

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Autism Society Ontario	Verna Southgate
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: Martha Fracalanza, Fabrizia Romano, Verna Southgate, Adrian Vermeiren
Guests: Barb Fisher, Marianne Knox, Paul Wubben

Mike Neuts
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Wubben, Director of Education was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Wubben acknowledged the role and contribution of the SEAC members and trustees in working on this committee.

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Marie Cadotte and seconded by Veronica Vaughan to adopt the agenda.
CARRIED

- 3. Review of Minutes from February 20, 2006

MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Marie Cadotte to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2006 SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

B. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- 1. Community Living, Wallaceburg V. Vaughan

Community Living, Wallaceburg is moving to a new location. Members of the association are very interested in our plans to examine inclusion practices.

Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County M. Lalonge-Davey

Michele has had dialogue with Barbara Italiano on the hiring of students who have disabilities. Barbara is open to any dialogue we might want to have, especially with specific questions. There is a new mentor partnerships program for students ages 14-21. Mentors are adults with disabilities. Mentors are from People First. Michele will keep SEAC updated.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 1. Revision of the SEAC Pamphlet M. Forster

Revisions have been made. Please carefully review the contact information. This should reflect the association phone and address. Please contact Martin if there are any changes.

- 2. Revision to Board Special Education Plan – B(1) M. Forster

This section was reviewed at the last meeting. A suggestion was made to include revision dates on the sections of the Plan.

MOTION BY: Marie Cadotte and seconded by Sue McMath to approve the revision.
CARRIED

3. Suspension Data F. Leddy

Preliminary discussion was held at our last meeting on suspension data. Dr. Leddy shared the suspension data for the board since 2001-2002. Statistics show a decline over the four years recorded in the elementary system. Overall there has been a 16% decrease in suspensions.
4. Input to MACSE M. Forster

Martin received input from Voice. The Down Syndrome Association provided input at the meeting. This information will be passed on to the trustees.
5. Provincial Parent Involvement Initiative F. Leddy

This relates to a question raised at our last meeting. In our Board, this work is reflected through the Board Advisory Council which gives advice to the director. No specific requirements have been received from the Ministry. The Ontario Provincial Involvement Initiative document may be found on the Ministry Website.
6. Transition to Work F. Leddy

Dr. Leddy contacted the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and he will be following up with Barbara Italiano. The HWCDSB has hired people with special needs as Educational Assistants, Information Technology staff, mailroom staff and teachers.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Inclusion Project M. Forster

We are in the process of creating a committee to increase inclusion throughout our school system. The Ontario Association for Community Living and the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board have developed a program for enhancing inclusive school culture. This program involves obtaining input from focus groups that would be representative of marginalized groups. The Association collates the data and works with the school to develop a two year plan to broaden inclusion in the school. Martin is looking to implement pilots in our board starting with the secondary schools.

Dr. Leddy was invited to visit with St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School to discuss inclusion. The staff was very open to the ideas presented and to utilize creative approaches to inclusion.
2. Revision to Board Special Education Plan – B(4) M. Forster

The document was distributed at our last meeting. Revisions were suggested for this section and will be included. SEAC requested that the dispute resolution process should be included in the Parent Guide. Martin will revise this section and it will be included with the minutes.

E. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

The Accessibility Planning Committee is seeking a SEAC representative. Kathy Arcuri-Arnott volunteered to sit on the committee.

G. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

When will the principles and values be reviewed by the Board?

At the April 24th SEAC meeting, Fred Galloway will meet with SEAC to conduct a focus group to gather input for the revision of the Strategic Plan for the Board. This focus group session will discuss where the Board is presently and where the Board should hope to be in the next 5 years. Focus will be on the Board is currently doing well, what is not going well, how the Board should get to where it wants to be.

**H. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 24, 2006 – CEC in the St. Louis Conference Room
*Note change in location.**

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

1. Budget Information
2. Focus Group with Fred Galloway
3. Visit to St. Patrick's Catholic High School deferred until May 15, 2006.

J. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION BY: Marie Cadotte and seconded by Maureen Cecile to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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