

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living, Wallaceburg

Derek McGivern

Community Living, Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

Epilepsy Support Centre

Sharon Berry Ross

Lambton County Developmental Services Group

Adrian Vermeiren

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Trustees

John Van Heck
Linda Ward

Principals Representatives

Maureen Cecile
Juli Faubert

Board Advisors

Deb Crawford
Lisa Demers
Janet Boyle
Lisa Thompson-Power
Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Adrian Vermeiren, Kathy Arcuri-Arnott, Linda Ward, Janet Boyle

Absent:

John VanHeck
SEAC Chairperson

Deb Crawford
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Addition to the Agenda - None
4. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Derek Jane and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

5. Review of Minutes from November 7, 2011.

MOTION BY: Sharon Berry Ross and seconded by Derek Jane to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2011 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Belief Statements F. Leddy

Dr. Frank Leddy outlined the consultation process for the Belief Statements. An overview was provided on the Management Advisory Council. The strategic plan was reviewed, with foundational principles identified. 40 participants were identified for consultation – one third students, one third teachers and one third support staff. All schools were represented in the process. Different committees in the board are scheduled for consultation – tonight is the SEAC consultation. Belief statements focus on what the beliefs of the organization are – not the actions to match the beliefs.

Belief statements will include statements on inclusivity, student achievement, gap reduction and public confidence. Dr. Leddy led a group activity.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. No reports

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. None

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Soy-based peanut butter substitutes D. Crawford

Deb provided a copy of a letter from Paul Wubben regarding Soy-Based Peanut Butter Substitutes. There has been very little feedback with regard to the letter. Recommendation to principals is to discuss with the Parent Councils.

2. Mental Health and Addictions Supports for District School Boards L. Demers

Memo from Barry Finlay was shared with SEAC. Ministries (EDU, MCYS, MOHLTC and MTCU) are working collaboratively to phase in a plan to improve services for students with mental health and addiction needs. The focus is on implementation of mental health literacy, the hiring of new workers and enhanced mental health resources. There is a three year plan for implementation included in the document. SSLI project is involved with continued support in the area of mental health. MCYS – will be providing mental health workers for additional support in the boards. Funding has been provided to agencies for the hiring of staff. Each DSB will receive 20,000.00 to support professional learning opportunities.

Working Together For Kids Mental Health – will involve sharing of resources and partnerships.

3. Developmental Services Transition Update R. Zarebski

On-going meetings have been hosted by the Ministry of Community and Youth Services, the Ministry of Community Social Services and community partners to develop a Transition Planning Framework for young people with a developmental disability. When this framework is completed, it will provide a pathway for community partners to assist individuals and their families in planning for future supports. In our region, the Chatham Kent and Sarnia Lambton planning groups are meeting jointly to develop a common procedure. The purpose of this undertaking is to support adults who will require future assistance (i.e. residential, respite, programs). These individuals will be identified to Developmental Services Ontario in a timely fashion in order to facilitate planning. There are specific criteria that the DSO has set out to determine eligibility for services. The work of the Transitions Planning Framework committee is to provide steps/timelines in order for families to secure the proper documentation for DSO. The school board has representation at this planning table. The current draft will be reviewed again on January 20th.

4. Teach ABLE Project R. Zarebski

The St. Clair Catholic DSB has been fortunate in having representation on a Writing Team with the Ontario Education Services Corporation. This project has been funded by the accessibility directorate. The purpose of the project is to integrate accessibility awareness into the curriculum. The project has two components – model lesson plans and a professional development component for staff. Implementation is scheduled for 2013. The primary goal is to embed accessibility awareness in every lesson which will link naturally with the Ontario Curriculum. The final product will be placed on-line and will be accessed by teachers across the province.

5. CEC Presentation R. Zarebski

On December 2nd, 2011 a team from the St. Clair Catholic DSB, Lambton Kent DSB and Thames Valley Children's Centre presented at the Council for Exceptional Students conference in Toronto. The topic presented was on Structured Learning. The session was very well received by the audience in attendance. Structured Learning is a teaching strategy used for many of our students with varying exceptionalities. It assists students in working independently and provides clear and concise expectations for students as they complete their school work throughout the day.

6. E.A. PD day L. Thompson-Power

Lisa provided a summary of the evaluations from the Joint EA PD day. The theme this year was "Live, Laugh and Learn". Janet Boyle completed a summary from the feedback forms.

Keynote speaker was Susan Stewart (am). The afternoon session consisted of a carousel of workshops. This was very well received. There was a wide variety of speakers and workshops.

7. PRT Meeting L. Thompson-Power

December 12th – Bridges out of Poverty – PRTs, VPs and Community Partners attended. All feedback was extremely positive. Some of the comments were shared.

8. Lancer Times

L. Demers

Publication from UCC Life skills class was shared with SEAC.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Linda Ward is new Vice-Chair, Carol Bryden will continue as Chair.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, February 6, 2012

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Derek McGivern and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED