

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 22, 2008 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

Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County

Annie Sheehan

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Trustees

Carol Bryden
Brenda Rumble

Principals Representatives

Maureen Cecile
Shirley Churchill

Board Advisors

Ann Sutton
Martin Forster
Lisa Demers
Brenda Roby
Lisa Thompson
Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Adrian Vermeiren

Guest: Loretto Sudermann – alternate for the Epilepsy Support Centre

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. Members introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda with amendments as follows: Addition to Information Items: 7 – Kings College Speaker, 8 – Autism Training at Ursuline College, 9 – SEAC Event at Lambton Kent District School Board

MOTION BY: Christine Caniff and seconded by **Dr. Veronica Vaughn** to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Review of Minutes from June 16, 2008

MOTION BY: Dr. Veronica Vaughn and seconded by **Kathy Arcuri-Arnott** to accept the minutes from the June 16, 2008 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

None

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Annie Sheehan
A workshop will be offered called “Thinking on your Feet”. This workshop combines physical movement and social skills.
2. Epilepsy Support Centre Christine Canniff
Loretto Sudermann started in August and will serve as the alternate for the Epilepsy Support Centre. The centre will be providing presentations to grade 5 students in Chatham-Kent.
3. Chatham-Kent Women’s Centre Angela Corso
Information was shared on programs being offered by the Centre which include H.E.A.R.T. and Safety & Family Violence Education.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Planning for SEAC Parent Forum Lisa Demers
The tentative agenda was shared. Thanks were extended to committee members Annie Sheehan and Christine Caniff who met during the summer to plan this event.
The IEP was targeted as an area of focus for the SEAC meetings. The committee decided to provide for smaller breakout sessions for IEP discussions. Also, there will be presentations for parents on services that the board provides for students who are experiencing challenges. Lisa requires volunteers from SEAC to assist in the presentations at each site. SEAC members signed up for various tasks. Information regarding the SEAC forums will be sent out by invitations, newsletters and radio announcements. Members are invited to set up displays on the evening of the SEAC forums. Invitations will be sent out this week.

2. Budget and Staffing Update Ann Sutton
Ann shared the organization chart for the department. Ann's administrative assistant is Cathy Calvert. Her extension is: ext 237. Brenda Roby has the role for technological support due to Regina's retirement. For elementary resource teachers, there was a reduction of 2.3 due to declining enrollment. There was no change in the number of secondary school resource teachers. Due to the increase in the number of high needs students; an additional 11 educational assistants were hired for a total of 141.
We are currently operating on the budget that Jim McKenzie presented to SEAC in June. There have been no changes to this budget.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Department Initiatives Ann Sutton & Martin Forster
Special Education and Student Services Goals for 2008-2009 were shared with SEAC. These goals were generated through discussion with SEAC and through the Special Education Team planning meetings. A number of the Student Services goals have SEAC recommendations imbedded in them. Audits will be a central theme in the department initiatives this year. Copies of the SEAC Goals and Budget Report for 2008-2009 will be shared with SEAC at the next meetings for new members.
2. Autism Training Renee Zarebski
Autism training has been provided to staff over the summer. There are a number of training initiatives which are on-going including Geneva Centre Training, TEACCH and ABA School team training. Training in the area of autism will be provided on PD days in September and October by the Geneva Centre.
3. AI Condelucci Presentation Lisa Demers
A joint presentation has been planned with the LKDSB. Dr. Condelucci will be at the Oak's Inn, Wallaceburg, on November 19th from 1:00 to 3:30. SEAC members are invited to attend. A memo will be sent out to all schools on October 14th. Dr. Condelucci is a renowned advocate for students with disabilities. His website is: www.ucp.org

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. SEAC Meeting Dates for 2008-09 Ann Sutton
There has been a change in the date for one of the SEAC meetings. The April 6th 2008 date is a change from April 13th which is Easter Monday. Please note this in your calendar.
2. Report for August Administrators Meeting Ann Sutton
Copies of the Special Education Report for the August Administrators Meeting were distributed and Ann highlighted the Special Education and Student Services Goals. The roles and responsibilities of the Special Education Team and Student Services Staff were also outlined.
3. Premier Suites at home Martin Forster
Approval was obtained for the license for Premier to be available for schools, parents, and board staff. A handout was provided on how to download this site. Premier supports Education for All and Universal design. The login page will be changing and users will be able to personalize. There have been excellent reports from schools on the use of Premier. Some schools have attributed the increase in their EQAO scores to the use of Premier by their students. The suggestion was made to have some disks of Premier to share at the Parent forum and to have computers set up with Premier for parents to try.
4. Updates on the Summer Institute Training Renee Zarebski
Nineteen staff from the St. Clair Catholic District School Board attended a summer institute offered by the Geneva Centre. Staff attending included educational assistants, teachers and board staff. The focus on the training was the Ziggurat Model and including ABA principles in the IEP.

5. Coaching to Inclusion Lisa Thompson-Power
 Last year was the 10th year celebration for Coaching to Inclusion. The founding chair has retired and now there are two co-chairs. Guest speakers for the conference this year will be Carol Tashie and Sheila Bennett. The focus of the conference has been extended to include student participation. The date is Friday October 17th from 8:30 to 3:30. The location is at Althouse College at the University of Western Ontario. SEAC members are invited to attend. Please contact Lisa Thompson-Power if you are interested in attending. An update will be provided at our next SEAC meeting.

6. EA Professional Development Day Lisa Demers
 The EA PD day will be held at Ursuline College this year. The event will be in conjunction with the LKDSB. The committee has worked hard to bring this day together. The committee has EA representatives from each board. The EAs were surveyed for areas of interest and the programming provided flows from identified needs of staff. The morning keynote speaker is Jason Warga from the Geneva Centre. He will provide an overview of the impact of sensory needs on students. The afternoon has a menu of workshops.

7. King's College Speaker Ann Sutton
 As a board we have a partnership with King's College and two other Catholic School Boards, Huron Perth and London District. The partnership is to strengthen Catholic Education by providing quality speakers. A handout was provided on a Religious Life Lecture Series on Inclusivity and Diversity. This week will focus on learning disabilities.

8. Autism Training at UCC Renee Zarebski/Lisa Demers
 Ursuline College will be receiving a number of students who have autism over the next few years. To prepare staff, a number of training events have been offered to staff at Ursuline College. Training provided included TEACCH Training (structured learning), Summer Institute Training, PECS level one, Autism Intervener training and the electives offered by the Geneva Centre.

9. SEAC Event at Lambton Kent District School Board Martin Forster
 The LKDSB have a guest speaker evening at SCITS – Susan Hess will be presenting “A Quilt of Honour”.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Brenda Rumble

The trustees are looking forward to a busy year this year and have started to meet. The auditors report was presented. Once per year the auditors come to the board and prepare a reconciliation. The report was overwhelmingly positive.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Will SEAC receive a report and update from The Ontario Psychological Association symposium? A report will be provided to SEAC at the November meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, November 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the CEC in the St. Louis Conference Room. Please contact Cathy Calvert at 1-866-336-6139 ext. 237 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

SEAC Parent Information Forum dates:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2008 @ St. Ursula Catholic School, Chatham – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 15, 2008 @ St. Anne Catholic School, Sarnia – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

J. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Ontario Psychological Association update/presentation

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Annie Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

CARRIED