

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 21, 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	Christine Caniff
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D'Hooghe
Trustees	John Van Heck Linda Ward
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert Liz Gibson
Board Advisors	Dr. Frank Leddy Lisa Demers Janet Boyle Lisa Thompson-Power Renée Zarebski

Regrets: John Van Heck

Absent: Kim D'Hooghe, Anita Cairns

*John VanHeck*  
*SEAC Chairperson*

*Dr. Frank Leddy*  
*Board Advisor*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair, L. Ward

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION BY: Derek McGivern** and seconded by **Derek Jane** to adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED**

4. Review of Minutes from September 16, 2013

**MOTION BY: Christine Canniff** and seconded by **Kathy Arcuri-Arnott** to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2013 SEAC meeting.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act D. Cruickshank

- The AODA is an act that establishes five standards for employees that must be implemented within organizations in accordance with the requirements
- The implementation requirements are spread out from 2011 to 2015 respectively as outlined in the Act
- Currently, an implementation committee has produced board policy, three procedures for the board (information, communication and employment) and four departmental protocols
- The TeachABLE Project [www.theteachableproject.org](http://www.theteachableproject.org) is a provincial committee who provided on line resources through the Ontario Education Services Corporation
- Contribution for SCCDSB is Renee Zarebski
- It provides lesson plans to help classroom staff and boards with compliance to AODA
- The lesson plans help with accessibility for all and can be read on line or downloaded
- The board must monitor completion of on line training by all board staff; provide awareness training for educators; report compliance by December 31, 2013; implement the departmental protocols; and provide an annual progress report to the board in late Spring 2014.

2. Introduction of Beth Kuhn Dr. F. Leddy

- The province is in the third phase of implementing Mental Health Lead positions in school boards
- Beth Kuhn is the Mental Health Lead for SCCDSB
- Beth is a social worker who works in the area of children's mental health; she is in the process of completing her PhD and she teaches at the University of Windsor

3. Mental Health Lead Position B. Kuhn

- Beth's role is to facilitate the implementation of the School Mental Health and Addictions Strategy; to develop partnerships internal and external of the board
- Initially a gap analysis must be done to understand where we are now as a board, and where we need to go
- The result being the development of the mental health and addiction strategy which will outline the enhancement of key organizational conditions, a systematic roll out of professional learning and the selection, training and implementation of the school mental health strategy

**C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

1. Community Living Wallaceburg D. McGivern
  - The travel club lottery tickets are available for purchase from Derek McGivern
  - Tickets are \$50 per ticket
  - The first lottery draw is on December 31, 2013
  
2. Community Living Chatham-Kent D. Jane
  - No report
  
3. Epilepsy Support Centre C. Caniff
  - Christine is trying to get guest speakers to speak to the families involved with the Epilepsy Support Centre
  - Christine is available to speak within our school communities to provide professional development about epilepsy
  - Christine is open to invitations to speak to students, parents, Parent Councils, etc., free of charge
  
4. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County K. D’Hooghe
  - No Report
  
5. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children K. Arcuri-Arnott
  - No Report

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

- No unfinished business and business arising from the minutes.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. EQAO Results Dr. F. Leddy
  - The Special Education Team (SET) is working to review the mission of the Special Education department. Determining this will allow the team to move toward next steps
  - An area to be proud of is that most always our board data is higher than the provincial data regarding EQAO results for our special education population
  - There is always room for growth and improvement
  - A question to consider is, “How can we align special education achievement with board achievement?”
  - The goal is to look at what the current data truly tells us
  - Dr. Leddy will share more on the EQAO data with SEAC members at our next SEAC meeting
  
2. Secondary Life Skills Review Report L. Demers/R. Zarebski
  - A copy of the final report was shared with all SEAC members. Members are welcomed an encouraged to read through the entire report
  - Highlights shared were as follows:
    - pages 4-8, a literature review outlining key findings regarding this topic
    - pages 8-10, the framework for the review process
    - pages 10-18, the results of the review
    - page 18, the overall recommendations were shared
  - The next step is the implementation process of the recommendations based on the results of the review

- An update of the implementation process will be shared with SEAC in the Spring of 2014

3. Provincial IEP Audit Results

L. Demers

- An IEP provincial audit was held in 2012; the results were received from the Ministry in October 2013
- The results of the IEP audit share how we are doing as a province and where we need to go in terms of meeting with compliance of Ministry standards
- There were no results shared specific to individual school boards; only provincial results were shared
- Page 4 of the IEP audit hand out outlines the degree of change seen in the IEPs meeting the Ministry standards from 2006-07 to 2011-12.
- Significant growth can be seen in the provincial results
- Moving forward as a board, we will continue to participate in Ministry professional development through conferences and workshops; we will continue to provide training to new staff both in the areas of classroom teachers and program resource teachers; and we will continue to offer information sessions to parents as well as to all board personnel

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. SEAC presentation requests

Dr. F. Leddy

- We are looking for input from the SEAC members about the types of presentations they would like see at the SEAC meetings
- Suggestions made include: Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), St. Patrick's new site, Life Skills review implementation update, and assistive technology
- Should SEAC members have a suggestion, please email Dr. Leddy at [frank.leddy@st-clair.net](mailto:frank.leddy@st-clair.net)

2. Clarity Please Conference- Sarnia

R. Zarebski

- Flyer was provided to SEAC members for the conference to be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at Pathways in Sarnia
- Representation from Chatham Kent involves staff from the Children's Treatment Centre as well as Renée Zarebski

3. Meeting the Diversity Challenge Symposium

R. Zarebski

- Hand out was provided to SEAC members for the conference to be held from November 27 – 29, 2013 in London, Ontario
- We are committed to sending a board team to the conference who will bring information back to share
- The conference links to our Life Skills program review

4. SEA Coordinators Council

J. Boyle

- Council is made up of SEA representatives from each of the 16 District School Boards and 3 School Authorities in the Regional Special Education Council (London Regional Office) who work with the SEA process – Specialized Equipment Amount (Ministry funding for equipment for students with special education needs)
- The main purpose of the council is to provide a forum for discussion of SEA issues, allow better communication among member boards and promote consistency of SEA practice among the boards.
- SEA Administrators' Provincial e-community has just been set up, providing access to other boards outside of our region. This is a site where SEA resources can be shared. This e-community is password protected and provides a forum for discussion, asking questions, etc.

5. SCIP- School Community Integrated Partnership

L. Thompson-Power

- SCIP is a collaborative effort of community services and schools. SCIP is a result of the provincial mental health strategy to address mental health and addictions in Ontario where the first three years are focused on children and youth
- SCIP is a children’s mental health program committed to an effective early response to elementary school children with externalizing behaviours that may be interfering with their performance at home, school and in the community
- SCIP partners with both schools and parents. The goals being early identification of children with behavior problems, early intervention to prevent these problems from becoming more severe and the implementation of programs that build strengths within families, schools and students
- SCIP serves students in grades JK to grade 4 in four SCCDSB schools (Holy Trinity, St. Joseph Chatham, St. Anne Blenheim and St. Ursula)

**G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

- The board has been working on: an EQAO review of the data, enrollment which is down by 164 elementary students as well, the board recognizes the on-going labour negotiations

**H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**I. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 25, 2013**

**J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

<p><b>MOTION BY: Derek McGivern</b> and seconded by <b>Kathy Arcuri-Arnott</b> to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
---