

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2014 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 Caniff
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D'Hooghe
Trustees	Carol Bryden Michelle Parks
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert Liz Gibson
Board Advisors	Deb Crawford Lisa Demers Janet Boyle Jennifer Morrow Lisa Thompson-Power

Regrets: Lisa Demers, Juli Faubert

Absent:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Welcome by Michelle Parks
- B. Prayer
- C. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by **Derek McGivern** to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

- D. Review of Minutes from November 25, 2013

MOTION BY Derek Jane and seconded by **Kathy Arcuri-Arnott** to accept the minutes from the November 25, 2013 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Kinderstart

Brenda Corchis

Kinderstart is a new school readiness program that is being piloted in seven of our schools during Kindergarten registration in February 2014. It is a partnership among the SCCDSB and several community agencies, BestStart and the Public Health Units of Lambton and Chatham-Kent. The pilot schools will offer a school readiness fair from noon until 7:00 p.m. on a specified day, which will allow participating families to meet the Principal, learn more about FDK, meet the school/parish team and learn about the BestStart "Ages and Stages" developmental information tool. Parents are also encouraged to bring younger siblings over 18 months of age to participate in the school readiness fair. Participating schools this year are St. Agnes; St. Joseph, Chatham; Holy Family; St. Ursula; St. Matthew; St. Peter Canisius; and Sacred Heart, Sarnia. The pilot schools were selected based on representation of schools within different geographic areas; those school communities which would benefit from the "Ages and Stages" information tool; and consideration of the needs of the school community. Following this year's pilot, the program will be reviewed with an eventual goal of expansion to more schools each year.

3. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg

Derek McGivern

'A Night with Oscar' is being held on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at Gatsby's Grill House (750 James Street, Wallaceburg). Desserts and drinks will be offered while watching the Academy Awards. Tickets are available for this fund-raising event at Community Living, Wallaceburg and other community venues.

- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Derek Jane

- C. Lambton County Developmental Services

Carla Always

February 25th is the sixth Annual Information Night for Families. It is being held at the LCDS Administration Building, 339 Centre Street in Petrolia. There will be a special presentation on RSDP (Registered Disability Savings Plan).

- D. Epilepsy Support Centre

Christine Canniff

March is Epilepsy Awareness Month.

E. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

Kathy Arcuri-Arnott

F. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County

Kim D’Hooghe

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Education Report

Lisa Demers

Defer to next SEAC meeting

B. Health Support Policy

Deb Crawford

The Health Support Policy was established to ensure that students with health support needs are provided with necessary supports without loss of education. PPM 81 outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in the provision of supports. Students typically reflected in the policy are those with anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, mental health, physical health needs. Students with severe/life-threatening medical needs may have a “medical intervention plan” that parents and school staff work collaboratively to develop.

C. Educational Assistant Staffing Process

Deb Crawford

There are currently 135 EA’s deployed to meet the needs in 26 elementary and 2 secondary schools. Educational Assistants are never assigned to a student, but rather they are assigned to schools for the Principal to deploy to meet the needs within their school. As needs change or new needs emerge, this provides the Principal with the ability to redeploy EA support as necessary.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SEA Update

Janet Boyle

The Ministry has set Guidelines as to the required documentation in order to process a SEA claim. Equipment must be deemed essential for the student to access the curriculum by a professional (e.g., OT, SLP, PT). The following claims have been processed to date for the 2013-2014 school year: Assistive Technology: 65 laptops; 4 desktops; 3 Dell Ultrabooks (combination tablet and laptop); and 4 iPads. Assistive devices are purchased based on individual student’s needs, the programs they require, etc. Soundfield Systems: 31 systems have been purchased for students with Central Auditory Processing skill deficit; 7 personal FM systems have been ordered for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. There have been 15 Claims-Based referrals for sensory items; walkers, specialized desks and chairs, lifts, etc.

B. January 31, 2014 EA Professional Development Day

Janet Boyle

The January 31st PD Day program for Educational Assistants was offered at two sites, Monsignor Uyen, Chatham and Holy Trinity, Sarnia. The theme of the day was Mental Health and Wellness. Beth Kuhn, the Board’s Mental Health Lead presented a half-day session at each site with discussion of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy as well as the impact of mental health on student achievement generally, with a specific emphasis on anxiety and strategies to support students in the classroom. Wellness was the topic of the other half of the day. The School Boards’ Cooperatives provided Smart Start training which is training in Safe Work practices specifically for Educational Assistants. Smart Start training is designed to increase awareness of health and safety in the workplace. As well, representatives from the Family Counselling Centre in both Chatham and Sarnia presented on the Employee and Family

Assistance Program (EFAP) which is a confidential information, counselling and referral service for eligible staff and their family members.

- C. Mental Health First Aid Lisa Thompson Power

Forty-eight staff from SCCDSB (Consultants, Program Resource Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, Behaviour Support Team, Autism Team) took part in a 2-day training course for adults who work with youth. The trainer was Tim Charette from CMHA in Sarnia. The participants will receive a certificate of completion. This program does not teach people how to be therapists but it does teach people how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, provide initial help and guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

- D. PRT Meeting in February Lisa Thompson-Power

The next PRT meeting is on February 24, 2014. The agenda includes Lauri Doig – Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing who will provide information on interpreting audiograms; Karen Vanos – Teacher of Imagine/Gifted Program will provide an update on the program for this school year; Jill DeMaeyer – ABA Specialist will provide training on Functions of Behaviour which is the gathering and analyzing of information about students behavior and accompanying circumstances in order to determine the purpose or intent of the actions; Paul Cogghe – Numeracy Teacher will provide math learning specific to students with learning disabilities; Jen Morrow – Consultant - and Heather Carron-Doyle – Itinerant CYW will share information on anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. The purpose of all PRT meetings is for the PRTs to bring the information from the meetings back to their schools where the learning can be shared with their school teams.

- E. Professional Learning for PRTs in the Area of Mathematics Acquisition for Learning Disabled Students Lisa Thompson-Power

There is an upcoming adobe connect session through EduGains for which a proposal was submitted for our Board's participation. If accepted the goal is to have a team comprised of both Curriculum members and Special Education (PRTs) members participate in the sessions on "supporting students with learning disabilities in the area of mathematics". There are four learning sessions to attend. The follow up plan is to share the knowledge among both departments, working together in planning to implement the strategies with students and classroom teachers.

- F. Internal IEP Audit – Learning Disabilities Lisa Thompson-Power

The Ministry requires that all boards host an annual internal IEP audit. This year we will be auditing IEPs for students with a Communication Learning Disability. A random sample of IEPs from random schools will be chosen for the audit. The Special Education Team will work together in order to complete the audit. Results will be shared with the PRTs. Recommendations for areas of growth and improvement will also be shared with school teams.

- G. ABA Expertise Professional Learning Day Jennifer Morrow

On April 30, 2014, Jill DeMaeyer, our Board ABA Specialist will be attending the ABA Professional Learning Day in Toronto. The purpose is to receive and share information, participate in work sessions and engage in professional dialogue about future training opportunities for schools and school boards. As well, the training requirements that each school board will be expected to make available to educators who work with students with ASD will be shared. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the Ministry will begin monitoring how the training requirements are implemented through the annual PPM 140 survey.

- H. Transitions Classroom Pilot in Sarnia/Lambton Lisa Thompson-Power

A transitions pilot classroom has been started for Semester 2 at the Rebound site in Sarnia. This collaborative pilot is the joint effort of the SCCDSB, LKDSB, CAS, John Howard Society,

Probation and Parole, First Nations and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The purpose of this classroom is to re-engage our most disengaged youth who have very few credits, criminal charges, addiction and mental health issues. It is called a “transitions” classroom because the goal is to reintegrate students back into their home schools once they are on the road to success. While in the classroom, students are working on earning credits, receiving art therapy, receiving addictions and mental health counselling and setting goals for their futures with the assistance of a network of support personnel.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

None

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A. Will sound field systems be built into the infrastructure of the new consolidated St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia?
Director Dan Parr will look into this and will report back to Michelle Parks.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: **March 17, 2014 at 7:00pm.**

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Kathy Arcuri-Arnott will inquire about two students to speak on the “Work Changes Lives” Grant.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Derek McGivern to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

CARRIED