

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2009 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:

Absent: Angela Corso has resigned from the committee; a new representative has not been named.
Lianne McDowell
Martha Fracalanza

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 September 21, 2009

Date change from 2008 to 2009; Trustee should be Linda Ward; Principal rep should be Shirley Churchill; Lisa Thompson...needs Power

MOTION BY: Linda Ward and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the Minutes from the September 21, 2009 SEAC meeting

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Logic Model Data Presentation Ann Sutton
Sixteen school boards in the southwest region have been collaborating around data since last year. The purpose is to be able to make data based decisions within the region. There are eight Catholic school boards and eight publicly funded boards who have submitted data for comparison.

In reviewing the current submissions, it has become apparent there is not an exemplar for the sake of comparison. It has been learned that not everyone is necessarily measuring data using the same criteria. The standards vary among school boards; therefore it is not a true comparison/measure.

Ann Sutton reviewed the hand out explaining the comparison between St. Clair Catholic to the Region based on current data. St. Clair Catholic had approximately 150 students in both grades 3 and 6 who were part of the data sample.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There was nothing to report by any of the associations present this evening.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no unfinished business from previous meetings.

E. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. September 25th E.A. Professional Development Day Update Brenda Roby

Approximately 138 Educational Assistants were in their schools where they did independent technology training on the Talking Word Processor for half the day. The remaining half day was spent on material preparation for students in the school.

Feedback from the Educational Assistants was very positive.
86% indicated they were better equipped to support students now.
84% indicated they would now use the talking word processor.
10% indicated they would now use the talking word processor personally.

2. November 13th Joint E.A. Professional Development Day Janet Boyle
The theme for the day is "Me First For A Change". The planning committee consists of staff from both St. Clair Catholic and LKDSB. The PD day will take place at Sarnia Collegiate Institute (SCITS). There will be approximately 400 participants; 138 EAs from St. Clair Catholic. The overall cost for the day is being shared by both boards and both CUPEs.

The day will begin with both Ann Sutton and Dave Doey (Superintendent from LKDSB) bringing greetings. A motivational speaker (Rosetta Hall) will address the entire group in the morning. The afternoon will be spent in 1 of 16 workshops chosen by the EA.

3. November 13th Secondary Professional Development Day Lisa Demers
The Chatham/Kent schools will be at UCC for the day. Dr. Duncan McKinlay will present to the teachers in the morning. The afternoon will be spent working with teams from CEC (special ed. and curriculum) to focus on Learning For All K-12 document. This is not a "Special Education" document; it is truly "Learning For All".

The Sarnia/Lambton schools will follow a reverse schedule at St. Christopher. SEAC members should contact Lisa Demers if they wish to attend the presentation by Dr. McKinlay at either site.

4. Assistive Technology Reference Guide Brenda Roby
As a result of the SEA training, it has been learned that a resource guide would be helpful for the student, the family and the school, once the individual training is completed. Each student receiving training and their family will receive a copy of the guide.

Brenda handed out copies of the guide and did a general overview of the contents. It will also be available electronically.

5. SEA Audit Brenda Roby
An SEA inventory is underway of the larger equipment in the board. Currently all information on the equipment in the board is being collated. The next step will be to visit schools to ensure all equipment is where it belongs. On-going maintenance of the inventory will be to update all changes (students changing schools, students new to the board...)

There will be a photo inventory of "out grown" equipment as well. The photo inventory will allow us to be more effective with the use of all equipment we have, sharing it with other students in need.

6. PRT Meeting update Lisa Thompson-Power
There are 4 scheduled PRT meetings this school year. The first meeting was held on Sept. 30, 2009. The agenda included many professional development pieces. There was an update from the Ministry on SIP and SEA claims; new Autism resources were distributed; there was a presentation on the deaf and hard of hearing as well as the board's gifted program and an exercise was done with the ALSUP from Dr. Greene's presentation. To end the day, a professional reading piece was shared with the group. The piece was entitled, "Be Careful What You Wish For..." Five Reasons to Be Concerned About the Assignment of Individual Paraprofessionals.

Professional reading on evidence based research and Ministry initiatives will be a component of each PRT meeting. Activities will be done independently, in pairs or in small groups.

7. Coaching to Inclusion Conference Lisa Thompson-Power
The conference was done collaboratively with the Centre for Inclusive Education at the University of Western Ontario on Oct. 16, 2009. There was a keynote speaker, Dr. Sheila Bennett in the morning and four workshop sessions in the afternoon. All workshops were centered on building inclusive environments within school boards.
8. Ministry IEP Information Ann Sutton
November 24, 2009 has been set aside by the Ministry where school teams have been invited to attend a session on the continuous improvement of IEPs. Both Ann Sutton and Lisa Demers will attend. Two other staff members will be invited to attend.
9. Dr. Greene Ann Sutton
The board is applying for a monetary grant in order to get Dr. Greene back to our school board for professional development. We would like to coordinate another day and evening session with Dr. Greene, for staff, parents and community partners. We continue to look for ways to spread and sustain Dr. Greene's message within our board. We would like to embed his message to make changes in the board.

We await a decision from the Ministry.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

The board has discussed EQAO results; the Superintendents did presentations on improvement plans.

Copyright – Ottawa negotiated new amounts for copyright payments per student within school boards in Ontario. The increase is retroactive to 2005. The dollar amounts vary dependent upon the size of the board. The issue has been appealed by boards. Ontario is the only province where the Ministry does not pay for copyright. The appeal has not yet been settled.

MACSE – a survey was done across the province with regard to the delivery of special education services. Provincially, survey results indicate training of staff is a huge issue. Linda Ward is very proud of the progress and ability to sustain training opportunities our board offers and maintains.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, November 16, 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

Dr. Greene's ALSUP checklist.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Kathy Arcuri Arnott to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

CARRIED