

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 30, 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 Liz Gibson
Board Advisors	Deb Crawford Brendan Deery Janet Boyle Jennifer Morrow Lisa Thompson-Power

Regrets: Derek McGivren, John Van Heck

Absent: Liz Gibson

*Michelle Parks*  
*SEAC Chairperson*

*Deb Crawford*  
*Board Advisor*

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- B. Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION BY** Derek Jane and seconded by Carla Alway to adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED**

- C. Review of Minutes from February 23, 2015

**MOTION BY** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Carla Alway to accept the minutes from the February 23, 2015 SEAC meeting.

**CARRIED**

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A Pathways

Warren Seton

- Sharing the web based product – My Blueprint. “Creating Pathways to Schools” is the Ministry document supporting the product which applies to students in grades 7-12.
- Students do the activities that correspond to their current grade. The activities and the assessments change with each grade. Some things (ie. Their resume and cover letter) stay the same and grow with the student.
- ‘Explorations’ is an area that is started in gr. 7. In gr. 7, the student will determine what type of learner he/she is. In grade 8, the student will determine what subjects he/she is good at. By the time a student is in gr. 10, the student can see which occupations draw their interest based on their determined strengths. Students can choose occupations and see “live”, up to date information about that occupations as well as postsecondary institutions where the programs are offered, including all admission details. It also links to the Essential Skills required for that occupation which can assist students with their course choices.
- The website is [www.myblueprint.ca/stclair](http://www.myblueprint.ca/stclair). Students log in with their g-mail account
- Other areas are Goal Setting, Resume & Cover Letter development, High School Planner (linked to Trillium and includes all courses and marks achieved by students to date), Post-Secondary Planner and Occupational Planner.
- As a culminating task, a portfolio can be created and is accessible year after year. The portfolio can have Reflections, Certifications, Post-Secondary plan, Learning Styles and Goals.
- My Blueprint works with all text to voice programs. The company is willing to build Community Living Pathway to its program. Work Changes Lives is planning to work with My Blueprint to share information regarding the creation of a Community Living Pathway for our district.

- B Read and Write Program

Joan Martel

- The board has purchased the rights for the Read & Write software to work with the Google format. It can be used at school and at home (as long as you are logged in as a google account). It is available to all students and staff.
- For more information on Read & Write use [www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com) to view many short video tutorials on the program.
- SEAC committee members were given a user name and a password so that each can log in to practice and explore on Read & Write using chrome books.

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
  - Christine is looking for a voting member to replace her on SEAC. Until a voting member is found she will continue on the committee as a non-voting member.
- 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
  - The grand opening for the new fully accessible, state of the art, learning kitchen is on April 10, 2015.

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

- A. N/A

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. N/A

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Update Phonological Awareness Screening Janet Boyle
- This is a screening that Identifies and tracks early literacy skills.
  - In April the PRTs will screen the SK students in our schools. The SLPs will assist with the April screening.
  - The results of each subset from the screening is colour coded – red, yellow, green - to highlight the student’s progress and potential need for assistance due to being at high risk for difficulties.
- B. Update Accessibility forum Janet Boyle
- The Accessibility forum was held at Holy Family Catholic School on March 12, 2015.
  - Four students from each school were invited with the principal/staff member from their school.
  - DJ Cunningham was the keynote speaker. He was very well received and the feedback has been very positive. He shared his journey through life with a diagnosed learning disability.
  - Each school team worked in groups to answer questions about accessibility and inclusion. The committee will use this information to help with the development of the board’s accessibility plan.
  - The forum was a huge success.
- C. Current PRT Responsibilities Lisa Thompson-Power
- The last PRT meeting was held on February 25, 2015. The agenda incorporated: Transition Planning, Zones of Regulation training, Math PD, Match Select Name training as well as Read & Write training. All of the PD/training was provided by CEC central office staff. All of

the topics are either currently practiced or are potential resources/practices the PRTs can utilize in their schools.

D. Introduction to the EduGAINS Special Education Site

Jennifer Morrow

- The website can be accessed at [www.edugains.ca](http://www.edugains.ca)
- The Ministry has incorporated special education into the EduGAINS website recently.
- The 'Ministry Developed Resources' is the tab where the special education information is shared

E. Special Education Report

Brendan Deery

- Section 10, on Individual Education Plans, of the Special Education Report was reviewed. A hard copy of the section was provided to the committee.
- Necessary changes have been made so that we are in compliance with the Ministry requirements. The changes were with regard to Transition Plans.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- A. Congratulations to Jennifer Morrow and Daniella Mancusi on their successful appointment to the Vice Principal pool.
- B. Ann Sutton has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2015
- C. Brenda Courey has announced her retirement effective July 31, 2015

**8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- A. Is there only one psych-ed assessment per student per school career? It is possible for a student to be re-tested; however, this is determined on a case by case basis.
- B. Can an updated psych-ed be done in preparation for post-secondary? When the assessment is for the purpose of admission to a post-secondary program, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/student.
- C. Is it difficult to be exempt from phys-ed? It is not a common practice. There should be a significant reason specific to the student. The decision is made with the school team, student and parent.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 20, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

**10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

A.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Carla Alway to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm