

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 25, 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: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott, Martha Fracalanza, Fabrizia Romano, Annie Sheehan, Americo Todino,
Adrian Vermeiren, Renée Zarebski

Guest: Linda Ward

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

3. Review of Minutes from January 21, 2008

MOTION BY: Dr. Veronica Vaughan and seconded by Angela Corso to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2008 SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. OPA Phonemic Awareness Project S. Christensen/M. Lanoue

Dr. Leddy introduced the presentation with the PowerPoint, Breakthrough (see handout). All schools in SCCDSB read the book Breakthrough in the fall of 2007. In-service has been carried out throughout this school year to all schools. Shawn Christensen, Speech & Language Pathologist and Mary Lanoue, District Literacy and Numeracy Teacher presented the remainder of the presentation explaining the Phonemic Awareness screening implemented in the Senior Kindergarten classrooms this year across the district as well as the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) initiative. The Phonemic Awareness Screening Form B was distributed and explained. This form will be used this spring to reassess the SK students district-wide to evaluate progress made throughout the school year. Screening will be done by the SLPs and the DLNTs. The skills being assessed are skills that should be acquired developmentally – they are not skills that have necessarily been taught in school. The assessment allows the school team to determine where the gaps lie so that appropriate teaching can take place. Practice games and activities are sent home for home use to involve the parents as part of the team. Progress charts are available to the parents at the report card interview at the end of term 1.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Chatham-Kent Women's Centre A. Corso

Angela handed out two forms explaining the programs being held in our schools in conjunction with school staff as well as community programs that are available through the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre.

2. Community Living, Wallaceburg

Veronica reminded SEAC that the South West Regional Centre will be closing in two years. The objective is to find placements close to the residents' family homes. There are difficulties with adequate funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to accomplish this. Community Living, Wallaceburg is trying to cap occupancy at each local facility at four residents.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Post-Secondary Transitions B. Roby

Brenda Roby distributed a draft of the Post-Secondary Transition Planner for SCCDSB as well as the Employment Skills Profile. Several community partners have been involved with the development of these documents. Brenda highlighted the contents of the documents. SEAC members are asked to bring any input from their respective organizations back to the next SEAC meeting or email Brenda Roby directly.

- 2. EQAO Special Education Data M. Forster

Martin Forster distributed an EQAO Data Analysis for Students with Special Needs. The data was compiled from the previous 4 years EQAO test results. The data contains information for SCCDSB as well as the province. The data will be examined more closely with the Program Resource Teachers at an upcoming meeting to analyze what the data tells us, why do we need to know this information and where do we go from here with this information. The purpose for analyzing the data is to develop strategies to help our students improve. Martin went through the package of data and explained that special needs students are those with an Individual Education Plan (identified, non-identified, accommodations and/or modifications).

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Administrators' Meeting Report F. Leddy

Dr. Frank Leddy distributed the Administrator's Meeting report dated February 2008. Dr. Leddy explained the document as a progress report of the goals set by the Special Education department for the 2007-2008 school year. An update on these goals is provided three times per year. The final report will come in May 2008. Upon reading through the report, if SEAC members have questions, they can be brought to the next SEAC meeting on April 21, 2008.

- 2. Cancellation of March SEAC Meeting Date – March 17, 2008

It was suggested and unanimously agreed that the March 17, 2008 meeting be cancelled.

MOTION BY: Dr. Veronica Vaughan and seconded by Angela Corso to cancel the March 17, 2008 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD B. Rumble

The board has passed the Safe Schools Policy and the trustees were the recipients of a Breakthrough / OPA presentation similar to the presentation at SEAC this evening. Trustees have also participated in Accommodations Review Committee (ARC) meetings in Blenheim and Sarnia with regard to school closures.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michele LaLonge-Davey offered an information item. As future consideration for professional development for any St. Clair CDSB staff member, Michele gave information on a workshop she voluntarily attended entitled Bridges out of Poverty offered by Lambton County Social Services

Department. The contacts are Gayle Miner and Mary Lou Burke at 1-800-387-2882. Their email addresses are gayle.miner@county-lambton.on.ca and marylou.burke@county-lambton.on.ca.

I. **NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, April 21, 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. Special Education Budget

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY:	Angela Corso and seconded by Christine Canniff to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.
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CARRIED