

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 15, 2013 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	Sharon Berry Ross
Lambton County Developmental Services Group	Adrian Vermeiren
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D’Hooghe
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

New Member: Sam Manser

Guests: Kim Helmer and Robyn Shepherd

Regrets: Derek Jane, Maureen Cecile

Absent: Adrian Vermeiren

John VanHeck
SEAC Chairperson

Deb Crawford
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY Derek McGivern and seconded by **Sharon Berry Ross**
to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

4. Review of Minutes from March 18, 2013

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by **Kim D’Hooghe**
to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2013 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Role of Mental Health and Addictions Nurses Presentation Kim Helmer and Robin Shepherd

CCAC has started taking referrals for this area. This is a joint initiative with ministries to provide services for mental health and addictions. 144 Nurses have been hired for 72 publicly funded boards. For our area there will be two in Chatham and two in Sarnia. Areas of focus: system navigation, early ID, input to develop comprehensive strategies and working with interdisciplinary teams.

MAN (Mental Health and Addiction Nurses) – will work to support medication management (i.e. after hospital discharge) and bridge to services while on wait to keep families engaged. Will also follow up when students are released from hospitals/emergency etc. Students are able to self-refer to services (under the Health Care Consent Act). MAN continues to work with individual boards on referral procedures. MAN cannot disclose information with regard to health care issues without the consent of the individuals. Young individuals are encouraged to share information with families for support. Nurses have a caseload – can meet with students in home or at other locations. CCAC is meeting with school boards with regard to Memorandum of Understanding. MAN have been working with hospitals in regard to contact and involvement with students.

SCCDSB is in the process of drafting an MOU with CCAC with regard to services. Challenge for CCAC has been to find nurses with experience working with children/mental health and addictions. Priority for our board will be secondary students and transitions from hospital back to community..

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living Wallaceburg D. McGivern

May 1st will be the beginning of Community Living Month. Derek encouraged SEAC members to recognize the contribution of people with intellectual disabilities to their communities.

2. Epilepsy Support Centre S. Berry Ross

March 26th was Epilepsy Awareness Day. St. Pat's had activities to recognize awareness day. Sharon will be stepping away from Epilepsy Support Centre – Sam Manser will be taking on the role. Sharon expressed her appreciation for being on SEAC. John Van Heck recognized Sharon's contributions to SEAC.

3. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children K. Arcuri-Arnott

No report

4. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County K. D'Hooghe

No report

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Information from VOICE Ontario K. Arcuri-Arnott

RAMP – was reviewed with SEAC. It outlines options to support children with hearing difficulties. A number of accommodations are outlined in the document. Information has been added to board resources.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Education Report L. Demers

Review of Special Education Plan continued –
Mental Health and Addictions Nurse and Phonological Awareness Screening will be added to programs and services section of the Board Plan.
Placement options for the board were reviewed.

Section 10 – IEP – principal's responsibility for implementation. Board strongly encourages and promotes parent consultation. Principals are provided with a checklist to assist in reviewing IEP's in their building.

There is a new Transitions PPM (156) which will be an area of future focus.

Student's needs are addressed individually and programming implemented accordingly.

All students on an IPRC must have an IEP – IEP changes to reflect the current strengths/needs and assessments. Colleges recognize that students on an IEP may require supports in the post-secondary environment.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Dr. Maggie Mamen presentation Janet Boyle

Dr. Maggie Mamen will be presenting a full-day workshop at the PD Day on Monday, June 10th for our Educational Assistants, Student Support Services Team, Speech and Language Pathologists – the theatre at the Pines. We will also be extending an invitation to our community partners.

Dr. Maggie Mamen is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Ottawa who specializes in working with children, adolescents and their families. She is a renowned expert on nonverbal learning disabilities. Her presentation will focus on Nonverbal Learning Disabilities; however she will also be addressing mood disorders, ADHD and other learning differences

She will be emphasizing practical classroom strategies but will also be addressing issues around diagnosis, types of interventions/treatments available, impact on families, issues for the classroom.

Maggie is the author of several resource books on Nonverbal Learning Disabilities as well as three parenting books including *The Pampered Child Syndrome*; *Laughter, Love and Limits*; and *Who's in Charge?* – (strategies for raising resilient children)

2. Mental Health Week Lisa Thompson-Power

Each year the first week in May is recognized as Mental Health Week across the province of Ontario. On May 6 – 12, 2013 we will celebrate the 62nd annual Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) mental health week

The week is about:

- increasing awareness of the signs of mental health problems
- decreasing the stigma surrounding mental health problems
- understanding that help is available and it works

The student support services team will be available to assist schools in recognizing mental health week.

Schools can choose to share daily morning announcements specific to mental health facts, provide information in the school newsletter, provide fact sheets to parents, collaborate with local mental health agencies in activities specific to mental health week etc.

Ursuline College Chatham has organized a Mental Health awareness week for students and staff. The “Me to We” group in conjunction with students in the leadership class has organized daily activities as well as a guest speaker for both staff and students.

Student Support Services Team will be helping schools to highlight resources.

Sarnia – generally has a community launch for Mental Health Week.

3. Connections for Students Surveys - Parents Renee Zarebski

A Survey for Parents was developed to provide feedback on Connections Process. Initially, the survey was used in the four boards that developed it. It has not been shared and extended with all boards in the SW Region (16). The survey asks specific questions of parents related to Knowledge of the Connections Model, Collaboration, Transition Planning, IEP input, and General Satisfaction. All areas responded to indicated that over 80% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the indicator showing satisfaction with the process. Anecdotal information/comments were provided in all areas as well.

4. Connections for Students Surveys - Principals Renee Zarebski

A Survey for Principals was developed to provide feedback on Connections Process from an administrator's view. Initially, the survey was used in the four boards that developed it. It has not been shared and extended with all boards in the SW Region (16). The survey ask specific questions of principals related to Knowledge of the Connections Model, Collaboration, Transition Planning, IEP input, and General Satisfaction. All areas responded to indicated that over 80% of principals agreed or strongly agreed with indicators showing satisfaction for the process for students in their school. Anecdotal information/comments were provided in all areas as well.

5. Community Threat Assessment Protocol Deb Crawford

The protocol has been signed by all partners. Additional training will be provided. At this time there are 34 partners. Kevin Cameron sent a letter of congratulations to the boards and community partners – the level of collaboration was exemplary.

A notice to parents will be sent out to give notice that the protocol is in place. It will be part of the registration process.

Deb recognized the start of Volunteer Appreciation week and expressed thanks to SEAC for all the work they do for the board. Certificates were provided to the members.

6. Correspondence
Letter from Sharon Berry-Ross announcing her resignation from SEAC.

Deb Crawford

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Preliminary budget discussions are taking place. Contractors have been approved for construction at the new St. Patrick site. Additional funding has been approved for St. Elizabeth for FDEL. New excursion policy for students mandates that planned field trips must be accessible for all students.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 13, 2013

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Please submit any items to John or Deb.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Derek McGivern
to adjourn the meeting at 8:13p.m.

CARRIED