

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2015 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	Michelle Parks John Van Heck
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert
Board Advisors	Deb Crawford Brendan Deery Janet Boyle Jennifer Morrow Lisa Thompson-Power

Regrets: Derek McGivern

Absent: Juli Faubert

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Michelle Parks welcomed John Van Heck, Trustee who will now be sitting on SEAC.

B. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY Christine Caniff and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

C. Review of Minutes from January 19, 2015

MOTION BY Derek Jane and seconded by Kim D’Hooghe to accept the minutes from the January 19, 2015 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. The Imagine Program

Karen Vanos

- Karen Vanos shared that there is no universally accepted definition of giftedness. We use the Ministry definition “*An unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated*”. A chief characteristic is potential not achievement. Approximately 2% of the population is considered gifted. We need to provide programming to meet the needs of this student population.
- SCCDSB offers testing/identification, classroom support and the Imagine program. The Imagine Program is provided at St. Anne Catholic School, Sarnia for Sarnia-Lambton students and Monsignor Uyen Catholic School, Chatham for Chatham-Kent students. Grade 5/6 students are grouped together and Grade 7/8 students are grouped together. Parents provide transportation and each group meets 10 times per year. To qualify for the program, students must achieve a score of 133 or higher on the Canadian Test of Cognitive Skills (CTCS) which is administered to Grade 4 students across the System each year.
- The program consists of various components including: problem solving - logical, critical, lateral thinking (group and partner work); technology; physical education; creative activities (thinking outside the box); STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities/challenges; special activities, e.g. Math Olympics; special guests; excursions, e.g. Lambton College(Smart House, 3D printing lab), University of Western Research Park, OPP Forensics Unit, Chatham.
- Additional information on the Imagine Enrichment program (links, resources, video clips) is available on the Boards website at www.st-clair.net.

B. Pathways

Warren Seton

- Presentation deferred to March 30, 2015 SEAC meeting

C. Review of SEAC Guidelines

Brendan Deery

- Brendan shared that once every 4 years, an in-service training session is required for all SEAC members. Each school board is responsible for establishing Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) and the regulation made under the Education Act sets out the requirements for that committee. A SEAC is a committee of a school board or a school authority that provides advice on special education. A SEAC may make recommendations to the board on any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and

services for exceptional students in a board. The requirements of SEACs are set out in [Regulation 464/97](#).

- SEAC Membership, Roles and Responsibilities, Orientation and Training, as well as Rules and Procedures for SEAC meetings were reviewed. Additional information is available on: www.paac-seac.ca
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/index.html>

3. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg Derek McGivern
- Not present
- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent Derek Jane
- No report
- C. Epilepsy Support Centre Christine Canniff
- March is Epilepsy Awareness Month with March 26th designated as “Purple Day”, where people are invited to wear purple to promote greater awareness of epilepsy. The Purple Pansy Flower Boutique, Chatham is selling purple tulips on March 26th with proceeds from this fundraiser being donated to the Epilepsy Support Centre for education and services in Chatham-Kent. Some schools are also participating in awareness activities.
- 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. There was no unfinished business or business arising from the minutes.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. There was no new business.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Special Education Report Brendan Deery
- Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities was reviewed. The Ministry of Education has defined roles and responsibilities in elementary and secondary education in several key areas: legislative and policy framework; funding; school system management; programs and curriculum. It is important that all involved in special education understand their roles and responsibilities.

B. Pre-School Transitions

Janet Boyle

- Preschool Transition meetings for students with moderate to high needs entering school in September 2015 are being held on Tuesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 4th at the Pathways Health Centre for Children, Sarnia for students entering Sarnia-Lambton schools. There are 18 meetings scheduled. There are 13 meetings scheduled for March 10th and 11th at the Children's Treatment Centre, Chatham for children who will be attending schools in Chatham-Kent.
- At these meetings, the Special Education Consultants meet with families, the school Principal and Program Resource Teacher and the community partners involved with the children to share information in order to begin the planning process for their entry to school. At these meetings a date for a follow-up school-based team meeting is set for May or June to continue the planning process.
- The data from the previous 6 years was shared. Currently, the data is showing that 34 students with moderate to high needs compared to 30 from last year will be entering school in September 2015.

C. Grade 8-9 Transitions

Lisa Thompson-Power

- A grade 8-9 transition package must be completed for all Grade 8 students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), both identified students and non-identified students.
- The transition package is comprehensive and includes information from the Classroom Teacher, the Program Resource Teacher, the student, the parent, the Child and Youth Worker (if applicable), the Social Worker (if applicable) as well as information on specific transition needs.
- If the student is moving to a new school board, the transition information is placed in the student's OSR for the receiving secondary school.
- The completed transition packages are shared with the receiving secondary schools in our board which then schedule a transition meeting for each student individually. The student, his/her parent, elementary school team members, the secondary department head for special education, a vice principal and usually a guidance counsellor attend the transition meeting at the secondary school.
- This year there are 176 students with an IEP who will transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 for whom transition packages will be prepared and transition meetings will occur.

D. Enhanced Transitions

Jennifer Morrow

- This year we have held (or will hold) meetings for 6 students in Sarnia-Lambton and 4 students in Chatham-Kent who require additional preparation for the transition to secondary school. While the majority of these students demonstrate extensive learning needs, there are some that also have significant mental health issues.
- These meetings are held with school staff, parents, Consultants and the Special Education department head from the secondary schools. Information is shared to provide the secondary school staff with information that will help ensure a smooth transition for the student. This may include decisions on classroom placement (e.g. Life Skills room or combination of courses), early transition visits, need for additional supports e.g. Mental Health Nurse, Child and Youth Worker, Social Worker, provisions for additional monitoring/ check-ins.
- With regard to EA support, the goal with all students is to build independence. Support for secondary school students is provided both through educational assistants and program resource teachers.

E. Mental Health Initiatives

Christine Preece

- A Youth Symposium for secondary school students is being held on May 21st at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Wallaceburg. The focus of the "think tank" will be diversity, respect and acceptance. Principals will be choosing the students who will be attending this

symposium. They are considering students who are not necessarily leaders and perhaps are not as engaged with school.

- Students in Grades 7 - 12 have been invited to participate in a “branding activity” where students are invited to design a slogan/logo with respect to student well-being. A panel of judges will be involved in selecting the winning brand.
- Christine Preece will be working to develop a website to inform students, staff and Parents on initiatives related to mental health and well-being.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association has designated May 3 -10, 2015 as Mental Health Week. It is an annual national event that takes place during the first week in May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect and engage with others on all issues relating to mental health. There are resource kits available for both the elementary and secondary schools.
- A group is meeting to develop Suicide Prevention Protocols. The focus of the protocols will be prevention, intervention and post-suicide. The anticipated completion date is the end of May, 2015.
- Christine Preece is developing information/resources that will be sent to the Principals every two months. The information provided could be included in school newsletters.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMA) and the Lambton-Kent District School Board have partnered to host a “train the trainer” session (March 24th and 25th) with Dr. Stan Kutcher, a guru in child and adolescent mental health. The focus of the training will be mental health literacy; how to include mental health in the curriculum. Christine will be attending the session to observe and assess whether SCCDSB should host training next year. The intent of our attendance is to make sure that the resources align with our curriculum.

F. Accessibility Student Forum

Janet Boyle

- Each year the Board seeks feedback from students as part of the Board's Annual Accessibility Plan. This year's Student Forum will be held on Thursday, March 12th in the gymnasium of Holy Family School, Wallaceburg. 4 students from each of our schools (26 elementary and 2 secondary) have been invited and will be accompanied by the Principal.
- The guest speaker is DJ Cunningham, a very motivating, inspirational speaker and CEO of a very successful company, LEARNstyle. Diagnosed with a severe LD and ADHD in Grade 4, DJ shares his personal story and discusses the impact of people, self-awareness and technology on his eventual success.
- Following DJ's presentation, the students work within their school group to identify barriers to accessibility within their school setting. The Accessibility Working Committee takes this feedback into consideration when developing the Annual Plan.

G. Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs during the Special Needs Strategy Proposal Development Period

Deb Crawford

- A copy of the Memorandum from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care RE: Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs during the Special Needs Strategy Proposal Development Period was distributed. The Memo outlines the expectations of the four ministries for services for children and youth with special needs during the Special Needs Strategy proposal development period.
- Deb Crawford, Janet Boyle and Jennifer Morrow have been attending the meetings of the two working tables (Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (OT, PT and Speech) and Coordinated Service Planning in both Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent.
- The deadlines for the two proposals have been extended. Proposals for Coordinated Service Planning are now due June 15, 2015. Proposals for the Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services are due October 30, 2015.
- It is the expectation that as District School Boards and agencies/organizations work together in local communities to develop proposals for the Special Needs Strategy, the existing service

capacity and service levels for children and youth with special needs and their families will be maintained.

H. SEAC Provincial Conference

Deb Crawford

- In recognition of the 35th anniversary since Bill 82, school boards are invited to gather at the SEAC Provincial Conference on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the University of Toronto. The conference will provide an opportunity for open dialogue; presentations; to share effective practices/strategies and resources. Five representatives from each Board are invited to attend. The suggested participants are the SEAC Chair, Supervisory Officer for Special Education, a Trustee, a new SEAC member and an existing SEAC member. March 6th is the deadline for SEAC members who are interested in making a presentation at the conference. SEAC members are invited to email Deb Crawford if they are interested in attending the conference. Hotel rooms have been reserved.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

1. CLASS recently held a transportation in-service for the Trustees. CLASS manages the bussing services for both the SCCDSB and the LKDSB. 331 buses operate for both Boards, travelling over 42 000 km./day.
2. The former St. Patrick's High School has gone to tender. It has been offered for sale to our co-terminus Board, LKDSB as well as the municipality. If either is not interested, it will be put on the open market.
3. New baptismal packages are available. These are a welcome gift to Catholic education. The packages include a book as well as information from the church.
4. The Director's Annual Report is now available on the Board's website.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Will the Framework for 21st Century Learning be moving to the secondary level?

- The "I.T.'s About Learning" online professional learning modules build knowledge and understanding of 21st Century teaching and learning across the system at both the elementary and secondary levels.
- The Documentation Network project has expanded in September 2014 to include many staff members across all 28 schools.
- Critical thinking is the focus at all grade levels.
- Chomebooks are being provided to both the elementary and secondary schools through CODE funding. BYOD is also an option.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: **March 30, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Pathways presentation by Warren Seton

11. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION BY Cathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Carla Alway to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
