

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.

**MINUTES
of the
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A regular meeting was held on **April 20, 2009** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: L. Aqui, M. Agosta, K. Bryden, T. Ciaravella, C. Lampole, C. MacDonald, C. Newton

Association Representatives: J. Cocchetto

Administration: F. Bagley, T. D'Acunto, G. Murphy, L. Wilson

Regrets: L. Aqui, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, J. Kelterborn, C. Laughlin, T. McNicol, A. Pizzolato, M. Reaume, R. Shepherd, P. Whittam

Recording: D. Cultraro

Guests: L. Durst, G. Hindy, F. Rui, F. Gravina, L. Lombardi, K. Breau, C. Figliomeni (All students from the YCDSB EA Exceptionalities Course), S. Humber (Autism Ontario York Region Chapter)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE: C. Newton

2.0 Prayer: C. Newton

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Quorum was not reached. Meeting proceeded and no "Action Items" were put forth until next meeting.

Approval of Agenda was deferred.
Guests were welcomed.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes of April 20, 2009
Approval of the Minutes of March 25, 2009
Approval of Minutes deferred.

5.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2009:03 was distributed and received by committee.

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Board Agenda

March 31, 2009 agenda was distributed and received by committee.

6.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

March 2009 Report was distributed and received by committee.

6.3 Student In-Services Calendar

April 2009 calendar was distributed and received by committee.

7.0 Correspondence

Simone Hubers was introduced and welcomed as the new Alternate Member for Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter.

8.0 Presentations/Discussions

8.1 Special Education Funding

Lee Wilson gave a brief overview of the Special Education funding for the following school year. Increase to the special education envelope is mainly due to increase in staff salaries not to additional resources. In the last few years the special education funding for all intensive purposes has remained relatively static even though the number of new students with exceptionalities is increasing. This year once again the EA criteria will be altered to meet the students' needs in September. At the next SEAC meeting, someone from the budget department will provide an in-depth analysis of the special education budget.

8.2 Ministry of Children and Youth Services – Supporting Seamless Transitions from the Autism Intervention Program to School

Lee Wilson reviewed the Ministry document entitled “Ministry of Children and Youth Services – Supporting Seamless Transitions from the Autism Intervention Program to School”. The EDU and MCYS ministries have developed a collaborative approach to improve transitions for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The approach focuses on multi-disciplinary transition teams to work with children moving from the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) to school. The YCDSB model is very similar to the one being proposed. As per the document an ABA expert (ASD Co-ordinator) will be hired by the board who will have the skills to co-ordinate this initiative. This position is being funded for the school year 2009/10 and may extend further. In addition, a grant of approximately \$100,000 is allocated to our board for staff training.

Handout: Ministry of Children and Youth Services – Supporting Seamless Transitions from the Autism Intervention Program to School Letter

8.3 Annual Monitoring of PPM140 by School Boards

Lee Wilson discussed how the YCDSB Team has inserviced administration and school teams on ABA strategies. Feedback was positive.

The Ministry annually reviews the PPM140. This year all schools will complete a survey regarding the effectiveness of its implementation. Our report is due to the Ministry May 22nd. All Boards are involved in this survey.

Handout: Ministry PPM140

8.4 ASD York Region Planning Table

Cenza Newton and Tina D'Acunto reviewed and presented the ASD York Region Planning Table agenda and outcomes. There were two Planning Days – March 25 and April 2/09. Committee members acted as facilitators at the planning days. The focus of the discussion was how to provide timely access to families considering the wait lists and how to integrate services for families who require services from various organizations. It was a great opportunity to have everyone in a room at the same time and discuss how to best respond to the needs of Students with Autism. Accountability lies with the partners not with the families. Service Providers realize that they are not meeting the needs of ASD families. The criteria to access providers is very fragmented therefore a chart has been created to aid families (chart shared at SEAC meeting). The mandate is to review all services in York Region, to assess service delivery gaps for students with ASD; determine creative ways to leverage resources between service providers; and ensure timely and meaningful access to service for student with autism while minimizing stress for families. ASD Task Force/Committee was created and 5 Goal Areas were created.

The Planning Committee will be meeting on May 20/09 to develop the Action plan, using a Logic Model as its framework. A subcommittee will continue to work towards implementing specific/strategic components of the Action Plan.

Is CTN the 1st door? CTN is still evolving and the process is being worked out. Most logistics are in place but the process is still being worked on. CTN also has issues of accessing all services. The frustration is that all services/organizations are looking for the same thing. Ministry should be creating a framework no matter the exceptionality so that all organizations are all aligned and working towards the same thing.

This seems to be the only forum where the “parent” voice was strongly represented. This is the only model existing in Ontario where this type of forum is being done. Model will be available once completed. YCDSB will share this with families within our Board.

9.0 Business Arising

Reminder that May 8 and 9, 2009 is the LD Conference being held at Seneca College King Campus and the CEC. Invitations have been distributed and mailed. There will be over 600 students and 100 parents participating in the two-day conference.

10.0 Action Items

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 Autism Ontario York Region Chapter

1. Adult Summer Program AO-A.
2. Adult Networking and Support Group for Families & Supporters of Adults Living with ASD.
3. April 28th – PPM140 Implementation update.
4. May 12th – Annual General Meeting

Handout: See attached correspondence.

12.0 Items for Future Agendas

12.1 Thank you card for Paul Kalmykow

13.0 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Trustee Lounge at CEC

14.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 p.m.