drewett and Lynn Lynn Ziraldo, was made available to all Special Education Advisory Committee members for feedback. Rose-Marie Martin and Suzanne Whitney were in attendance at the actual live Webcast. Both members spoke enthusiastically about the experience. Notes from the Webcast were provided by Rose-Marie and Suzanne, Christina Edge provided a summary, and Dawn Fewer and Brian Peters gave an oral report at an earlier meeting.

The group felt there were some excellent suggestions that came from the Webcast. In particular, the group liked the idea of name plates (already implemented); the concept of an Open House to explain what the Special Education Advisory Committee does and maybe recruit some new members; the idea of Special Education Advisory Committee goal setting activities.

The Special Education Advisory Committee members discussed how to advertise the agenda, minutes, etc.. The Board website is one good method. Another participant suggested that a personal contact would also be an effective strategy.

V. Goal Setting Activity

Special Education Advisory Committee members, as a whole, brainstormed ideas that could become goals for next year:

- Rose-Marie Martin was interested in more information on the OPA project. Dr. Hawes gave an overview of this project which focuses on three tiered assessments at the Grade 2 level. We will invite Kara Casey and Catherine Olmsted back for another update.
- Suzanne Whitney encouraged the Special Education Advisory Committee to look at the annual calendar at the beginning of the school year to serve as a guide for the committee.
- There is a new book out on Assessment and Evaluation. When Board staff obtain a copy they will share information with the Special Education Advisory Committee. Judy Dallas and Rod McLeod will do a presentation on Accommodations and Modifications for testing students.
- Recruit new Special Education Advisory Committee members representing other exceptionalities.
- Add the Parent Guide to the Board website.
- Create a one page overview of the Special Education Advisory Committee to be included with September IEP's when they go home to parents.
- List Special Education Advisory Committee members e-mail addresses on Board website as a contact for parents.

- Invite Special Education Advisory Committee members to local school open houses.
- Encourage Principals to personally invite parents to Special Education Advisory Committee meetings if it is hosted by a community school.
- Consider presentations from Lindsay Moir regarding the IEP.
- Build in reflection time for Special Education Advisory Committee members.
- Arrange for a presentation on Transition Planning

The members agreed to re-visit this list of ideas in future Special Education Advisory Committee meetings.

VI. Good News Sharing

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

VII. Upcoming SEAC Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2008, at the Board Office, in Kemptville.

VIII. Closing Prayer

Brian Peters led the group in the Board Prayer.

IX. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Christina Edge

Seconded by: Rose-Marie Martin