

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 21, 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
Epilepsy Support Centre	Tabitha Vercillo
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D’Hooghe
Lambton County Developmental Services	Carla Alway
Learning Disabilities Association	Clare Latimer
Trustee	Michelle Parks John Van Heck
Principals Representatives	Cynthia Blair Anita Cairns Juli Faubert Ed Freeburn
Board Advisors	Deb Crawford Brendan Deery Janet Boyle Jennifer Morrow Christine Preece Lisa Thompson-Power

Regrets: Jennifer Morrow, Lisa Thompson-Power, Michelle Parks

Absent: Anita Cairns

*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 Clare Latimer to adopt the agenda.  
**CARRIED**

C. Review of Minutes from June 15, 2015

**MOTION BY** Kim D’Hooghe and seconded by Derek Jane to accept the minutes from the June 15, 2015 SEAC meeting.  
**CARRIED**

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

A Engaging Environments

Daniella Mancusi

- The Special Education Department and Curriculum collaborated on the development of this presentation for the newly hired teachers. The focus was on how learning happens and how educators create and maintain an engaging environment for all children. When we recognize our children as capable and curious, we will teach to this, and learning will happen. The four foundations of learning are belonging, engagement, expression and well-being. The belief is that all children are capable and curious and therefore all children will learn.

B Pathway to Care Model

Christine Preece

- Christine reviewed the Pathway to Care document, which is an ever changing document that was created and developed by Christine, in consultation with various groups in the board. This is the pilot year for the pathways. Christine explained how the pathways work within the schools and how the referrals will work. A major change is that there will be a strength based screen as part of the assessment/screening process, which will be completed by the Child and Youth Workers and Social Workers. The Mental Health Nurse will also be part of the pathway. This will be a new pathway for elementary, although secondary has been accessing the Mental Health Nurses in the past. The hope is that this new pathway will enable children to receive appropriate support earlier.

3. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Community Living Wallaceburg

Derek McGivern

- No report

B. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

- No report

C. Epilepsy Support Centre

Tabitha Vercillo

- There is a grade 5 “Thinking About Epilepsy” program. Many classes have signed up.

D. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

- Not present

E. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

- No report

F. Lambton County Developmental Services

Carla Alway

- No report

G. Learning Disabilities Association

Clare Latimer

- AGM being held September 30th

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

- A. No unfinished business was addressed.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. No new business was addressed.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Changes to the PRT In-Service Model

Janet Boyle

- In previous years PRTs met at the CEC four times a year. This year PRTs will come together twice, as a whole group, and will meet in smaller clusters four times throughout the year. There will be a clearly defined agenda for these smaller groups, but the main focus will be on a follow up to what was discussed at the larger meeting. Focus this year will be on IEP'S and Collaborative and Proactive Solutions.

B. Phonological Awareness

Janet Boyle

- Our Speech and Language Pathologists are currently doing phonemic awareness screens to all Senior Kindergartens. Once these screens are completed, the PRTs, SLPs, ECEs and classroom teachers will be released for a half day to review the data from each classroom. Next steps will be developed in regards to programming in our FDK classrooms based on the data collected.

C. Developing Stronger Social Skills in Students with Autism

Sara Vadovic

- This is a new program the Autism Support Team is offering this year. The program is geared towards grade 8 students moving to grade 9 that are identified with Autism. The program will start next week, and run for 6 weeks. Lynne Tourangeau will be providing the programing.

D. Board Change to the Behaviour Management System

Brendan Deery

- The Board has change the system that will be used to train staff in behaviour management from the CPI – Crisis intervention System to the Behaviour Management System (BMS). The BMS system has been developed specifically for the educational sector. The training focuses on a structured approach, involving verbal, non-verbal and physical interventions, when working with students who present inappropriate behaviours in school. To date all EAs in the Sarnia/Lambton area have been trained. In November the EA's in the Chatham Kent Region will be trained. The BMS system will allow the board to train staff in an effective cost efficient manner. It also provides the board with the ability to work with our coterminous board by sharing costs in regards to training the trainers.

E. Mental Health Leader Report

Christine Preece

- An update was provided regarding the initiatives in which the board will be participating. On October 5, 2015 there is a "Be Safe" launch, which is an app and a website that allows children/youth to track their moods and then links the student to resources. THRIVE is a resiliency program happening at 2 schools in the Sarnia/Lambton area. There is a pilot program running at St. Joseph's in Chatham called "Friends for Life". This is an evidence based, anxiety prevention and resiliency program for children and youth

F. Special Education Report

Brendan Deery

- The report has been updated to include the names of the new committee members and the addition of the Learning Disabilities Association.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- A. The Board has met a couple of times this year. The trustees met to approve the collective agreement for OECTA.

**8. SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY**

Deb Crawford

- Janet and Deb have been attending these meetings. The goal of the initiative is that families only need to tell their story one time and then access coordinated services. All community partners are working on using their resources in the most effective way (both school boards and all community agencies). This is a work in progress but the proposal should be completed by June. It will take 3-5 years to implement.

**9. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

A.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE:    October 19, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

A.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Clare Latimer and seconded by Kim D'Hooghe to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.

**CARRIED**