

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 21, 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

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
Renée Zarebski

Regrets:

Absent:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Ann Sutton
Board Advisor

1. Prayer

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Dr. Veronica Vaughn and seconded by Annette Berkers to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Review of Minutes from June 15, 2009

MOTION BY: Linda Ward and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Dr. Ross Greene (Student Support Leadership Initiative)

Mary Ann McCrae

Dr. Greene presented in Sarnia and Wallaceburg on Sept 16, 2009 and in Chatham on Sept 17, 2009.

Every school from both boards was represented, including a mix of staff and other community partners. At the evening presentation for parents over 100 people attended. Dr. Greene's main message was that children do well if they can. If they aren't doing well, it is a skill deficit and that requires working with the child to develop the necessary skills through a collaborative problem solving approach. He also provided us with a "Lagging Skills Checklist" and a tracking plan to monitor progress.

His latest book, "Lost at School" was available for purchase at the workshops. Dr. Vaughan requested copies of the checklist be made for SEAC members and copies were provided. It was asked if it would be possible for him to return for another session at which all of our teachers would be able to attend.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

No Association reports

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome – New Members and Janet Boyle

Ann Sutton

Ann introduced the new representative from the Epilepsy Support Centre – Lianne McDowell

Janet Boyle – Program Resource Consultant was introduced

Lisa Demers – Principal of Special Education welcomed to her new role

2. Department Initiatives Ann Sutton & Lisa Demers
Ann and Lisa highlighted a number of areas of effort from the Administrators Meeting Report, including:
- a. Learning for All – draft document has been released. We are still reviewing the PowerPoint of information released by the Ministry. Consultation with the other two departments is ongoing to co-ordinate the implementation between departments
 - b. IEP audit will occur at the end of 1st term to continue to look for areas of growth
 - c. Program review this year will be on Mild Intellectual Disabilities
 - d. Alternative Programming will be an area of focus. This will include expanding the use of alternative assessment methods.
 - e. Speech and Language Pathologists: Stephanie Orrange will be teaching at one of our schools this year. We have hired a new Speech and Language Pathologist named Colleen Chapman
 - f. Assistive Technology Training: Discovery Conference will be offered again this fall and possibly in the spring. Opportunity for parent training will also be offered this year
 - g. Minute taking and record keeping will also be a focus.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. SEAC Meeting Dates for 2009-10 Ann Sutton
A list of meeting dates for this year was provided
2. Report of August Administrators Meeting Ann Sutton
Ann outlined the contents of the Report of the Administrators Meeting, August 2009. Copies were provided.
3. Staffing Ann Sutton
Flow chart in the Administrators Meeting report outlines a summary of this year's staffing.
4. Policy Development Ann Sutton
There are two policies that are nearing completion: Service Animals policy and Section 23 Schools Policy.

Three additional policies that are related to Special Education are being developed:
 - a) Equity and Inclusion Policy: We are working together with other Catholic School Boards to create a document that is intrinsic to our Catholic values.
 - b) Bill 151 will provide obligations on the rights of victims and the reporting of incidents.
 - c) Creation of a Lock Down policy has been mandated by the Ministry. There was discussion about the importance of advance preparation.
5. Acknowledgement of Social Worker Ann Sutton
Carolyn Edwards has completed her Master's Degree In Social Work. Congratulations shared.
6. Updates on the Geneva Centre for Autism Summer Institute Training Renée Zarebski
August 24-27th. Previously the Ministry covered all expenses. This year the Board covered all accommodation and meal expenses. This year our Speech and Language pathologists and some of our itinerant staff attended. It was a positive experience for all who attended.
7. Itinerant CYW role Lisa Thompson-Power
Heather Carron-Doyle is our new itinerant CYW. She will be working as a member of the team with the itinerant behaviour teachers. There will be a referral process to ensure the most effective allocation of the team members.
8. EA Professional Development Day Brenda Roby
On Friday, September 25th.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

H1N1 Protocol hasn't been finalized but is under discussion. Final decision on the name of the new Secondary School in Sarnia will be made soon. Linda Ward

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Linda will be at the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) on October 13th. If anyone has any concerns or issues that would be relevant on a Provincial level they can be forwarded to her prior to Thanksgiving for discussion.

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 19, 2009 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.

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Dr. Veronica Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

CARRIED