

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 11, 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: Angela Corso, Linda ward, Lisa Thompson-Power

Absent: Annette Berkers

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>MOTION BY: Christine Canniff and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adopt the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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3. Review of Minutes from February 23, 2009

<p>MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Adrian Vermeiren to accept the minutes from the February 23, 2009 SEAC meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Education Budget - deferred Jim McKenzie

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County Annie Sheehan

The LDAO of Lambton County have started an in school social skills program at Hillsdale School in Kettle Point.

2. Epilepsy Support Centre Christine Canniff

A children’s social support program will be occurring monthly to allow children with Epilepsy the opportunity to meet other children with Epilepsy.
The Epilepsy Support Centre has a new staff in Sarnia. Her name is Julie Kingma. Christine announced she will be leaving her position with the Epilepsy Support Centre.
A “Bridges out of Poverty” workshop is upcoming in Sarnia. Christine shared the workshop information.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Special Education Plan revisions Martin Forster

The last full plan was submitted to the Ministry in 2005. Since then only revisions to that plan have been required to be submitted. The Ministry is preparing to have the Special Education Plan incorporated as part of the overall Board Plan.
This year’s revision needs to be approved by SEAC and then presented to the School Board by the end of June for approval. The revision to the plan must be submitted to the Ministry in July.

A list of 8 Recommendations from SEAC for 2009-2010 were presented as a draft and discussed. Updates were provided on The Collaborative Service Delivery Model Project, the Ontario Psychological Association Students Assessment Project, The Student Support Leadership Initiative Project, Discovery- The Technology Conference for Grade 6 students, the Report on Statistics for the IPRC Process and Appeals, Transportation to Provincial Schools, the System IEP Audit, Special Education Staff, Inclusionary Workshops for Board Employees, The Board’s Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Special Education Programs and Services Outcomes.

Any revisions, corrections or other suggestions can be sent to Martin prior to the next meeting. The final draft of the plan will be presented at that meeting for approval.

2. Review of Programs and Service for Autism Renée Zarebski

The report on the Review of Programs and Services for Autism was presented. Copies of the document are available electronically on request. Renee highlighted the results, demographics and recommendations from the completed review. The next goal is to take current successful practices and share them throughout the board and with other exceptionalities. Recommendations include ensuring a variety of consistent practices, collaborations, training opportunities and supports.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. PD Day January 30, 2009 Lisa Demers

The Special Education Department organized the professional development day activities for our Educational Assistants. In addition to having time in their schools to collaborate, make materials such as sensory items and visual schedules they were also provided with a self-directed learning opportunity on the use of Premier Suites. Feedback from the Educational Assistants was very positive.

2. PD Day – May 1, 2009 Martin Forster

Dr. Duncan McKinley did half day presentations to all elementary teaching staff and all elementary and secondary Educational Assistants. The other half of the day focused on the collaboration and development of the Individual Education Plan. Feedback on the day was very positive.

3. Transition Planner Brenda Roby

Since the Transition Planner was last presented to SEAC there has been additional input from community Partner Groups and several parents of students with special needs. The next step is to complete the formatting of the document and investigate options for making the planner available online to allow easy access for students, parents and staff.

4. Too Loud To Learn – video clip Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Kathy shared a video clip on the affects of background noise in the classroom. Removal of carpets and curtains has exacerbated the noise problems. Having sound field systems in the classroom makes a significant difference for many students.

5. Accessibility Plan Ann Sutton

Copies of the Accessibility Plan were distributed. Ann described the consultation process and the student focus group. Community Partners were very pleased with the accessibility plan and had no additional recommendations. The student focus group this year was made up of secondary students who gathered to discuss barriers that face individuals with disabilities. Darda Sales, a para-olympian and motivation speaker presented to the students at the student forum.

The barriers to be addressed in 2009-2010 were outlined along with the objectives, strategies, timelines and departments responsible for addressing those barriers.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Collaborative Services Delivery Model – Phase II Renée Zarebski

The Phase 1 Collaborative Services Delivery Model team has been invited to participate in Phase 2 as mentors to the Phase 2 Board teams and to develop a logic model framework to transition students

involved in IBI therapy into ABA in our schools. This is a joint project with LKDSB. Renee shared the draft documents, "Connections For Students" and a Question and Answer Sheet for parents.

2. Ministry memo re: Canadian Hearing Society and VOICE Ann Sutton

Through a partnership with the Ministry, the Canadian Hearing Society and VOICE have received funding to provide supports to boards throughout the province. As part of this initiative, representatives of the Canadian Hearing Society will be conducting a review of programs, services and assistive technology at St. Peter's Catholic School in June.

3. Video Martin Forster
Deferred

4. Inclusion and Equity Ann Sutton

The Ministry distributed two documents entitled "Shaping a Culture of Respect in our Schools; Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships" and "Ontario's Equity and Inclusion education Strategy". The "Ontario's Equity and Inclusion Education Strategy" document provides the framework so every student has a positive learning experience through the creation of a positive school climate that fosters and promotes equity, inclusive education and diversity. The Rhythmic Souls Dance group at Ursuline College Catholic Secondary School is showcased in the document. Both documents are available on the Ministry website.

5. Section 23 Monitoring Visit Ann Sutton

An official from the London Regional office of the Ministry of Education did a visit and review of the program at Eagle Rock. Recommendations may include the creation of a Board policy and guidelines for Section 23 programs and the placement of an Eagle Rock staff in the classroom during the school day. It was noted that the program at Eagle Rock has a very high academic achievement rate and a very successful re-integration rate.

6. IEP Exemplars Martin Forster
Deferred

7. Mileage Forms Martin Forster

Forms were distributed and SEAC members were requested to bring completed forms to the June SEAC meeting.

8. Upcoming PD

Through the School Support Leadership Initiative, funding was approved to provide a professional development opportunity addressing children's mental health. This opportunity will be open to educators, community partners and parents. Dr. Ross Greene, author of "The Explosive Child" and "Lost at School", will be provide full day presentations on September 16th in Sarnia-Lambton and September 17th in Chatham-Kent. In addition, Dr. Greene will be presenting an evening session on September 16th in Wallaceburg. Dr. Green is the associate professor in The Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medial School and is the founding director of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Name of Presenter

There was consensus at the last ARC meeting to consolidate the two Sarnia secondary schools on the St. Christopher's site.

The school calendar for 2009-2010 was approved by the Board. Classes will begin the Tuesday before Labour Day. The school calendar matches the one approved by our coterminous Board. The main

deciding factor was the additional cost that would have been incurred for transportation if the calendar was different from that set by the coterminous board.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

none

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, June 15, 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

1. Gifted Program Presentation
2. Deferred items

Jodi Slater

K. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION BY: Kathy Accurri-Arnott and seconded by Annie Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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