

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 **January 28, 2008** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Agosta, M. Brumwell, K. Bryden, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, C. Lampole, C. Newton, A. Pizzolato, P. Whittam

Association Representatives: J. Cocchetto, J. Dixon

Regrets: L. AQUI, L. Ciccone, J. Kelterborn, T. McNicol

Administration: F. Bagley, T. D'Acunto, C. Laughlin, L. Wilson

Guests: P. Susin, Special Education Part I
R. Marchello, Special Education Part I

Recording: C. Brinias

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- P. Whittam

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 **Approval of Agenda**
Motion – Agenda approved

4.0 **Approval of the Minutes of December 19, 2007**
Motion – Minutes approved
Committee received a copy of the approved Minutes for November 26, 2007

5.0 Presentations/Discussions

5.1 **Student Disability Accommodation Policy**
SEAC members provided feedback to Charles McCarthy on the Student Disability Accommodation Policy.

5.2 **Budget Update**
SEAC Budget Subcommittee met with the financial team (J. Sabo, R. Dooley, J. Porter) regarding the budget overview of the York Catholic District School Board.

The presentation to the SEAC committee encompassed the following topics:

- Status of Budget Development
- Special Education Budget
 - Previous year 2006-2007
 - Current Year
 - 2007-08 Budget (Revenue/Expenditures/Envelope)
 - 2007-08 Revised Estimates (Revenue/Expenditures/Envelope)
 - Ministry of Education “*Special Education Program and Financial Pilot Review*”
 - Future – Special Education – 2008-09
 - Issues/Concerns
 - New Initiatives
 - Lobby Efforts

Handouts: 2008-09 Budget Overview (PowerPoint presentation)
Special Education 2006-07 Financial Statements
Special Education 2007-08 Revised Estimates

5.3 PPM 140 Implementation Plan – ABA Update Training

- Phase One Training completed in January
- Feedback from school training plans indicated that 68% of participants will be implementing one ABA strategy in their classroom

SEAC ABA Advisory Group

- Cenza, Paul, and Tina presented the PPM140 Implementation Plan to the Board of Trustees on January 22, 2008
- The group met to revise the Parent Q and A
- The group discussed the possibility of a letter mailed to parents notifying them of the plan and where to locate additional information
- A subsequent meeting has been scheduled to provide feedback into phase II of the plan for February 27, 2008

Development of the Phase II Plan

- The members of the Phase I Design Team met with Dr. Joel Hundret to discuss ideas regarding implementation plans for ABA in the classroom
- We have had one planning meeting to brainstorm ideas
- A second meeting will be held Tuesday, January 29, 2008
- We hope to have the plan developed by the end of February to be shared with SEAC

6.0 Business Arising

7.0 Action Items

8.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2007:10 received by committee

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Board Agenda

December 4, 2007 agenda were distributed to members

9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

December 2007 Report received by the committee

9.3 Student Services Calendar

December 2007 calendar was distributed to all members.

9.4 Education Law, Vol. 19, No. 4, December 2007

Circulated to SEAC Members

9.5 Premier Award

Two nominations were put forth by the Student Service Department.

10.0 Correspondence

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region

1. Thanks to Corinne McKay from the Autism Team for assisting us in the hiring process of our new "*Realizing Potential*" Coordinator – Alana Rancicot.
2. Transition to School Two Week Summer Program (for Children in Senior Kindergarten to Grade Two)
 - This project is being developed in partnership with the York Catholic District School Board and the Realize Community Potential Program with Autism Ontario – York Region
 - Prerequisite of the program requires 30 participants
 - Notice went out to members and is posted on our website to see if there is interest to move forth with planning
3. February 13, 2008 – Dr. Kevin Stoddart to speak on Issues and Interventions for Youth and Young Adults with Asperger Syndrome
 - Addressing areas in mental health, employment, independence, responses to problems
4. February 25, 2008 – Funding Option
 - A two hour information session to assist families in pursuing funding options to assist in summer programs, respite, home program development, tax credits, etc.
5. April 17, 18, and 19 – Understanding Your Audience – Creating and Implementing Social Learning Curriculum
 - For parents to learn new and creative ways to build and maintain friendships for your child
 - For group facilitators developing and implementing social skills groups
 - For educators for assistance in developing curriculum in schools to foster mutual relationships between individuals with ASD and their peers

For Autism information and registration visit their website at www.autismontario.com/york

11.2 Learning Disability Association

Starting on Wednesday, February 6th the SoAr (Some Assembly Required) program will begin. This program is designed for students in grades 4 to 6. The students have the opportunity to learn and talk about Learning & Learning Disabilities, study skills and strategies for success and making choices. This is a 10 week program held once a week for 1 ½ hours. For more info call the Resource Centre at (905) 884-7933 ext. 21.

In addition to the monthly evening Parent Support Group, the Association has started a morning support group, which is held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Starting February the grade 4 to 6 teachers in both Boards will each be receiving some material regarding LD. The goal is to provide the teachers with information that would inform and support the understanding of LD. In June a survey will be completed by each teacher to evaluate the information provided by the Association.

We are pleased that York Catholic District School Board had agreed to be part of this Pilot.

12.0 New Business

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

14.0 Next Meeting: Date changed to Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom

15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.