

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic High School, Sarnia

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Society Ontario	Marianne Knox
Community Living, Chatham-Kent	Sue McMath
Community Living, Wallaceburg	Dr. Veronica Vaughan
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Michele LaLonge-Davey
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group	Martha Fracalanza
Lambton Developmental Services	Adrian Vermeiren
Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	Fabrizia Romano
Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County	Annie Sheehan
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Trustee	Marie Cadotte
Trustee	Mike Neuts
Principals' Association	Maureen Cecile
Vice-Principals' Association	Americo Todino
Board Advisors	Martin Forster
	Dr. Frank Leddy
	Brenda Roby
	Lisa Thompson
	Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Sue McMath, Marianne Knox, Dr. Veronica Vaughan
Absent: Marie Cadotte, Fabrizia Romano

Mike Neuts
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by meeting Chair, Mike Neuts.
2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adopt the agenda.
CARRIED

3. Review of Minutes from April 24, 2006

MOTION BY: Adrian Vermeiren and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the April 24, 2006 SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

B. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County M. Lalonge-Davey

The association had a raffle to raise \$5000 to assist a member who has been chosen as an Ambassador for Down Syndrome. This person will travel to British Columbia this summer. The funds raised will assist with this endeavor.

2. Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County A. Sheehan

The association is offering a Social Skills Program this summer. The program will run half days from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Brochures are available.

3. Community Living, Chatham-Kent R. Zarebski for S. McMath

The Executive Director of Community Living Chatham-Kent met with the Ministry on April 12, 2006. The Ministry has released to agencies the process for Passport Funding. Individuals attending day programs are not eligible. Families have to apply and are assessed. Dollar amounts will be allocated to families.

A document entitled Opportunities and Action was distributed. Transforming Supports in Ontario for people who have Developmental Disabilities has been released. This document sets a direction and vision for the provision of services and supports to people.

Recent Press Release from the Ministry:

\$11 million in funding for Passports Initiative to provide additional opportunities to assist in transition from school to adult world of work.

\$12.5 million in additional funding for Special Services at Home.

The Accessibility Plan from the S.C.C.D.S.B. was reviewed. The Community Living, Chatham-Kent Board of Directors were pleased to see accessibility covering such a broad basis (i.e. not limited to just physical accessibility to buildings).

CLCK has donated \$5000 to the Summer Experience Program.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. St. Patrick's Catholic High School Site Visit St. Patrick's Staff

Bernadette Gray, Vice Principal of St. Patrick's Catholic High School welcomed the group to the school and introduced the staff members from St. Patrick's. Staff members present were Jan Turgeon, Jane Buono, Karen Côté and Monica MacSweeney. Each staff member contributed to the presentation and the tour of the resource program for the students with special needs at St. Patrick's Catholic High School.

Michele LaLonge-Davey requested that a letter of gratitude be sent from SEAC to Nora McGill for bussing services to St. Patrick's as well as to UCC and St. Patrick's for their presentations and the tour of their facilities. Michele will draft letters and bring them to the SEAC meeting scheduled for June 19, 2006.

2. Review of Speech and Language Programs and Services R. Zarebski

Renée Zarebski presented the Review of Speech and Language Programs and Services for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. Kathy Arcuri-Arnott was the SEAC representative for this committee.

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept and support the recommendations contained in the Review of Speech and Language Programs and Services and seconded by Martha Fracalanza.

CARRIED

3. Home School Communication Protocol L. Thompson

Lisa Thompson presented the Home School Communication Protocol as a guideline to best practice for schools in the S.C.C.D.S.B.

MOTION BY: Adrian Vermeiren to accept the Home School Communication Protocol and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott.
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CARRIED

4. Protocol for Access and Consultation with Community Agencies B. Roby

Brenda Roby presented the Protocol for Access and Consultation with Community Agencies. SEAC members will bring any recommendations for change to the SEAC meeting scheduled for June 19, 2006.

5. Staffing and Budget Update F. Leddy

Frank Leddy asked if SEAC members had any questions from the presentation made to SEAC on April 24, 2006 by Jim McKenzie. Frank explained the history behind where the budget is today. For September 2006, the Board will experience a loss of over 300 students at the elementary level. There will be reductions in Special Education and other departments for the 2006-2007 school year.

For Special Education this means:

Secondary PRT - no change

Elementary PRT - reduced at an equivalent of 4.8 FTE (from 37.9 PRTs to 33.1 PRTs)

Itinerant Resource Teacher for Behaviour - addition of 1.0 FTE

Educational Assistants - reduced at an equivalent of 4.5 FTE (from 134.5 EAs to 130 EAs)

6. Recommendations from SEAC 2005-2006 Update Team

Martin Forster, Brenda Roby, Renée Zarebski and Lisa Thompson highlighted the recommendations from the SEAC Special Education Plan from 2005-2006 school year. This will be part of the Special Education Plan to be sent to the Ministry in July 2006.
7. Draft Recommendations from SEAC 2006-2007 M. Forster

Martin Forster reviewed a list of 10 recommendations and sought input from SEAC.
8. Revision of Special Education Plan M. Forster

Martin Forster outlined the sections of the Special Education Plan that will be submitted to the Ministry in July 2006. We do not yet have feedback from last year's submission of the Special Education Plan from the Ministry. Hard copies of everything to be submitted to the Ministry will be brought to the June 19, 2006 SEAC meeting as well as being posted on the Board website.
9. Mileage M. Forster

Martin Forster distributed new mileage forms to be filled out and returned to him at the June 19, 2006 SEAC meeting for submission to the Board for payment.
10. SEAC Meeting Dates for 2006-2007 F. Leddy

Frank Leddy distributed the list of scheduled dates for SEAC meetings for the 2006 -2007 school year.

E. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Ratification of CUPE Agreement

Frank Leddy reported on the ratification of the CUPE agreement. It was a successful agreement as 75 out of 83 members voted in favour of the agreement.

Education for All

There have been two reports to the Board to date with one additional report to come. The first was in regard to Dr. Thomas Armstrong's report on Multiple Intelligences. The second report was on Differentiated Instruction with a video on demonstration classrooms across the district.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

Frank Leddy has met with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board in regard to School to Community Transitional Planning. Frank will provide booklets outlining this topic at the June 19, 2006 SEAC meeting.

G. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

H. **NEXT MEETING DATE** – June 19, 2006 – CEC in the St. Louis Conference Room

Please contact Niki Ritchie at 1-866-336-6139 ext. 388 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

I. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

None

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY:	Annie Sheehan and seconded by Adrian Vermeiren to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.
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CARRIED