

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference Room

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

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chatham-Kent Women's Centre	Angela Corso
Community Living, Wallaceburg	Dr. Veronica Vaughan
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Michele LaLonge-Davey
Epilepsy Support Centre	Christine Canniff
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group	Martha Fracalanza
Lambton County Developmental Services Group	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
Trustees	Carol Bryden Brenda Rumble
Principals Representatives	Maureen Cecile Americo Todino
Board Advisors	Dr. Frank Leddy Martin Forster Lisa Demers Brenda Roby Lisa Thompson Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Maureen Cecile, Angela Corso, Martin Forster

Guests:

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Prayer

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

- 2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Dr. Veronica Vaughan and seconded by Christine Canniff to adopt the agenda.
CARRIED

- 3. Review of Minutes from February 25, 2008

MOTION BY: Fabrizia Romano and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the February 25, 2008 SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Special Education Budget Information J. McKenzie

There was an announcement from the Ministry of Education on March 26, 2008. Current budgeting discussions are being held on the 2008-2009 school year. Much of our funding is driven by our student enrollment and we continue as a board to be declining in enrollment. We have 254 fewer students for next year and the reduction trend continues. In the last five years we have lost 1400 students in the elementary and we will lose approximately another 700 students in the next 5 years before this trend evens out. This represents a 40% reduction. There will be a decline next year of 88 secondary. The declines represented in elementary will be reflected in secondary over the next few years. Salary and benefits are a significant part of budget. Usually there is a reduction in teachers when there is a reduction in students. The ministry has provided some funding for smaller boards. There has been 57 million in additional funding to support special education while work proceeds on the funding model for special education. SEPPA and High Needs amount represent the special education funding. High Needs amount is directed toward students with the highest needs. Boards will retain what they had in spite of declining enrollment. A 10 million dollar investment has not been allocated. Provincially some money will be released around May 15th – EPO grants directed at specific initiatives. Funds may or may not be directed to Special Education. SEA claims have been in excess of 400,000.00. We also received funding for Section 23 classrooms. Some specialized funding has been received for Autism Spectrum disorders. Dr. Leddy has presented a special education budget. This will be considered through the budget process. There was an 800,000.00 deficit in last year’s special education budget. There is not enough money received in this silo to cover the costs. There should be more concrete information in another month or so.

- 2. Implementation of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Review L. Doig

Deferred to next meeting.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- 1. Community Living, Wallaceburg Dr. Veronica Vaughn

Information was shared on a presentation “Power Control and You”. This will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 and everyone is invited to attend. Veronica is on the Accessibility Planning Committee for Chatham-Kent and there is an free information session on June 17, 2008 from 1-3 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church. There will be presentations for various community members with

accessibility issues. There will be a number of tables set up by service providers – blind, deaf, physical and many other disabilities will be addressed with respect to accessibility. There will be 18 individuals presenting. Information was shared on Creating Safe Places and this will be held on Saturday May 10, 2008.

2. Epilepsy Support Centre C. Canniff

The agency is reaching out to youth for a youth challenge as they have received funding from Trillium. There is a website for youth to share their stories and there are brochures for distribution. Please contact Christine for more information.

3. Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent F. Romano

The agency is continuing with their winter/spring programs. SOAR is a program that teaches advocacy skills and is structured to help children transition into high school. The association is also offering a computer camp to provide opportunities to learn and practice technology.

4. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County M. LaLonge-Davey

A pasta dinner was held and \$9000 was raised in just two hours. The funds raised will be used for speech therapy for young families. Michelle will be attending a conference in Toronto.

5. Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County A. Sheehan

There will be an educational workshop on April 30, 2008 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on “Building the Link”. Flyers were distributed and this is free and open to everyone.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Feedback from SEAC members on Post-Secondary Transitions B. Roby

At our last SEAC meeting the draft secondary transition planner was reviewed. Feedback has been received from a number of organizations including CLCK, CL Wallaceburg and Pathways. It was suggested that a page be added that gives contact information for various associations. This suggestion will have to be considered based on the changing nature of some organization’s contact information.

How will this document be operationalized?

The planner will be used to transition students from secondary school. Teams will start using it in late grade 9 or grade 10. The planner will travel between home and school and be used during IEP and school based team meetings as well as in the transition plan. The PRT, parents, teachers, student and guidance counselors will be involved. The planner was designed mainly for students who are identified or on an IEP but can be used for any student. For all students, all four goals will be considered. Colleges and community groups are hoping this will become a community wide planner. Secondary department heads have been consulted in the process. Suggestion was to consult with classroom teachers. This process has begun.

Feedback has been sought from SEAC member organizations. The planner is designed to be fluid as the student moves through secondary. The planner will be launched when all feedback has been received. The roll-out for the planner is under discussion.

2. Special Education Plan Update L. Thompson

Information was provided for feedback. Please return any comment at our next SEAC meeting. The sections include: Parent Information Sessions, Collaborative Service Delivery Model Project and the Ontario Psychological Association Student Assessment Project. Information was provided on Special Education Staff. For staffing, the additional CYWs are from the Safe Schools Project.

Action: Provide feedback on these sections at the next SEAC meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Discovery – Assistive Technology Conference B. Roby

Conferences were held at both ends of the district. Sarnia/Lambton had 14 students in grade 6 all with an identified LD. Students received training on Dragon, Premier Suites and Smart Ideas for organizing work. Students will have been out of their school for 4 days. They are working on self advocacy, identification of learning strengths and styles and goal setting. The students are very excited about the conference. In the final session the students will invite their classroom teacher, PRT, Principal and parents. Students will prepare a presentation of what they have learned. They will share on a personal level what their learning disability is like for them. Students will be able to access their presentation to share back at their home-school and classrooms. Students will become the “resident expert” at their school. Next year when the session runs again these students will be invited to mentor the new invitees. The conference has run in both ends of the district – 14 in Sarnia and 11 in Chatham. Criteria for the invitation: students with a learning disability in grade 6, with SEA equipment were identified as a priority for this project.

2. Autism Project Update R. Zarebski

An update was provided on various training initiatives that have been provided to staff throughout the year on ABA training and Autism. An update of the Collaborative Service Delivery Model was provided for SEAC. The researcher will be meeting with the Project Leads and with the Regional Leadership team in the next few weeks.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

B. Rumble

One board meeting was held in March. The trustees have been busy with ARC meetings. There are two more meetings for Sarnia. The Blenheim reviews are completed. The reports will be presented to the Board in June. Recommendations will be made at that time. . Budget discussions are currently being held. Ron Morrish will be at Harwich Raleigh Public School from 6-8 on May 8th.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Is there anything available to help parents with how to deal with bullying?

Thursday evening at St. Pat’s there is a professional development session on bullying for Parents. Friday afternoon there is a session for staff at UCC. It was suggested that parents contact the social worker to get information on bullying. In grade 7 and 8 there is a program directed to cyber bullying. Another suggestion was to contact the School Council to bring a speaker in to address this issue. We could consider building in a session at the SEAC Forum on bullying.

Fabrizia requested the total elementary and secondary population. To be provided at next meeting.

Premier Suite – is this renewable?

The license to renew has been put in the budget.

Statement on IEP states the student does not meet the criteria for identification.

Clarification regarding identification: some students do not meet the ministry requirement for identification but still require assistance. An IEP is put in place to support the student whether they are identified or not.

I. **NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the 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.**

J. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

1. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Review
2. MOE – High School Inclusion Project backgrounder with indicators

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Christine Canniff to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED