

## 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 21, 2009** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

#### PRESENT:

**Committee Members:** A. Care, L. Ciccone, C. MacDonald, C. Newton, C. Walsh-Peters, P. Whittam

#### Association Representatives:

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

**Regrets:** M. Agosta, L. Aqui, K. Bryden, T. Ciaravella, J. Cocchetto, J. Kelterborn  
C. Lampole, T. McNicol, A. Pizzolato, M. Reaume

**Recording:** D. Cultraro

**Guests:** Mary Deveaux, Superintendent, Area 4  
Michele Nerino, Assistive Technologist  
Scott Bolland, Mobile Help Desk  
Cathy Craig, PT/OT Supervisor  
Helen Reaume, Special Education Consultant, Area 4  
Proud Parents, very capable Students, Teachers and EA's of St. Mary, Nobleton;  
St. Patrick, Schomberg; St. Charles Garnier and St. Joan of Arc H.S.

#### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- P. Whittam

#### 2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

#### 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.

Paul Whittam requested that items "8.0 to 10.0" to be moved after "4.0" on SEAC Agendas moving forward.

#### 4.0 Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2008

Approval of Minutes deferred.

## **5.0 Presentations/Discussions**

### **5.1 Assistive Technology Demonstration**

Tina D'Acunto introduced the presentation on Assistive Technology. A historical perspective of SETT was given along with the purpose of the team. The SETT team investigates how technology may benefit the students in their access to curriculum.

Student presenters included:

- Rocco Bitondo demonstrated the Intellikeys Keyboard.
- Sarah Mansour demonstrated the Electronic Library Program
- Kasia Zakrzewski demonstrated the Electronic Library Program
- Brandon Zak demonstrated the Voice Output (funding provided by Bloorview)

Students were presented with a "Student Services, Special Education Technology Committee" Award and gift.

**Handout: Engaging the Exceptional Learner through Innovative Technology PowerPoint presentation**

### **5.2 Parent Survey**

Revised Parent Survey was shared with SEAC. The survey was vetted through the Research department. Only a small sample, approximately 200, will be distributed. The survey will be available in other languages when requested by the Principal.

Revised survey was well received. The following suggestions were made:

1. Question #13 – "uncertain" – some parents are not sure what services their child is receiving.
2. Add "Additional Comments" section on bottom.
3. How about if parents requested a service and it was not available?
4. Add a "Comments" section after each question.
5. Offer assistance in filling out the form on the survey.

Next Steps:

1. Dora to email survey to SEAC members.
2. SEAC members to provide endorsement and approval of survey by email to Dora by February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
3. Survey to be distributed in February 2009.
4. Ratification of this action will be made at next SEAC Meeting, February 23, 2009

**Handout: Student Services Special Education Programs & Services Parent Survey**

## **6.0 Business Arising**

## **7.0 Action Items**

Deferred.

## **8.0 SEAC Report to Board**

Report 2008:10 received by committee

**9.0 Information Items**

**9.1 Board Agenda**

December 9, 2008 agenda was distributed to members

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

December 2008 Report was distributed to all members.

**9.3 Student Services Calendar**

December 2008 calendar was distributed to all members.

**9.4 Ministry Parent IEP Template**

Ministry Parent IEP Template was distributed to all members.

The Ministry's IEP template is different from the Boards template, however it has been approved by the Ministry of Education. A sample Board IEP PDF file and the Ministry's IEP template will be posted on the Board's website.

**10.0 Correspondence**

**10.1** Education Law Vol 20, No. 4 December 2008 was distributed to all members.

**11.0 Association Reports**

**11.1 Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter**

Alternate SEAC Representative for Autism Ontario, Paul Kalmykow, has submitted his resignation from this position. His replacement will be appointed by the next SEAC meeting – pending necessary approvals.

We would like to thank Paul for his many years of dedicated service to SEAC and wish him all our best in his future endeavours.

For information on upcoming information sessions, workshops and community events, please visit our website at [www.autismontario.com/york](http://www.autismontario.com/york).

**11.2 LDAO**

The Association is very pleased to have been asked to work with the Board on the LD Conference which will be held in May. We are also excited to learn that the conference will include and focus on the needs of the child/youth, family and teacher.

Thank you for this opportunity.

**12.0 New Business**

**13.0 Items for Future Agendas**

**13.1** New website overview

**13.2** LD Conference update

**13.3** ABA Training update

**13.4** New May SEAC meeting date

**13.5** Thank you card for Paul Kalmykow

**14.0 Next Meeting:** Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Boardroom at CEC

**15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 9:10 p.m.**