

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – Board Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Trustee	Mike Neuts
Community Living Chatham-Kent	Deb Toland
Lambton Developmental Services	Adrian Vermeiren
Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	Fabrizia Romano
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group	Martha Fracalanza
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Michele LaLonge-Davey
Autism Society Ontario	Verna Southgate
Community Living, Wallaceburg	Veronica Vaughan
Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County	Annie Sheehan
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Trustee	Marie Cadotte
Principals' Association	Maureen Cecile
Vice-Principals' Association	Dianne Langan
Board Advisors	Frank Leddy Anna Giuliani Martin Forster Renee Zarebski

Regrets: Deb Toland, Verna Southgate, Veronica Vaughan, Martin Forster, Marie Cadotte

Attendance: Barb Fisher, Trustee

Mike Neuts
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Opening Prayer - led by Dr. Frank Leddy

2. Adoption of Agenda

Amendments to Agenda:

Section C: Unfinished Business - #6. Transportation

MOTION BY: Fabrizia Romano and seconded by Maureen Cecile, to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Review of Minutes - April 18, 2005

MOTION BY: Maureen Cecile and seconded by Martha Fracalanza, to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2005 meeting.

CARRIED

B. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent

F. Romano

Pamphlets for the Summer 2005 Tutoring and Social Skills programs are now available. There will be a general information meeting on May 31st from 7:00 to 9:00. At this meeting, a panel of speakers will be presenting – Speech Pathologists (from the SCCDSB), Occupational Therapists and Audiologists. They will be discussing practices regarding LD students. This will be an open forum.

Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County

M. LaLonge-Davey

Members attended the National Canadian Down Syndrome Society conference in Waterloo. There was an excellent presentation by CICE from Sault College Campus. In London, there is dialogue on breaking the Gr. 12 literacy course into modules. Students who have disabilities would work through the modules throughout high school. In the Sault, a grade 9 student who has Down Syndrome has been included in the regular program. Elsewhere in the country, students who have Down Syndrome are earning diplomas.

Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County

A. Sheehan

The JUMP math program will be offered this summer. There will also be a two week social skills program offered. On August 29/30th, there will be a Study Smart Boot Camp offered for students. On Wednesday June 8th there will be an Adaptive Technology Workshop offered. Everyone is welcome.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Secondary School Review update Dr. F. Leddy

The Secondary School Review of Special Education Programs and Services was reviewed with SEAC in depth. The committee membership was detailed. Excellent information was obtained through focus groups of parents, students, teachers, educational assistants and program resource teachers. The 2001 review was revisited and progress on the recommendations was summarized. The review contains information on demographics, current staffing, and programs available across the system. Students reported they felt very valued in being included in the focus group process. Best practices from other Boards were included. Suggestions, discussion and input from SEAC will be used to make some revisions.

Recommendations generated from the Secondary School Review of Special Education Programs and Services were reviewed in depth with SEAC.

Strategies for implementation of the recommendations will be shared with SEAC in September/October.

The Chair thanked the Committee for the input in the discussion of the review.

<p>MOTION BY: Adrian Vermeiren and seconded by Kathy-Arcuri-Arnott to accept the Secondary School Review of Special Education Programs and Services and to endorse the Recommendations.</p>
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CARRIED

2. Special Education Recommendations 2004 Update A. Giuliani

The recommendations from the 2004 Special Education Plan were reviewed by the Special Education Team. A number of areas will continue to be updated and will remain in focus during the 2005-2006 school year.

Based on the technology recommendation from the 2004 Special Education Plan, Kurzweil's will be purchased for all schools. The Special Education Department has also been key in supporting the role of the Principal Support Workers and the Alternative to Suspension programs at the three secondary schools.

3. Special Education Plan 2005 Dr. F. Leddy

The plan has been formally reviewed with SEAC. The format for SEAC to view the entire document was revised by making the plan available for viewing on a specially created website.

The Recommendations for the 2005-2006 Special Education Plan were reviewed with SEAC and input and discussion with SEAC was invited. The plan was passed unanimously.

<p>MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by, Martha Fracalanza to accept the Recommendations for the Board Special Education Plan.</p>

CARRIED

MOTION BY: Adrian Vermeiren and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to approve the Special Education Plan for 2005-2006.

CARRIED

4. Regulation 464 – SEAC Membership Dr. F. Leddy

Dr. Leddy reviewed Regulation 464 with SEAC. SEAC is the only legislated committee of the Board. The maximum number of trustees on SEAC is 2. The maximum number of Association Members is 12. If there are more than 12 interested, the board selects membership. Members should have alternates attend the meetings in the event they are not able to attend as this supports having quorum for our meetings. Everyone on SEAC has a vote. Membership will need to be reviewed each time SEAC is formed to ensure broad representation.

5. OCSOA Discussion Paper Dr. F. Leddy

This document will be used as an information item for reference by SEAC.

6. Transportation Michele LaLonge-Davey

Michele requested a follow-up regarding previous discussion about streamlining the request for specialized transportation. Deferred until June.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Staffing change: Dr. F. Leddy

Martin Forster has been appointed as Principal of Special Education. He will be replacing Anna Giuliani. Congratulations were extended to Martin.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

G. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Q. When will staff changes be made known?

A. The specifics around teacher placement should be known within the next few weeks.

H. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, June 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

I. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Transportation update.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Maureen Cecile and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Mike Neuts
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor