

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference 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: John Van Heck, Adrian Vermeiren, Lisa Thompson-Power

Absent:

John VanHeck
SEAC Chairperson

Deb Crawford
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Additions to the Agenda - none
4. Adoption of Agenda

<p>MOTION BY: Derek McGivern and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to adopt the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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5. Review of Minutes from March 5, 2012.

<p>MOTION BY: Derek Jane and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to accept the minutes from the March 5, 2012 SEAC meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Anxiety Disorders H. Carron Doyle & J. Morrow

Presentation provided on anxiety in children by Heather Carron Doyle and Jennifer Morrow. Approximately 6-10% of students have a serious enough disorder that requires treatment. Untreated anxiety disorders can have a great impact on a person's life. There are age appropriate anxiety levels that are related to development. Symptoms of anxiety were reviewed. Anxiety is exhibited in different ways in the school setting. Types of anxiety disorders in adolescence and children were reviewed. Components of anxiety are physiological, cognitive and learning. Students are supported in identifying how their body is reacting to anxiety and learn techniques to calm. Students are taught how to engage in positive self-talk. Students are taught new skills to cope with their anxiety – 6 step problem solving. Strategies to support students experiencing anxiety in the school environment were shared.

Discussion:

Involvement with other mental health agencies varies for individual students. Sometimes, the board teams are the first contact, for other students; there are pre-existing mental health supports in place. Some of these students receive support from educational assistants.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living, Wallaceburg D. McGivern
None

2. Community Living, Chatham-Kent D. Jane
None

3. Epilepsy Support Centre S. Berry Ross
Last week was Purple Week to focus on Epilepsy. Sharon shared an insert that was in the newspaper. The Sarnia Observer ran a story about St. Patrick High School and how they profiled epilepsy week in their school.

Sharon shared a poster and a reading. Emma McCann a student from St. Chris received funds through the Kingdom Assignment. She used this funding to create a print reflecting her feelings on suicide.

Sharon will share contact information for ordering. Cost is 20.00 per print. Emma will be recognized at the Suicide Prevention meeting.

- 4. Lambton County Developmental Services Group A. Vermeiren
None
- 5. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children K. Arcuri-Arnott
None

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Feedback was sought from the last off site SEAC meeting. Members found it very informative. Linda recommended inviting other trustees to attend these sessions

E. NEW BUSINESS

None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. The Lancer Times L. Demers

Lisa shared a copy of the most recent edition of the Lancer Times.

- 2. Special Education Report L. Demers

Section 10.0 – Individual Education Plans

Section was reviewed- legislation around the IEP is included. The collaboration process with parents in the IEP process is essential and documented. The board has not had a lot of need for dispute resolution around the IEP. Principals have an IEP checklist to use when reviewing IEPs in their schools. All program resource teachers have access to IEP exemplars. IEP cycle is included (from IEP Resource Guide).

Section 11 – Provincial and Demonstration Schools

These include schools for the Blind, Deaf and those with severe Learning Disabilities. These provincially run schools provide excellent outreach support to schools. The board reports the number of students attending provincial schools each year.

Section 12 – Special Education Staff

A wide range of services are provided by various staff in the St. Clair Catholic DSB.

Discussion:

J. Paul Howard spoke to principals and PRTS about the importance of communication with parents around the IPRC process and the IEP. Paul was very complimentary of the relationship between the SCCDSB and their families.

- 3. EA Staffing Process L. Demers

Educational assistant staffing is a process the team undertakes each year based on the needs of students. Team has met once already to begin the review. A sample of the “Student Profile – Intensive Needs” was provided. The school team is asked to complete the form for each student they feel may require support. The profile provides a very detailed picture of the student, supports they are receiving and their needs. Student Profiles are submitted to the school consultant. The team reviews each of the profiles together. Level of needs the team uses were shared with SEAC – these include Medical/Physical, Safety/Supervision and Communication. Students who require staffing fall into the extensive and pervasive level of need. The school as a whole is considered based on the overall profile – numbers of IPRC’d students, students on IEP, other supports (PRT, SW, and CYW etc.), student population. From this, a School Profile is generated. At times, due to groupings and

class structure, students can be grouped. Educational assistants are deployed to schools and not to specific children. The school assigns specific staff to work with individual students. Once the schools have been profiled a group of principals reviews the allocations with the team. This creates a very transparent process.

Question – will there be a reduction in EAs for 2012-2013

Answer – not known at this time as funding for boards has not been announced. Departments are working on their budgets.

Linda noted that special needs funding is stressed at the provincial level every year.

4. Accessibility Forum

J. Boyle

Each year the board seeks feedback from students through an accessibility forum. This year, the event was hosted on Thursday March 22nd. Ten schools were represented. Students identified barriers within their school setting. Students were given three focus questions to consider in their groups. Student concerns are gathered and forwarded to the board's accessibility committee. Ashley Gialelem, a UCC student, was one of the speakers. Ashley shared her experiences and concerns. A news clip from the Accessibility forum was shared with SEAC.

5. All I's Ahead Transition Fair

R. Zarebski

A flyer for the "All I's Ahead Transition Fair" was shared with SEAC. This is a workshop/carousel session that is open to educators, families and students to receive information on supports and services that are available to them when they transition from secondary school. The event is being hosted by a number of community partners.

6. Modeling/Coaching of other boards

R. Zarebski

As a follow up to the presentation that was provided at the Geneva Summer Institute this past summer and other on-going initiatives, the St. Clair Catholic DSB has received requests from a number of other school boards to visit various school sites. These include visits to St. Joseph Catholic School (Chatham) to observe School Wide Positive Support by the following boards: Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Near North District School Board, Renfrew Catholic District School Board, London Catholic District School Board, Thames Valley District School Board and Thames Valley Children's Centre.

St. Patrick High School has a visit from Bluewater District School Board scheduled to view Structured Learning.

The Autism Transitional Classroom was visited by Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to view their exemplary practices.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Presentation from students from St. Matthew Catholic School who demonstrated an exercise routine used in the school. Students come in early to participate and there is also an evening session. St. Matthew Catholic School will be having a food for thought drive.

Students from Ursuline College Catholic Secondary School provided a brief preview of Les Miserables.

Boundary reviews were approved along with a number of constructions projects.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

If there are less EAs than we need – how can this be made more visible for funding and to profile the gap politically?

I. **NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, May 7, 2012**

J. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Please submit any agenda items for the next meeting.

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Sharon Berry Ross and seconded by **Kathy Arcuri-Arnott**
to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED