

## YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.*

### REVISED MINUTES of the SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A regular meeting was held on **April 27, 2011** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** H. Adams, M. Agosta, C. Amenta, T. McNicol, C. Newton  
M.E. Scriver, B. Sheppard, H. Sirola, M. Vaessen-Kurz, P. Whittam

**Association Representatives:**

**Administration:** T. D'Acunto, C. Leger, G. Murphy, M. Paczek

**Regrets:** F. Bagley, K. Bryden, T. Ciaravella, N. Colatosti, C. Ferlisi, D. Flynn,  
M. Reaume, R. Shepherd, S. Turrin

**Recording:** D. Cultraro

**Guests:** Lee Wilson, Superintendent of Education: Safe Schools;  
Fran Hill, Principal on Special Assignment;  
N. Bruno, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
A. Furlin, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
R. Nardi, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
S. Nardi, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
M. Di Vincenzo, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
A. Pacitti, York University Special Ed Part 1;  
N. Oprisan, York University Special Ed Part 1

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE**

P. Whittam welcomed guests

**2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam**

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

Approval of Agenda for May 25, 2011.  
Motion – Agenda approved.

**4.0 Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of Minutes April 27, 2011.  
Motion – Minutes approved with the addition of “Motion to move” and “Item Carried” to Section 10.1 SEAC Terms of Reference.

**5.0 SEAC Report to Board**

Report 2011:02 and 2011:03 were distributed and received by committee.

**6.0 Information Items**

**6.1 Board Agenda**

April 12, 2011 agenda was distributed and received by committee.

**6.2 Student In-Services Calendar**

April, May and August 2011 calendars were distributed and received by committee.

**7.0 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Ministry Memorandum re Full Day Learning Kindergarten Program was distributed and received by committee.
- 7.2 York Region Newspaper Article: "York Trustees advised not to meet with Parents on school issues" was distributed and received by committee.
- 7.3 Ministry's Advisory Council of Special Education (MACSE) – Communication: Collaborating with the Community was distributed and received by committee.

**8.0 Presentations/Discussions****8.1 Climate Survey Results**

Lee Wilson, Superintendent of Education: Safe Schools and Fran Hill, Principal on Special Assignment, presented the YCDSB 2010/11 Climate Survey. This survey was created and researched by Fran Hill and Marcelle McShine-Quao, YCDSB Education Researcher. The Board Climate Survey results were shared.

Students with special needs also participated in the surveys and were accommodated if required.

Students were given a two week period to respond (94% response rate board-wide). The plan is to distribute the survey every 2 years.

A Parent survey is being developed and will be translated into different languages for easier understanding.

**HANDOUT:** See PowerPoint presentation and handouts.

**8.2 York Support Services Network**

Melissa Kurz, DS Case Manager, from York Support Services Network, presented an overview on York Support Services Network. The mission of the YSSN is to foster growth, independence and choice for people with developmental disabilities or serious mental illness. Their vision is "together, we have the power to BREAK barriers and realize dreams. Everyone belongs."

Case management is one of their largest departments along with the student response system. There are currently 384 people on wait list for services.

**HANDOUT:** See PowerPoint presentation and handouts.

**8.3 SEAC Budget Sub-Committee**

John Sabo, Associate Director: Leading Services and Treasurer of the Board and Jackie Porter, Sr. Manager of Budget & Financial Reporting, met with Maria Agosta, Nina Colatosti, Paul Whittam and Tina D'Acunto to discuss the Special Education budget. Information received to date is very preliminary.

Timelines have been set for this year's budget presentation. Dates are as follows:  
 May 25 – information gathering  
 June 12 or 23 - Present to Board

**8.4 SEAC Spring Conference**

The spring conference will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

A team from the Ministry of Education will be presenting. They will generally talk about the role and responsibility of SEAC.

If you have any questions or queries, please forward them to Dora Cultraro prior to the conference.

Alison Morse will also be presenting at the conference. She has sat on the MACSE committee, which is the same committee that the Minister of Education sits on.

Michael Way-Skinner, Co-ordinator – Religious Ed/Family Life/Adult Faith (Acting), will be speaking on the parent role of children with special needs.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

**8.5 Special Education Plan 2010/2011 Amendments**

Tina D'Acunto, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners (Acting) provided an update on the YCDSB Special Education Plan submission to the Ministry of Education. We are not required to provide a full plan but we are required to complete a 2011 Special Education Plan Report Checklist.

The amendments will be emailed to you the first week of May for your review. Please provide feedback to Dora prior to the May 25<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting. We will then add this as an Action item for the next SEAC meeting to pass the amendments so that we can then present to the Board of Trustees in June.

**9.0 Business Arising****10.0 Action Items****11.0 Association Reports****11.1 Community Living – Newmarket/Aurora District**

Kathy Amenta of Community Living, Newmarket/Aurora District, provided the Members with their new brochure and pamphlet. Please see attached pamphlet.

**12.0 Items for Future Agendas**

12.1 YCDSB plan for Services for Students with Special Needs/Special Education Needs and the Early Learning Program in Year 1 2010-2011

12.2 Assistive Technology Student Demonstration (June 2011)

12.3 Trustee Role in School Boards

12.5 EA/EI Allocations

12.5 Roles of Student Service Support Staff

12.6 School Communication Protocol for Parents with Children serviced by Special Education Inclusionary Practices within Schools

12.7 Early Intervention Services of York Region (June 2011)

**14.0 Next Meeting:** Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Boardroom at CEC.

**15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made.** Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.