

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2007 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:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Community Living, Chatham-Kent | Sue McMath |
| Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton | Cyndi Brumaroff |
| Community Living, Wallaceburg | Dr. Veronica Vaughan |
| Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County | Michele LaLonge-Davey |
| 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 |
| Trustee | Carol Bryden |
| Trustee | Brenda Rumble |
| Principals' Association | Maureen Cecile |
| Vice-Principals' Association | Americo Todino |
| Board Advisors | Martin Forster |
| | Dr. Frank Leddy |
| | Brenda Roby |
| | Lisa Thompson |
| | Renée Zarebski |

Regrets: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott, Adrian Vermeiren, Renée Zarebski
Guest: Barbara Fisher

Carol Bryden
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Prayer
2. Introduction and Welcome
3. Election/Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Carol Bryden was acclaimed to the position of Chair and Kathy Arcuri-Arnott was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

4. Adoption of Agenda

| |
|---|
| MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Carol Bryden to adopt the agenda. |
| CARRIED |

5. Review of Minutes from November 27, 2006

| |
|--|
| MOTION BY: Annie Sheehan and seconded by Martha Fracalanza to accept the minutes from the November 27, 2006 SEAC meeting. |
| CARRIED |

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation: Gifted Program J. Slater

An overview of the assessment process and the admittance procedure for the program was provided. The congregated programs for Junior and Intermediate students were highlighted. Elementary programs are held at St. Margaret and St. Agnes schools. The secondary program is an information-sharing and excursion-based program. A PowerPoint presentation showcasing students engaged in program activities was included.

2. Presentation: Inclusion Initiative B. Roby

The process involved in the Inclusive School Culture project was outlined. SEAC members received a copy of the "Catholic Inclusive Culture Improvement Plan" for each secondary school. Follow up to those plans will be ongoing. The possibility of expanding the Inclusive School Project into the elementary schools is under discussion. Considerations include the costs of the ongoing commitment, the allocation of staff and the possible training of our own facilitators.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living, Sarnia-Lambton C. Brumaroff

The agency is working with clients coming from South West Regional Centre. The present focus with these individuals is ensuring a safe living environment and including them in the community.

2. Community Living, Chatham-Kent S. McMath

A brief explanation on the Passports funding initiative was provided.

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

More detail will be provided later on a new project called "Parents Reaching Out" (PRO).

4. Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Fabrizia Romano

Pamphlets were distributed on the 2007 Winter/Spring Tutoring Program and for a presentation by Ronald Morrish "Secrets of Discipline".

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Role and Responsibility of SEAC Members F. Leddy

Catholic social teaching calls us to have a preferential option for the poor and struggling. Our students with needs must be a priority. The School Board relies on SEAC to provide feedback on how we are communicating with parents as well as input on areas of responsibility and expectations. Members were provided with an Orientation Package which includes a description of responsibilities and best practices for SEAC. The main "best practice" is that all members need to come with a perspective that they are representing all parents of students in our board. The brochure for SEAC will now need some updating with new members. The new parent brochure on special education is in its final steps of development. The Recommendations from SEAC for the 2006/2007 school year was included in the package. Also included was a copy of the Special Education and Student Services Report for the Administrators meeting on November 14, 2006 and a list of Ministry resources.

2. Overview of Special Education Programs and Services M. Forster

A Compact Disc is being created which contains copies of Special Education documents. Included will be the Ministry Guide to Special Education (2001), our Special Education Plan for 2005 plus the updates for last year. The Ministry Transformation Document will also be included. Hard copies can be produced for those who wish.

The Ministry website for SEAC training is being revised. The new website should be available sometime in February.

Martin demonstrated how to access the Special Education section on the Board's website and outlined the programs and services included. SEAC minutes are posted on our website once they have been approved.

3. Special Education Transformation Document F. Leddy

A compilation of responses to the document was distributed to the committee. Because it is a philosophical document, the Ministry's Transformation Document does not discuss practicalities. It will not be until the government is able to change some of their policies and funding that some of what is suggested in the document will be possible.

4. Parent Evening Sessions F. Leddy

A steering committee was established to plan Parent Evening Sessions for parents. Renee Zarebski will chair the steering committee. Annie Sheehan and Fabrizia Romano will serve on the planning committee.

5. Technology Conference Report F. Leddy

Regina Sanders is presently providing in-servicing to our schools on Premier Suite Adaptive Technology. All schools have received the first round of training.

Our delegates to the conference met to discuss the next steps. Ideas discussed included the possibility of hosting a conference for special needs students on the use of technology, summer

technology camps, ongoing support for teachers, monitoring the use of adaptive technology in schools, collaboration with Curriculum on more extensive in-servicing and investigating how the Premier Suite can be used on laptops.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Information Sheet M. Forster

Members were provided with contact information sheets to be completed and returned.

2. OPA Initiative M. Forster

This initiative focuses on primary level students. The intent is to reduce wait times for professional assessments, enhance teacher capacity, improve literacy and numeracy, and to develop ways to sustain assessments over the long term. The plan, submitted to the Ministry, has been approved. As a result, an additional speech and language pathologist will be hired on a term contract until the end of this school year. Early intervention strategies for primary students will be targeted in the hope that by programming and providing early intervention, there will be significant improvement in student achievement and a reduction in the need for psycho-educational assessments. We will also be contracting additional psycho-educational assessments. A committee will be established to develop an Individual Learning Profile template. Wait times and processing times for assessments will be tracked and some additional assessment tools will be purchased.

3. Professional Development: Maggie Mamen (April 25, 2007) M. Forster

Dr. Mamen's presentation is being organized in conjunction with the Lambton Kent District School Board and the Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County. The location has not yet been confirmed. Dr. Mamen will also present in the evening at Lambton College.

4. Professional Development Day – April 27, 2007 M. Forster

The focus for this day will be on behaviour. The Educational Assistants from the Lambton Kent District School Board will also be attending.

5. Special Education Plan Update M. Forster

The Ministry has revised the expectations for the submission of the Special Education Plan. Only amendments to the 2005 Special Education Plan are required rather than a full review of the plan.

F. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

None

G. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Have we ever considered electronic meetings for SEAC?

We haven't as yet had a need to look at it. There is some concern around the quality of communication. It would be worth considering if it was the only way someone could participate.

2. Are system wide IPRCs necessary for students leaving elementary classrooms and entering a special education classroom in secondary?

The purpose for a system-wide IPRC is for students entering a limited enrollment program. If we were placing a student in a contentious placement, against a parents wishes, a system wide IPRC would be held. We have not had any need to hold system wide IPRC meetings.

3. Do locally developed courses receive credits?

Yes

4. Who determines whether or not a modified course is eligible for a credit?

As per Ministry guideline, in order to maintain the integrity of a course it would be a non-credit course if it is modified more than 50 percent.

H. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, February 19, 2007 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.

I. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Role of the Student Success Teacher

J. ADJOURNMENT

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| MOTION BY: | Sue McMath and seconded by Martha Fracalanza to adjourn the meeting at 9:35. |
|-------------------|--|

CARRIED