

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 23, 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: Lisa Demers

Absent: Angela Corso

*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

<p><b>MOTION BY:</b> Adrian Vermeiren and seconded by Annie Sheehan to adopt the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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3. Review of Minutes from November 24,2008

<p><b>MOTION BY:</b> Christine Canniff and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the November 24, 2008 SEAC meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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**B. PRESENTATIONS**

Role of the Educational Assistant

Ann Sutton

Anne Sutton outlined the role of our Educational Assistants and the training and professional development they have received. The presentation also demonstrated the vital role of Educational Assistants to both inclusion and the building of independence for our intensive needs students.

**C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

1. Epilepsy Support Centre

Christine Canniff

Christine shared brochures on Seizures 101 and for Purple Day on March 26<sup>th</sup> which is a special Epilepsy Awareness campaign created by a young girl who has epilepsy. March is Epilepsy awareness month.

2. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County

Annette Berkers

The Association is looking for someone to speak to a group of parents on IEPs and the IPRC process. Martin indicated that he would be willing to do so.

Association members will be attending an upcoming conference in Halifax

**D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Department Bulletin: *Focus on Special Education* Ann Sutton

Members were provided with a copy of our first Focus on Special Education Bulletin. The topic for this one is Retention: Options in Promoting Student Success. There will be three issues a year. Each will be on a single topic and based on current literature and research. The next issue will be on Non-verbal Learning Disabilities. Copies will be sent electronically to schools. Ann will confirm that the bulletin is available to parents on the Board website.

2. EQAO and students with special needs Martin Forster

Martin reviewed data on the EQAO results of students with special needs. The data was provided in a package of charts and graphs to facilitate analysis and comparison. The majority of the statistics are very good news. In most areas our students with special needs are doing better than the provincial average and are succeeding at or above the provincial standard. The data also provides us information on areas in which we can strive for improvement. Our goal continues to be to raise the bar for all our students but also to reduce the gap between all students and students with special needs. The data also allows us to measure trends over time. We can recognize the areas in which we are most successful so that we can transfer that knowledge to other areas. We are now able to track the results of students on both their grade 3 and their grade 6 assessments and break out some of that data around specific disabilities. For example, on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test our special education students have surpassed the provincial average but we can see that the province is catching up to us. We can now use this data to determine why and assist our students so that they continue to improve. Other benefits of having this data are that the Ministry's goal is to make us more accountable. This data helps us do that. It also shows us that we are on the right track and doing well.

3. IEP Audit results Martin Forster

The Special Education department recently held a board wide audit of IEPs. The audit involved the review of 10% of the IEPs per school. The consultants will be reviewing the audited IEPs with the individual Program Resource teachers and discussing next steps for each school.

An IEP satisfaction survey was sent to parents of each of students involved in the audit. The response from the parents was very positive indication that they are very pleased with the IEP and the consultation process.

A set of IEP exemplars is being produced and they will be shared both internally and regionally.

4. Parents/Student Access to the provincial electronic IEP template Ann Sutton

Ann circulated copies of a memo from Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch on the Ministry's electronic IEP template. Parents are welcome to view a read-only version of that template. The user-name and password are available on that memo.

It was noted that the sample IEPs on this template are samples not exemplars.

5. Autism review update Renée Zarebski

Renee updated SEAC members on the progress of the program and services review. The framework of the review process was highlighted. Renee will continue to update SEAC on the progress of the review at future meetings.

6. PD Day – January 30, 2009 Martin Forster

Deferred

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. SEA Trainer Martin Forster

The Board has contracted a trainer for students who receive computer equipment and software through the SEA claim process. Each student is eligible for up to 15hrs of training: 4 sessions of 2.5 hours in the first year and 2 sessions of 2.5 hours in the second year.

2. Autism Service Provider Community Forum Renée Zarebski

The Community Forums occurred on January 20<sup>th</sup> in both the Sarnia Lambton and the Chatham Kent areas. The forums were supported jointly by SCCDSB, LKDSB and Thames Valley Children's Centre. The presentations on current initiatives and supports for student with Autism Spectrum Disorders were followed by a carousel style resource fair with representatives from the school boards and community partners. Both forums were a success.

3. Collaborative Services Delivery Model – Phase II Renée Zarebski  
Deferred

4. Special Education Plan Review Martin Forster  
We will begin the process at the next meeting

5. Ministers Advisory Council for Special Education Linda Ward  
Linda Ward is now a member of the Ministers Advisory Council (MACSE). MACSE meets three times per year for 2 days. Recent topics of discussion included measurement of children's progress and improved communication between different SEACs. MACSE is also looking for ideas on how to improve Special Education without spending more money.

- G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD** Name of Presenter  
Deferred

- H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
none

- I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, April 6, 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><b>MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott</b> and seconded by Adrien Vermeiren to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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