

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 31, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference Room

### MINUTES

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living, Wallaceburg

Dr. Veronica Vaughan

Epilepsy Support Centre

Lianne McDowell

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  
Lisa Demers  
Janet Boyle  
Brenda Roby  
Lisa Thompson-Power  
Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Annie Sheehan, Lianne McDowell

Absent: Dr. Veronica Vaughn

*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:** Annette Berkers and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adopt the agenda.  
**CARRIED**

- 3. Review of Minutes from April 19,2010

**MOTION BY:** Adrien Vermeiren and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the April 19, 2010 SEAC meeting.  
**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

- 1. Special Education Budget Jim McKenzie

Mr. McKenzie informed SEAC that there were no major changes to the Special Education budget except for increases to cover contractual increases to bargaining units. According to the Ministry’s announcements for funding grants, the High Needs amount which was previously a guaranteed amount is now reduced by 50% of the declining enrollment. Other changes to funding include the SEA amount. Previously, computer/electronic special funding was based on a claims system. A new system for electronics is to be phased in over 5 years and over the next few years we will see a significant decrease. Claims for other specialized equipment remain as a claims process. Expenses for the use of SEA equipment and EA expenditures are directly related to our inclusionary model. Mr. McKenzie provided a detailed outline of all revenues and expenditures related to the Special Education Envelope of the Budget for 2010-2011 school year.

- 2. Speech & Language Pathologists Speech & Language Pathologists  
and their role in literacy development

Deb McCabe, Colleen Chapman and Janice Cornell presented on the role of the Speech & Language Pathologist (SLPs) in literacy development. Strong oral language development is the foundation of literacy skill development. Children with speech and language delays are at greater risk of academic difficulties. The SLPs roles include prevention, screening, assessment, intervention, consultation, collaboration with board and community colleagues, and advocating for effective literacy practices. There is a reciprocal relationship between phonological awareness and successful reading/writing development.

The SLPs illustrated a sample phonological awareness summary and described the collaboration & discussion that results with school teams. This information assists in the development of programming recommendations and intervention plans. This phonological assessment has proven to be an exceptionally important tool in driving instruction.

**C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

- 1. MACSE Linda Ward

Meeting is next week. Linda will be bringing the budget to the meeting and asking for more information on the funding formulas and the effect on inclusion vs. congregated classrooms.

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

None

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Accessibility Plan

Ann Sutton

The Accessibility Plan is prepared each year with two parts. It consists of a report on our progress on the plan from the current year and the plan for the upcoming school year. This year a forum was held at St. Patrick Catholic High School. The forum was attended by students, and staff members. Dr. Duncan McKinlay and a graduate student working with him, Colin King, presented on the importance of self advocacy. Input from students on accessibility was gathered and used to help create the plan for next year. Community feedback was also gathered and considered. The Barriers that will be addressed in 2010-2011 as included in the plan were outlined by Ann.

Ann presented the highlights of the Accessibility plan. Ann is happy to answer questions via phone or email regarding the Accessibility Plan, after SEAC members have had a chance to further review the document.

2. Recommendations from SEAC for the 2010-2011 School Year

Ann Sutton

SEAC members were provided with a draft copy of 8 recommendations for next year. Ann explained recommendations. Carol Bryden queried the addition of the SEAC Parent Sessions to the recommendations.

**MOTION BY:** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Adrian Vermeiren that an additional recommendation be added: 9. That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board offer SEAC information sessions for parents.

**CARRIED**

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. SEAC website

Brenda Roby

The Ontario Ministry of Education has developed a website to assist SEAC members in understanding and fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. The website includes: an historical overview of the development of SEACs, an outline of the Roles and Responsibilities of all partners involved in Special Education, a description of School Board Obligations to Special Education, information on relevant legislation regulations and policies, and a description of the funding formula for Special Education. Direct links are provided to related Ministry documents.

The website can be accessed at <http://www.seac-learning.ca/>

2. PRT Meeting update

Lisa Thompson-Power

Our last Program Resource Teacher meeting had Dr. Tim Baker present on Shared Solutions and Collaborative Problem Solving. The Autism team presented and PRTs were provided with feedback on the IEP audit. Canadian Hearing Society presented on the most recent technology available for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. They also presented on the RDSP. At this meeting PRTs were introduced to a feedback form on the PRT meetings. Responses were very positive.

PRTs also completed a feedback form on the PRT format. Responses were very positive and results are being considered when we plan next year's PRT meetings. Suggestions included time for discussion around guest speaker presentations and more collaborative time. Suggestions for next year's topics included more training on technology and IEPs, structured learning, mental health, and positive behaviour supports.

3. Individual Education Plans (IEP) 101 Brenda Roby  
The IEP 101 website was created by Learning Disabilities of Ontario with financial and resource support from the Ministry of Education. It was created to help parents and students understand their Individual Education Plans and the IEP process. It is designed as a 13 week program but all sections are available at any time and readers can set their own learning pace. While designed for students and parents, it is a valuable resource for special education providers and agency partners.

The website can be accessed at: <http://ldalearning.ldao.ca>

4. E.A. Literacy P.D. Janet Boyle  
PD on literacy development is being provided for 20 participants on a first come first served basis. The workshop is full and there is currently a short waiting list. Janet has been working with Brenda Corchis to provide the curricular connections for the EAs. The focus is on providing reading and writing support. Technology applications will also be presented to help support students. Terri Rawlings will also be doing a session on differentiated instruction. An "Accommodation Kit" will also be provided to EAs.

5. BOOST Training Lisa Thompson-Power  
Deferred

**G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

None

**H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

- I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday June 14, 2010 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 meeting.**

**J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Deferred item:

- BOOST Training

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Annette Berkers to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

**CARRIED**