

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 20, 2014 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 Canniff
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D'Hooghe
Trustees	Carol Bryden Michelle Parks
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert Liz Gibson
Board Advisors	Deb Crawford Lisa Demers Janet Boyle Jennifer Morrow Lisa Thompson-Power

Regrets: Deb Crawford, Juli Faubert, Kathy Arcuri-Arnott, Christine Canniff (Tabitha Vercillo, Epilepsy Support Centre attended in Christine's place)

Absent: Derek McGivern, Derek Jane

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

B. Adoption of Agenda:

**There was not a quorum of SEAC members. The meeting continued for the purpose of sharing information.**

C. Review of Minutes from September 15, 2014

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and Online Modules

Tamara Johnson

Tamara Johnson, Student Achievement Teacher – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning K – 12, described the *IT's About Learning* program which provides the opportunity for teachers to participate in professional learning about teaching and learning in the digital world. *IT's About Learning* online modules are designed and written by teachers for teachers. The modules include content, digital tools and tutorials, and collaboration spaces for sharing new ideas that can be implemented in classrooms. The learning activities and tasks are based on current research in 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning and teaching. The modules were developed by teachers from across the SCCDSB who met in June and July to work on the project. This project aligns with the Board's Strategic Plan and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century framework.

Permanent teachers who apply and are accepted complete 8 of the 14 online modules: five mandatory and three based on personal interest. Following the completion of the first 3 mandatory modules, each participating teacher will be given a *Samsung Chromebook* for professional use at school and at home, for as long as they are employed by the board. It is anticipated that approximately 50% of the staff (approximately 180) will register for the project. Any educator in the Board is able to access the modules which include "Creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom"; "Don't Just Bring It, Use Your Own Device – BYOD"; "Learning for All – Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap"; and "Engaging Our Students in their Catholic Faith".

3. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Community Living Wallaceburg

Derek McGivern

- No report

B. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

- No report

C. Epilepsy Support Centre

Christine Canniff

- No report

D. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

- No report

E. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D'Hooghe

- No report

F. Lambton County Developmental Services

Carla Alway

- No report

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

A. No unfinished business

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. No new business

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Coaching to Inclusion

Lisa Thompson-Power

The 2014 annual Coaching to Inclusion Conference will take place on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in London. The title of this year's conference is "Inclusive Education: Making It Work!" The morning keynote speaker is Donna McGhie-Richmond, Associate Professor of Education, University of Victoria, B.C. and Research Associate of the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education. The afternoon session consists of workshops on the topic of inclusive education. This year's recipient from SCCDSB for the "Champion of Inclusion" Award is Team "O" from Holy Trinity, Sarnia, consisting of the Program Resource Teacher, Michelle Toutant and three Educational Assistants, Carolyn Armstrong, Brenda Dunn and Chrissy Dodge.

- B. SIM

Lisa Thompson Power

SIM is the acronym for System Implementation and Monitoring. A team of Superintendents, Consultants, and Principals from schools across the district represent the Board. The purpose of the SIM team is to develop, implement and monitor the BIPSA math goal. The focus is mathematics. There are 3 regional sessions in September 2014, February and April 2015. The September regional session hosted CEO of EQAO, Bruce Roderiguez. The SIM team has a number of meetings scheduled from now until the next regional session in February.

- C. Phonological Screening

Janet Boyle

The Speech-Language Pathologists have been administering the phonological awareness screening to all SK students across the system during the month of October. Again, this year there is funding available through "Learning for All" to provide release time for the Kindergarten teachers and ECEs to meet with the Speech-Language Pathologist and the Program Resource Teacher. This will provide an opportunity for the team to collaboratively analyze the class profiles which can be used to program for all students from at-risk to advanced.

- D. IEP Transition Plan

Janet Boyle

In February 2013, the Ministry of Education issued Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 156: Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Needs which set out for School Boards and schools new requirements for transition plans for students with special education needs from K – Grade 12. PPM 156 requires that a transition plan must be developed for ALL students who have an IEP, whether or not they have been identified as exceptional by an IPRC and including those identified as exceptional solely on the basis of giftedness. The transition plan is developed as part of the IEP. The transitions may be in a variety of contexts: e.g. upon entry to school; between grades; from one subject area to another; when moving from school to school or from an outside agency/facility to a school; from elementary to secondary; and from secondary to the next appropriate pathway. We have a Transition Plan template as part of the IEP Engine, we have provided training to our PRTs on the development of a Transition Plan, and a committee has been struck to work on developing Transition Plan exemplars which will be shared with our Program Resource Teachers.

- E. Special Education Report

Lisa Demers

Lisa Demers highlighted Section 4.0 Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies with a focus on 4.1 Early Identification. Every school board is required to have procedures to identify each child's level of development, learning abilities and needs and to ensure that

educational programs are designed to accommodate these needs and to facilitate each child's growth and development (Ministry of Education, Program/Policy Memorandum #11). The Phonological Awareness screening of all SK students is one example of an early identification tool. The Ministry ensures that we have processes in place to assist teachers in targeting students who are at risk.

F. FSL for All Workshop

Lisa Demers

The Ministry is hosting a "French as a Second Language for All" workshop session on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Ingersoll. This session will provide an opportunity to consult with other Boards. Lisa Demers and Lisa Thompson-Power will be attending.

G. Special Needs Strategy Meeting

Lisa Demers

Deb Crawford and Lisa Demers recently attended a meeting in London on the Special Needs Strategy. Four ministries (Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care, Education, and Community and Social Services) are working with parents, youth, service providers and communities to improve outcomes for children with special needs. The goal is to connect children and youth to the services they need as early as possible and improve the service experience of families in three key areas: identifying children earlier and getting them the right help sooner; coordinating service planning; and making supports and service delivery seamless from birth through the school years.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

Carol Bryden

- A. The opening enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year has increased slightly but has basically stabilized.
- B. The opening and blessing of the new St. Patrick's Secondary School in Sarnia was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Ronald Fabbro of the Diocese of London celebrated mass with staff, students, elementary partner schools, federal, provincial and civic dignitaries, and educational and program partners. Later that same day, a community open house was held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The new building provides wonderful opportunities for student learning.
- C. Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson, "***Oh Come On! Come Out and Play!***", will be presenting on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at the UCC Cafeteria and Theatre - 5:30 – 8:00 pm and on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Cafeteria and Theatre – 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Dr. Nelson-Johnson is an inspirational speaker and storyteller.

**8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Question: In reference to Ontario's Special Needs Strategy, will a "Super Ministry" be created?  
Answer: The stakeholders are just embarking on initial conversations.

Question: Are teachers generally bringing in BYOD?  
Answer: There are many teachers bringing in their own devices.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE:    November 24, 2014 at 7:00pm.**

**10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**