

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 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: Angela Corso, Lisa Thompson, Adrian Vermeiren, Americo Todino

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Prayer
2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Review of Minutes from January 24, 2008

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Dr. Veronica Vaughan to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2007 SEAC meeting.
CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Applied Behaviour Analysis and PPM 140 R. Zarebski

Renee outlined the new requirements and initiatives from the Ministry regarding programs and services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Renee shared the new Ministry resource document on effective strategies for supporting students with Autism in the classroom. The presentation also included a description of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) including methods, teaching strategies and the functions of behaviour. Our board's Autism Transition Classroom was featured in the Ministry Document – Effective Educational Practices for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders – 2007.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Epilepsy Support Centre C. Canniff

Christine outlined her efforts to access schools to provide education to school staff about Epilepsy.

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

Due to some recent grants, LDAO Chatham-Kent is able to offer some new programs.

1. SOAR is a transition program for students in grades 7-9.
2. Assistive Technology training workshops for students, parents and adults on Kurzweil, Premier Suite and Dragon Naturally Speaking.

More information is available in the winter programs pamphlet.

3. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group M. Fracalanza

Bruce Ritchie is presenting at a conference on FASD in Sarnia on Feb 8 & 9th

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Inclusive Classrooms/School Mission Statement F. Leddy

The final version of the document was distributed to SEAC members. Copies will be distributed to the schools in the near future and school Principals will be requested to post them prominently in the schools. Martha suggested that the print be enlarged for the copies to be distributed to the schools.

2. Feedback on Personal Care Protocol L. Demers

Lisa invited any additional feedback on the draft protocol. None was offered.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Revisions to Special Education Plan M. Forster

This year we are required to report amendments only. Martin provided SEAC with a chart of revisions that will be included in that report. Members were invited to inform Martin if there were any items missing from the revision plan.

2. Student Discipline Policy 3.17 F. Leddy

The policy was developed in November and December and SEAC members received the draft policy for input prior to Christmas. This change in policy has to be in place by February 1, 2008. Dr. Leddy highlighted some key points such as recurring themes (5 mitigating factors, progressive discipline, appropriate accommodations, alternatives to suspension), key changes, the Principal's role, the role of the Trustee and the Board implementation plan.

3. Review of Program and Services – Autism R. Zarebski

Renee shared the training that has been provided for our staff on Autism as well as the professional development opportunities planned for the remainder of the school year. We are well on our way to meeting Ministry expectations as outlined in PPM 140.

<p>MOTION BY: Michele LaLonge-Davey and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to extend the length of the review of Programs and Services – Autism from one to two years. The review is to be completed by June 2009.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

4. February 1, 2008 Professional Development Day L. Demers

Lisa Demers outlined the agenda for the professional development day for Educational Assistants. Educational Assistants will attend one of two programs being offered.

1. The Thames Valley District Autism Team will provide additional training on Applied Behaviour Analysis.
2. CEC staff will provide training on the Roles of Staff, Performance Appraisals, PPM140, Personal Care Protocol and Fostering Independence.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Change in February SEAC Meeting Date – February 25, 2008 F. Leddy

The February 18th meeting had to be rescheduled due to the conflict with the Family Day holiday.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Brenda Rumble highlighted some of the activities of the Trustees during December and January. These activities included a Literacy night, a policy workshop, a full review of the Student Discipline policy and the upcoming ARC process.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michele LaLonge-Davey asked if a student can access a secondary school in either system regardless of which board he/she presently attends. The answer given was that we have a protocol with the Lambton-Kent DSB for grade 8 to 9 transition from one system to the other. Access is limited in some specialized programs due to a limited number of spots available in the program.

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, February 25, 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. Update on Post Secondary Transition

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Fabrizia Romano to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

CARRIED