

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chatham-Kent Women's Centre	Angela Corso
Community Living, Wallaceburg	Dr. Veronica Vaughan
Epilepsy Support Centre	Christine Canniff
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group	Martha Fracalanza
Lambton County Developmental Services Group	Adrian Vermeiren
Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County	Annie Sheehan
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Annette Berkers
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Trustees	Carol Bryden Linda Ward
Principals Representatives	Maureen Cecile Shirley Churchill
Board Advisors	Ann Sutton Martin Forster Lisa Demers Brenda Roby Lisa Thompson-Power Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Dr. Veronica Vaughan, Adrian Vermeiren, Angela Corso, Martha Fracalanza, Renee Zarebski
Absent:

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Ann Sutton
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Prayer

The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by Chair Carol Bryden.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Annie Sheehan to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Review of Minutes from May 11, 2009

MOTION BY: Christine Canniff and seconded by Annette Berkers to accept the minutes from the May 11, 2009 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Education Budget for 2009-10

Jim McKenzie

Jim McKenzie, Chief Financial Officer for the Board, distributed and reviewed a financial document outlining the revenues associated with Special Education for the 2009-2010 budget. A balanced budget will be presented to the Trustees at the June 16, 2009 Board meeting. Special Education maintained a similar level of over expenditure as last year. This is relatively common across the province given the current funding model from the Ministry.

2. Gifted Program

Jodi Slater

Jodi Slater, teacher of the program, presented a power point presentation entitled, "Imagine – A Congregated Program for Students with Giftedness". The presentation explored the "Who, Why and What" components of the program.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County

Annie Sheehan

Nothing to Report

2. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Nothing to Report. However, had two questions:

1. If there is a child with special needs who is 18 years of age, do parents know they can stay in school until the age of 21 years?

Response: They should be informed based on the on-going transition planning that begins as the student enters gr. 9 and continues to post secondary planning.

2. When SEA equipment is delivered to the school, should the access to students be immediate?

Response: After going through the proper SEA request process as outlined by the Board, upon arrival to the school, the equipment should be available to the student immediately.

3. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County

Annette Berkers

Nothing to Report

4. Epilepsy Support Centre

Christine Canniff

Currently, they are holding interviews for Christine's position. Christine may or may not return to SEAC in the Fall.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Approval of Special Education Plan revision

Martin Forster

The full Special Education Plan must be submitted to the Ministry by July 31, 2009 in both hard copy and electronic format. Carol Brydon has binders containing the full plan that will be submitted to the Ministry. SEAC members are welcome to review the binders. The full plan will be accessible on the Board website. Martin Forster reviewed: information pertaining to pupils attending Provincial Schools and the 2009-2010 SEAC recommendations.

Motion to accept the 2009-2010 SEAC recommendations made by Annie Sheehan and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott. All in favour.

Motion to accept the changes to the 2005 Board Special Ed Plan made by Annie Sheehan and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott. All in favour.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Video Clip

Martin Forster

The video clip was sent out by the Provincial Branch of Community Living. It is an Arabic rap song with subtitles. The premise is "Difference is a Natural Thing"; inclusion of all on an international basis.

2. IEP Exemplars

Martin Forster

As a result of our internal IEP audit, exemplars were developed by a group of PRTs and the consultant staff. The exemplars are available on the PRT first class conference for on-going reference during IEP development.

3. Evidence of Effective High School Inclusion: Research, Resources and Inspiration Ann Sutton

A study introduced by the Ministry in April 2009 in which an instrument was used to study inclusion. It was applied to only two schools in Ontario. A study was then prepared. Direction was to share this with SEAC although the study does not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry. It is a qualitative not a quantitative study. The direction the Ministry is going to take with this is unsure at this time. Ann Sutton has a copy of the study if SEAC members would like to review it or have a copy of their own.

4. Supporting Seamless Transitions from Autism Intervention Program to School

Ann Sutton

Ann Sutton walked SEAC members through the document dated February 17, 2009 from Ben Levin, Deputy Minister. The document outlines the transition of IBI to school programs where ABA is the standard. Ministry money distributed to boards was based on board size not on the outlined "Core Competencies" from the document. Our board is not listed in the Phase 2 chart in the document because we, and LKDSB, act as mentors to the new Phase 2 participants. We are part of Phase 2 and have received Ministry funding which has been used accordingly.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Staffing Changes

Ann Sutton

Based on Provincial Discussion Table agreements, we have received funding to increase our school supports. The funding will be used to increase the Child and Youth Worker complement within the board by 2.1 CYWs. The net effect will show an increase of 1.1 CYWs as explained by Ann Sutton with regard to the Safe Schools budget. A current half time CYW will assume the 0.1 position funded by the PDT agreement. The 1.0 CYW position will be assigned to the Itinerant Behaviour Team. The intent being to build capacity within the team as well as reduce wait times for students in need system wide.

There is also the opportunity to hire a Special Education Consultant as a result of Lisa Demers being awarded the Principal of Special Education position. The new consultant will be introduced to SEAC in the Fall.

Martin Forster, current Principal of Special Education, after 34 years of service to the board, is retiring. He will be greatly missed.

2. SEAC Meeting dates for 2009-10

Ann Sutton

A hand out outlining the dates for the 2009-2010 SEAC meetings was distributed.

**Please note, the October 19, 2009 SEAC meeting date is a regular meeting to be held in the St. Louis Room at CEC in Wallaceburg at 7:00 pm

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Linda Ward

The Board has been very busy with the ARC in Sarnia, the budget as well as with finalizing funding to build two new schools in Sarnia.

MACSE Report:

Learning for All K-12 document – they are debating over a 3 year roll out plan or a roll out next year
Caring and Safe Schools K-12 document – a new Ministry document coming out in the Fall of 2009
Transitions from School to the Workplace document – a new Ministry document as well, in draft form currently

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None to report

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, September 21, 2009

Please contact Cathy Calvert at 1-866-336-6139 ext. 237 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

K. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Annette Berkers to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
