

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 25, 2013 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
Lambton County Developmental Services	Carla Alway
Epilepsy Support Centre	Christine Caniff
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D'Hooghe
Trustees	John Van Heck Linda Ward
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert Liz Gibson
Board Advisors	Dr. Frank Leddy Lisa Demers Janet Boyle Lisa Thompson-Power Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Derek McGivern, Kathy Arcuri-Arnott, Juli Faubert

Absent:

A. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome by John Van Heck
- B. Prayer
- C. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY Derek Jane and seconded by **Christine Caniff** to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

- D. Review of Minutes from October 21, 2013

MOTION BY Kim D’Hooghe and seconded by **Christine Caniff** to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2013 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

- A. “Jumpstart” Lambton Kent Teen Transition Committee Dave Schaller/Karen Holland

An overview was provided on the Lambton Kent Teen Transition Committee. Jumpstart is a working committee that is task focused and includes parent representation. Parents have indicated the importance and need for consistent information from agencies. Getting Started resource and website have been launched. Website: www.teentransition-lk.org There is a link for parents/young people for the Ability Online website.

- B. Transition and Self-Regulation Support Itinerant Behaviour Team

A presentation was provided on the many transitions that occur during the school day and how students can be supported during these times. Many students require various strategies to support them with transitions throughout the school day. A number of strategies were outlined. Some students also benefit from specific strategies to assist with self-regulation.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg Derek McGivern

- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent Derek Jane

Lottery calendars are on sale. These are available at Community Living Chatham Kent. Friday November 29th is the Annual Christmas Concert.

- C. Epilepsy Support Centre Christine Canniff

Lisa will provide an IPRC/IEP presentation. This will be open to any other agencies/organizations wishing to attend. Date: Monday January 16 at the United Way Office.

- D. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

- D. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim D’Hooghe

A speaker from St. Clair Child and Youth presented on Sexuality and Education. This is geared to students with Special Education needs. Down Syndrome Association is very supportive of this information. Pasta fest is on January 28th at the Dante Club.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A.

F. NEW BUSINESS

A. EQAO results for Students with Special Needs

Dr. Frank Leddy

EQAO results for Students with Special Education Needs were shared. Accurate information is obtained in looking at data and examining trends over time. Group focus/discussion on specific results was shared.

B. BIPSA

Dr. Frank Leddy

Curriculum and Special Education develop board plan for improvement. Identification of gaps is key. The team develops strategies to reduce the gap. Plan for monitoring needs to be included. For special education at secondary there continues to be a lot of scribing, Grade 6 students with learning disabilities are doing well, Grade 3 students with learning disabilities are struggling. Will be doing an IEP audit and looking to embed technology into the curriculum.

C. Principals and Mental Health Strategy

Dr. Frank Leddy

Board mental health leadership team is working on strategies to support mental health and wellness. Presentation made to principals on November 5th. Input was sought through a survey. The team is collecting data via staff/student and parent surveys. Promotion of wellness and mental health is a key factor for both staff and students. Strategy will be available by March/April 2014.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. School Wide Positive Behavior Support Update

Renée Zarebski

Two schools are currently in full implementation. Two schools have received training and are set to launch in 2014. Two schools have set up positive behavior support classrooms. St. Joseph Catholic School hosted visitors from the Toronto District School Board and the Geneva Centre for Autism.

B. Ministry of Education Consultations-Alternative Programs

Renée Zarebski

The Ministry Consultation was held on November 12th in London. A team of six from the SCCDSB attended and provided feedback. Discussion was around non-negotiables for alternative curriculum, sharing of current practices and the identification of skills, knowledge and characteristics this group needs to succeed after leaving school.

C. Coaching to Inclusion

Lisa Thompson Power

Conference held on October 25th in London – topic was Teaching to Diversity. Champion for this year was Andrea Keating from St. Ursula School. Plans are in place for next year's conference

D. Bullying Awareness Week (November 17-23)

Lisa Thompson-Power, Anita Cairns, Liz Gibson

Will be celebrated annually. Events are planned in the schools and supported by the School Support Team. Special events hosted at St. Joseph Chatham were shared. Monthly mentor texts and virtues are celebrated and shared. Events involving school families were hosted. At Sacred Heart Sarnia, individual classroom activities took place. Classroom teachers chose mentor texts to base activities on. Mentor texts used were shared with SEAC. A brochure was sent home for families "Be Part of the Solution". Anti-Bullying/Empathy policy for the school was finalized.

E. Dr. Jed Baker Presentation

Janet Boyle

LKDSB invited staff from the SCCDSB to attend an evening with Dr. Jed Baker on November 21st in Sarnia. The topic of the evening was All Kids Can Succeed: Effective Interventions for

Behavioural and Social Challenges. Dr. Baker is the author of a number of books on social skills/self-regulation.

F. Teaching to Diversity

Renée Zarebski

A team of ten staff from the SCCDSB will be attending the Meeting the Diversity Challenge conference in London which runs from November 27th to 29th. The focus is on supporting inclusive classrooms, legislation on inclusion and exploring challenges in the working environment.

G. EA PD Days

Janet Boyle

Topics for EA PD days are always aligned with Special Education Goals and evaluation feedback from educational assistants. Summary of professional development for educational assistants over the last few years was shared. Next PD day is on December 20th – focus is on Mental Health– Safe Talk Training and Anxiety and Depression. Certificates will be provided to attendees. The January 31 PD day will feature SMART Start (Safe work practices for Educational Assistants).

H. **REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

A.

I. **QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

A.

J. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** January 20, 2014 at 7:00pm.

K. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

A.

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY Christine Caniff and seconded by Kim D’Hooghe to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

CARRIED