

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 17, 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 Canniff
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D'Hooghe
Lambton County Developmental Services	Carla Alway
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: Michelle Parks, Anita Cairns

Absent:

Michelle Parks
SEAC Chairperson

Deb Crawford
Board Advisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome by Trustee, Carol Bryden
- B. Prayer
- C. Adoption of Agenda

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

CARRIED

- D. Review of Minutes from February 10, 2014

MOTION BY Derek Jane and seconded by Kathy Arcuri-Arnott to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2014 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. "Work Changes Lives" Community Impact Grant Nicole English, Ashley Gialelem & Tracy Major
 - Presenters unable to attend.
 - Work Changes Lives was funded as a Community Impact Grant from United Way. The focus of the group is on supporting individuals with learning differences and challenges through secondary and post-secondary transitions. A co-ordinator was hired (Nicole English) to assist in the development of resources , promotion of disability awareness and advertising the benefits for employers to employ individuals with disabilities, as well as the co-ordination of speaking engagements. Four individuals with varying disabilities were chosen to represent the group and have been involved in various speaking engagements across the community to share their successful post-secondary/ employment experiences.
 - We will try to reschedule for a future SEAC meeting.

3. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. Community Living Wallaceburg Derek McGivern
 - No report
- B. Community Living Chatham-Kent Derek Jane
 - March 18, 2014 is the Subway box lunch day.
- C. Lambton County Developmental Services Carla Alway
 - No Report
- D. Epilepsy Support Centre Christine Canniff
 - March is Epilepsy Awareness month.
 - Webinar Introduction to Epilepsy Thursday, March 20, 2014 7 – 8 p.m.
 - Purple Pansy is selling purple tulips March 26, 2014.
 - Wallaceburg BBQ and Turkey Bingo Sunday, March 23, 2014.
 - Handouts for each event were provided to each SEAC member.
- E. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
 - No Report
- F. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County Kim K'Hooghe
 - No Report
- G. Lambton County Developmental Services Carla Alway
 - No Report

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A. Nothing to report

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Education Report

Lisa Demers

- We must provide Special Education Report annually to the Ministry. It is posted on the Board website. It outlines the programs and services provided by the Board.
- Lisa Demers highlighted areas of the report as it is currently on the website (Checklist, Table of Contents, and Additional Information).
- Lisa connected the Information Items from this evenings meeting (below) and highlighted where they apply in the Special Education Report.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Preschool Transitions

Janet Boyle

- Janet explained the Preschool Transition process practiced in our Board.
- "Planning Entry to School" is the resource document used to formulate the process currently in place.
- This year 16 preschool transition meetings were held in Sarnia-Lambton and 10 meetings in Chatham-Kent for children with moderate to high needs entering school in September 2014

B. Grade 8-9 Transitions

Lisa Thompson-Power

- This year there are approximately 185 students with an Individual Education Plan transitioning to secondary school.
- The grade 8-9 transition packages are prepared by the school team, the student and the parent/guardian. The packages are shared with the receiving high schools. The packages outline information regarding academic, physical, social, emotional and/or behavioural needs.
- If the student is leaving SCCDSB, parents are asked to sign consent so that the grade 8-9 transition package can be shared with the receiving school board.
- Upon receiving the transition packages, the receiving high schools arrange a spring transition meeting at the high school with the school team, the student, the parent/guardian and/or any community partners involved with the student.

C. Enhanced Transitions

Jennifer Morrow

- Students who require additional preparation for the transition to secondary school go through the enhanced transition process.
- A meeting is held with the school team, consultants and the parent/guardian early in the winter. Conversations are held regarding early transition days at the high school, transportation, anxieties about going to high school, programming, timetables, resource support, student services, supervision throughout the day if required, etc.
- This year approximately 26 enhanced transition meetings were held.

D. Annual Accessibility Forum

Janet Boyle

- Each year the board seeks input from students for the board Accessibility Plan.
- 28 students attended the forum this year.
- Students provide input regarding any barriers to accessibility in their school. The board uses this information to formulate board's Accessibility Plan.
- This year's guest speaker was a former student, Dan Edwards, who presented for a portion of the morning. The remainder of the morning was spent engaged in activities simulating certain disabilities using the Diversity Kit.
- The Diversity Kits are available to build awareness about learning differences.

E. Diversity Awareness

Janet Boyle

- Janet led the group in diversity activities (Visual, Fine Motor and Auditory) similar to what was done at the Accessibility Forum, using the Diversity Kit materials.

F. Teaching to Diversity – step two

Lisa Demers

- The Inclusive Educator Group from University of Western Ontario is hosting a second round of Teaching to Diversity on March 27, 2014. Lisa Demers, Jen Morrow and Lisa Thompson Power will attend and bring back the information to SEAC.
- A recommendation from the “Secondary Life Skills Review” was a trip to visit a fully inclusive secondary school. The scheduled visit had to be cancelled due to winter weather. In the spring, a group of secondary staff with Lisa Demers and Jen Morrow will visit the school to observe programming supports for students.

7. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Carol Bryden shared that the Board is working on strategic planning. There has been consultation with various groups throughout the system. The Director is collating the information which will be shared upon completion.
- The budget process will begin shortly. No meetings have been held yet. The Board has written the Minister requesting increased funding for special education to better reflect the needs.
- Mental Health update – at UCC today, Clara Hughes was present to share in her bicycle journey across the country. She spoke of her own mental health issues and mental health issues in general. She was very well received by all who attended. She will also visit St. Patrick Catholic High School in Sarnia.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Nothing to report

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Try to reschedule Nicole English, Ashley Gialelem, and Tracy Major.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by Derek McGivern to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.