

**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 30, 2008** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.** **Quorum was not met, however, an information meeting was held.**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** M. Agosta, M. Brumwell, C. Newton, C. Walsh-Peters, P. Whittam

**Association Representatives:** J. Cocchetto, M. Reaume

**Administration:** F. Bagley, C. Laughlin, G. Murphy, L. Wilson

**Regrets:** L. AQUI, K. Bryden, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, T. D'Acunto, C. Lampole, J. Kelterborn, T. McNicol, R. Shepherd

**Recording:** C. Brinias

**Guests:** D. Belvedere, Special Education, Part 1  
H. Freiha, Special Education, Part 1  
D. Iannuzzi, Special Education Part 1

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE**

- P. Whittam

**2.0 Prayer** – P. Whittam

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

Quorum was not met; therefore, agenda was not approved.

**4.0 Approval of the Minutes of February 25, 2008**

Quorum was not met; therefore, minutes were not approved.

Committee received a copy of the approved Minutes for January 28, 2008

**5.0 Presentations/Discussions**

**5.1 Updates:**

**OPA**

Pat Bucci updated SEAC on the OPA Project. York Catholic District School Board was chosen by the Ministry of Education to provide a documented submission on the project. For the duration of the project, 224 assessments were undertaken by psychology, speech and language, and physical/occupational professionals. The total number of students tracked was 40, ranging from SK to grade 3. The OPA project occurred over two cycles and involved fifteen schools:

- 10 schools (cycle 1) – September 2007
- 5 schools added (cycle 2) – January 2008

Some preliminary successes were shared, as well as the critical findings that emerged from the in-depth feedback generated from various stakeholders. As a system, YCDSB efforts continue to be directed on implementing best practices in order to provide high quality instruction for all.

### **CODE 2007-2008**

Ministry of Education funded 40% of the CODE initiative for 2007-2008, this was the last year for funding. The project supported a Professional Learning Community model where classroom teachers, special education teachers and administration explored applications of assistive technology and set implementation goals.

Project Overview:

- Designed to improve the literacy and numeracy skills (primary literacy skills) of students with special education needs in 9 elementary schools
- Designed to improve the numeracy skills of students with special education needs in 2 secondary school
- Provided intensive training, follow-up, and ongoing review of the use of assistive technology in project schools

Elementary:

- 44 out of 83 elementary schools are using assistive technology as a component of universal design and differentiated instruction for students with special education needs.

Secondary:

- All secondary high schools are using assistive technology
- 2 out of 13 secondary high schools have been participating in the Math initiative utilizing the Interactive Whiteboard Technology, Assistive Technology and Virtual Manipulatives as effective tools for differentiating instruction for Grade 9 Applied Mathematics (MFM 1P).

Goals for next year:

- Continue to expand to other elementary schools
- Sustain initiative in all elementary and secondary schools
- Expansion of Math initiative to 4 additional secondary schools
- Maintain infrastructure of support

### **Safe Schools:**

The Safe Schools Policy will be passed in August 2008. The interim policy can be found on the YCDSB Website. As of February 2008, students suspended more than 5 days have an alternative program. The intent is:

- To engage students in their learning
- To implement preventative proactive strategies
- To facilitate students in reflecting, learning and to changing their behaviour
- To discipline (i.e. “to teach”) not to punish students

Two sites offering programs for suspended or expelled students have been established.

- St. Luke site offers a program for secondary students who are suspended.
- Holy Spirit school offers a program for elementary students who are suspended
- Two teachers and two CYW's are in place at St. Luke, and one teacher and one CYW at Holy Spirit.

Overall the Safe Schools pilot has been successful. Feedback from students and parents has been very positive.

## **5.2 Special Education Budget - Update**

The Budget Subcommittee members met with R. Dooley, J. Porter and J. Sabo on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Special Education Budget. Budget information has not been received from the Ministry as of yet, but we do know that the CODE and OPA grants have not been renewed, and that labour negotiations will impact the budget.

The SEAC Budget Subcommittee will be giving a presentation to the Board on June 17<sup>th</sup>. As well, John Sabo will present the 2008-2009 budget at the SEAC Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **5.3 IEP Audit**

As an outcome of last year's Ministry IEP Collaborative Review, the Student Services Department identified areas within the school's IEP samples that were compliant or required further development. Since then, the Ministry has also required IEP's to be compliant with PPM140 Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) instructional and assessment strategies must be listed in the IEPs of students with autism where appropriate.

This spring, the Student Services Department will conduct a follow up IEP review. It is our goal to continue seeing growth in all areas of the IEP. The information gained will assist in planning next year's IEP professional development for school staff.

## **5.4 Special Education Plan**

A copy of the draft Special Education Plan for 2007-2008 was distributed to all members. SEAC Members to provide feedback at the May 26<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting.

Special Education Plan Timelines:

April 30	Draft shared with SEAC for input
	Special Education Plan document to be sent to all members via e-mail
May 26	Special Education Plan goes to SEAC for approval
June 17	Special Education Plan goes to Board, for approval, with SEAC Recommendations
July	Submission to Ministry

## **6.0 Business Arising**

### **6.1 Third Party Protocol**

Feedback to Third Party Protocol to be sent to Carmela Brinias or Tina D'Acunto. SEAC to indicate at the next SEAC meeting whether the Third Party Protocol is to remain as a protocol or to become a policy. SEAC would like to see a copy of the revised Third Party Protocol at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**7.0 Action Items**

**8.0 SEAC Report to Board**

Report 2008:03 received by committee

**9.0 Information Items**

**9.1 Board Agenda**

March 4 & 25, 2008 agenda was distributed to members

**9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs**

March 2008 Report received by the committee

**9.3 Student Services Calendar**

March 2008 calendar was distributed to all members.

**9.4 Education Law**

- Vol. 19, No. 6, February 2008
- Vol. 19, No. 7, March 2008

**10.0 Correspondence**

**11.0 Association Reports**

**11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region**

- Annual General Meeting to take place on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home, 11181 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario.
- Bowling for Autism to take place on Saturday, May 3, at Stouffville Bowl from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Circles Program, Information Session to take place on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Woodbridge Family Fun Softball Day to take place on Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See attached flyer for more details as well visit the website at:

[www.autismontario.com/york](http://www.autismontario.com/york)

**11.2 Community Living York South**

Summer Camp 2008 will be held in Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily during July and August. Members: \$175/week and Non-members: \$192.50/week. See flyer attached. Visit website at [www.ysacl.on.ca](http://www.ysacl.on.ca)

**12.0 New Business**

**13.0 Items for Future Agendas**

**14.0 Next Meeting: Monday, May 26, 2008**

**15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.**