

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living, Wallaceburg

Derek McGiven

Community Living, Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

Epilepsy Support Centre

Sharon Berry Ross

Lambton County Developmental Services Group

Adrian Vermeiren

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

Trustees

John Van Heck
Linda Ward

Principals Representatives

Maureen Cecile
Juli Faubert

Board Advisors

Deb Crawford
Lisa Demers
Janet Boyle
Lisa Thompson-Power
Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Derek McGivern

Absent:

A. CALL TO ORDER

John VanHeck
SEAC Chairperson

Deb Crawford
Board Advisor

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Addition to the Agenda - None
4. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Derek Jane and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

5. Review of Minutes from January 9, 2012.

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Derek Jane to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2012 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. 21st Century Learning D. Crawford & P. Leblanc-Jaeger

On January 23, 2012 the 21st Century Learning forum was held. Many stakeholders attended the forum – 48 people attended and participated in the day. There was representation from elementary and secondary students, parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, chaplaincy leader, curriculum and special education. A third party facilitator coordinated the group work and guided the conversations. The participants were asked to complete four tasks in small groups. The objective was to gain feedback and input from the people who are most affected by the technology the board has to offer. See the hand out for detailed descriptions and generated responses of the four tasks.

A video was shared of students who were interviewed and asked the following three questions:

1. How do you use assistive technology?
2. What works best for you?
3. What would you like done differently with regard to technology to help you be more successful?

The video is very powerful and speaks from the student point of view. The goal from the forum is to develop a strategic plan of action.

2. Word Q J. Lemak

Word Q is a Ministry licensed program. It is a software tool that helps students with particular aspects of writing. It also allows students to independently write their own ideas, check spelling and grammar and punctuation so that they can become more independent and build confidence. It benefits a wide range of users. Students in grade 1 can be taught to use Word Q. The program has word prediction and voice output. The students can hear their writing to ensure accuracy after completing a piece. Word Q is home licensed.

Clicker 5 is another Ministry licensed program that can be used by students at any grade level. It is not licensed for home use. It can be teacher directed or the students can use it independently. It is a very interactive program that students enjoy. It has realistic speech so that you can hear it before you write. It reads any text aloud and highlights words. It shows pictures above the words as a visual cue. It is wonderful for creating social stories. You can put in your own text and change the pictures to meet your needs.

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Derek Jane – Nothing to report.
2. Sharon Berry Ross – March is purple month as well as Epilepsy Awareness month. Keep an eye on the newspaper for reports and updates.
3. Adrian Vermeiren – Nothing to report.
4. Kathy Arcuri-Arnott – Nothing to report.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. None

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. None

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Special Education Report L. Demers

Sections 4 through 6 of the Special Education Report was reviewed.

Section 4 discusses: Early and Ongoing Identification process. This year we are reviewing this process. A committee has been assembled with several stakeholders. They'll review several existing documents and then recommendations will be made to improve the existing practices.

The web based teaching tool WBBT – we're not using this as much as in the past due to the phonological awareness screenings that are being done. The screenings are capturing the young students as learners and are identifying those at risk. It assists the teachers with planning for all students based on their needs.

It is done twice per year – in Oct. and in April. Currently, there is work being done to transfer the information into user friendly software.

Also in section 4 are Intervention Strategies – the information is captured in our board's Parent Guide to Special Education.

Section 5 discusses the IPRC process which is also outlined in the Parent Guide to Special Education.

Section 6 discusses Educational and other Assessments: in-school assessments, psycho-educational assessments, as well as speech and language assessments.

2. Learning For All L. Demers

A copy of the document was distributed to all SEAC members. The document will remain in DRAFT format at this time. It is a resource document for all students. It is not policy. Lisa reviewed the background behind the document as outlined on p. 3 of the document. The Shared Beliefs were highlighted on p. 6 of the document. This was the first document that highlighted the fact that "all students can succeed".

3. ABA Provincial Day

R. Zarebski

The Ministry of Education is offering a PD day on March 1, 2012 in Toronto. All 72 boards in Ontario are able to send three representatives. From our board, Jill DeMaeyer was consulted by the Ministry in putting the day together. There will be working sessions, from which next steps for provincial training will be discussed. Renée Zarebski, Jill DeMaeyer and Lisa Demers will be attending.

4. Connections for Students Survey

R. Zarebski

The London Region continues to meet as part of phase 2. The focus is Connections for students and monitoring its progress. A parent survey was developed and distributed to look at areas of strength and areas where improvements could be made. The feedback will be taken and shared at the ABA networking meeting.

5. Circles in Chatham

R. Zarebski

Chatham Kent was interested in looking at developing a Circles group in our area – similar to that in Sarnia. Gayle Montgomery did a presentation to community stakeholders in Chatham. Gayle shared the details behind starting up in CK. Next steps are to look at what is occurring in the community and assessing the needs in the community, who can be linked in, what are the gaps, and how can everyone come together to help families in the community.

6. First Steps in Math to PRT's

L. Thompson-Power

First Steps in Math is both a professional development and a resource designed to enhance math instruction. It helps teachers see math through the eyes of the learner. Sherrie Daudlin, the Math Consultant in our board, will provide ongoing PD to the program resource teachers beginning in February 2012 through next year.

The program is based on a research-based diagnostic framework:

- describing the developmental phases all students pass through as they learn math
- including validated diagnostic tasks that accurately identify student progress
- outlining learning activities that target developmental triggers proven to advance student learning.

First Steps in Math helps teachers answer three main questions:

- What is the path students travel as they learn math?
- How can teachers accurately diagnose student learning?
- How can teachers advance student learning?

7. Risk / Threat Assessment Training

L. Thompson-Power

Risk and threat assessment training has been provided to 300 community and school board personnel in both Chatham Kent and Sarnia Lambton. Participants from a variety of sectors attended: fire, police, and ambulance services; First Nations; CAS; CKCS; St. Clair Child and Youth Services; Bluewater Health; C-K Health Alliance; Probation & Parole; Ministry of Child and Youth; Dr. Wendy Edwards – Pediatrician; Diocese of London; Parks and Recreation and numerous additional community partners. SCCDSB has trained 2 Trustees, Director of Education, Supervisory Officers, System Principals, all School Principals, Manager of Human Resources, Safety and Disability Administrator, Communications Officer, and Secondary Vice Principals to date.

The training is focused on youth in our communities who exhibit behavior that is threatening to themselves or others. This training is important because of the need for a coordinated response in situations involving violence. We have had the opportunity to acquire training to support our efforts in this regard through Kevin Cameron who developed Canada's first comprehensive, multidisciplinary threat assessment training program. Kevin is world renowned for his work with

school systems and police services in the development of a collaborative Community Threat Assessment Protocol.

The funding to provide this training started with a police grant approval by C-K police. C-K police entered into a partnership with SCCDSB, LKDSB and CKCS last year to train community personnel in the field of violence threat/risk assessment and to develop a Community Threat Assessment protocol. The primary purpose of the multidisciplinary protocol is to identify indicators that suggest a student may be moving on a pathway toward violence against him/herself or others and intervene to decrease that risk, prevent injury and support the student in receiving the help necessary to address the issues contributing to high risk behaviour.

We continue to have eager interest in the protocol development with a steering committee established and two subcommittees in place to highlight the unique service models in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

L. Ward

Linda Ward reported at recent board meetings, all trustees have been assigned their various duties. As well, board members received two presentations on mental illness and on Friends for Life. The mental illness presentation focused on the need to talk about mental illness and not hide behind it. The Friends for Life presentation focused on this new program about anxiety prevention which will be targeted at the grade 4 student population district wide. Friends for Life teaches how to cope with anxiety, stress and worry as well as build resilience.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathy Arcuri- Arnott asked about the need to support students with disabilities in building, and keeping friendships. Kathy quoted an article indicating approximately 53 % of kids with disabilities have no friends and by age 9 and 10, they begin to really struggle. Kathy asked how we can help support these students without forcing students to play with them? Kathy was asking if we currently have anything in the board to this regard?

The following was shared and is currently practiced in various schools throughout the board:

- Peer Mentor/ Peer Pals program – there are a few schools where this is occurring
- We invite TVCC in to do TRACKS training with classrooms – this training teaches the value of diversity
- Peer Mediated Social Skills – we have train the trainer staff who are just starting this specific training in specific schools
- Parents could also speak to the school principal who could then contact the school consultant and the CYW

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, March 5, 2012

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Sharon Berry Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

CARRIED