

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living, Wallaceburg

Derek McGiven

Community Living, Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

Epilepsy Support Centre

Sharon Berry Ross

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect Group

Lambton County Developmental Services Group

Adrian Vermeiren

Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County

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, Renee Zarebski,

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

<p>MOTION BY: Derek McGivern and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to adopt the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

5. Review of Minutes from October 3, 2011.

<p>MOTION BY: Derek Jane and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to accept the minutes from the October 3, 2011 SEAC meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Education Students EQAO results L. Demers

Deb Crawford reviewed the EQAO results in general for the board. The results for our special needs population remain strong and exceed that of the province.

Lisa Demers reviewed the EQAO results for the special needs population (see handout that outlines the special needs population). The special needs population includes those students who have been IPRC'd, and those on an IEP, excluding gifted population. The handout reflects the 7 year trend of EQAO data. The question being asked is: what is going on in Math and in Primary Reading?

The Ministry is looking at ways to raise the Math scores for all populations.

We include 98% of our special needs population in the writing of the EQAO test. We exempt very few students. Linda Ward shared that our board includes more students with special needs in the EQAO test than any other board, as perceived from MACSE meetings.

2. Anti-Bullying L. Thompson-Power

Lisa Thompson-Power shared information on Anti-Bullying (see folder handout). This information was shared with the Principals at the administrator meeting on October 25, 2011. The Anti-Bullying brochure was shared with every school, elementary and secondary, on October 26, 2011. The folder also includes information from the Ministry of Education on bullying. Bullying Awareness week is November 13–19, 2011.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Derek McGivern – Community Living Wallaceburg – If you are interested in purchasing tickets for their travel draw, please see Derek.

St. Elizabeth has utilized the additional EA time for the special needs population – before and after school support to meet student needs.

2. Sharon Berry Ross - Epilepsy Support Centre – The Grade 5 curriculum has been sent to schools. Upon request, Sharon will present 45 minute presentations as part of the Phys. Ed. program on Epilepsy Support. The presentation discusses stigma for students with epilepsy.
3. Derek Jane – Community Living Chatham-Kent – The “Respect Tour” took place in October. It was very successful as indicated in the feedback.

Community Living Chatham Kent is holding a fundraiser on December 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are available.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. SEAC learning survey L. Demers

SEAC was asked to review the SEAC learning survey results handed out last month. The question was asked if anyone has feedback regarding learning opportunities for SEAC? Would you like us to bring in guest speaker from the Ministry to discuss SEAC role?

Lisa Demers to resend the survey results electronically to SEAC for people to review and consider the suggestion of having a guest speaker. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Lancer Times D. Crawford

Deb Crawford distributed the first edition of the Lancer Times. It is produced by the UCC Developmental Class. Liz Hashim is the classroom teacher overseeing the publication. It was distributed electronically. The students did a wonderful job!

2. Soy-based Peanut Butter Replacements D. Crawford

Deb Crawford shared that we have many students who have severe peanut allergies. The Director of Education has been in consultation with the Medical Officers of Health from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and Lambton County regarding soy-based peanut butter replacements. In school communities where anaphylaxis to peanut products is an issue and soy-based peanut butter replacements are coming into the school, parents should be advised that the substitutes are not acceptable food items. Parents should also be advised that if the product is sent to school, the child will be provided with a healthy alternative or asked to eat in a location that will ensure there will be no contact with students who are allergic. Communication has been sent to all of the schools from the Director asking parents not to send soy-based peanut butter replacements to school.

3. PRT Meeting L. Thompson-Power

Lisa Thompson-Power shared the upcoming PRT meeting agenda for Monday, December 12, 2011. We will host the Bridges Out of Poverty presentation by Gayle Montgomery. Strategies will be shared for schools and teachers working with families living in poverty. The EA's, CYW's, SW's and SLP's all participated in the presentation last Spring at a PD day. The school administrators will receive the training in the new year.

4. Coaching to Inclusion L. Thompson-Power
- Lisa Thompson-Power shared information from the Coaching to Inclusion conference. It was held on October 28, 2011. The morning key note speaker was Cathy Montreuil whose topic was "Inclusion with Integrity". The afternoon presentation was done by Apple representatives whose topic was "Inclusion: There's an App for That!" The Inclusive Educator of the Year award for SCCDSB went to Shawn Christensen. Shawn is a Speech and Language Pathologist for our board. The award booklet with Shawn's photo and biography was shared with SEAC.
5. Suicide Prevention Workshop L. Thompson-Power
- Lisa Thompson-Power and Sharon Berry Ross shared information on a Suicide Prevention and Intervention workshop held in Sarnia at Pathways on October 27, 2011. Dr. Heather Fiske presented on Solution Focused Interventions. The day was a wonderful follow up to the ASIST training. Dr. Fiske spoke to 70 parents the night before. It was a very successful turn out. The sessions were organized by the Suicide Prevention committee in Sarnia Lambton. Dr. Fiske has a book entitled, "Hope in Action". A copy was shared with SEAC to review.
6. Roots of Empathy Program L. Demers
- Lisa Demers provided handout information on the program currently running in some schools. There was an approach and an offer specific to our board, from Roots of Empathy. A huge financial commitment has been put forth by them to bring the program to our schools. The program is being held in: Holy Family, St. Agnes and St. Joseph Chatham. These schools were chosen because they have the full day early learning classrooms. The program has been in Sarnia Lambton historically. St. Anne, Sarnia and St. Joseph, Corunna are involved with the program. It is now up and running in Chatham-Kent. It looks at the early socialization of students, empathy, tolerance, compassion etc. A mom and a baby volunteer in sharing the development of the child, with a class of students. The mother with the baby receives training prior to going into the schools as part of the program. It takes place once per week from October until the spring. There is evidence based research supporting the program. The goal is to build empathy and compassion in our classrooms through early intervention.
7. Friends for Life L. Demers
- Lisa Demers shared the Director's involvement in spear-heading this program. An increase in childhood anxiety has been recognized in our student population. We learned of this program through other boards who are using this program successfully. It can be used with students from JK to Grade 12. The program addresses anxiety reduction, building resiliency, building tool kits from which students can draw strategies and skills. All of our CYW's will be trained on December 2, 2011. Our target is to begin in Grade 4 to coincide with the religion program at that level. This is a conscious effort from the board to address the anxiety that is being witnessed. We are looking at implementation in block 2 classroom prevention programs. CYW's will deliver the program in conjunction with the classroom teacher.
8. Special Education Report L. Demers
- Lisa Demers walked SEAC through the SCCDSB web site section of the Special Education Report.
- Lisa reviewed: Section 1: Consultation Process (p 11 of 544). Lisa highlighted the SEAC roles and responsibilities within the section. Lisa then went through Section 2: The Board's General Model for Special Education (p 12 – 18 of 544) and Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities (p 19 – 22 of 544).

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Linda Ward shared information from the last few board meetings: St. Patrick's high school did a presentation on the use of a SMART board in Math. Link crew presented their program where a Grade 12 student pairs with a Grade 9 student for the year as a mentor. Lancer Link is similarly done at UCC. St. Christopher is doing a similar program as well. It is a wonderful leadership program. Over time, the entire school population will be linked through this program. There are staff members who oversee the programs. A number of policies have also been passed by the board.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – January 9, 2012

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

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

CARRIED