

**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 **June 15, 2009** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** L. Aqi, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, C. MacDonald, C., Newton, O. Pariselli, C. Walsh-Peters, P. Whittam

**Association Representatives:** J. Cocchetto, J. Kelterborn, M. Reaume, R. Shepherd

**Administration:** T. D'Acunto, C. Laughline, G. Murphy, M. Paczek, L. Wilson

**Regrets:** M. Agosta, F. Bagley, C. Lampole, T. McNicol, M. Reaume

**Recording:** D. Cultraro

**Guests:** Mr. Larry Abas (parent of St. Jerome)

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE**

P. Whittam welcomed guests

**2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam**

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

Items added to Agenda are as follows: 8.4 Acknowledgements and 8.5 SEAC Budget Presentation.

Approval of Agenda for June 15, 2009

Motion – Agenda approved.

**4.0 Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2009.

Motion – Minutes approved.

**5.0 SEAC Report to Board**

Report 2009:05 was distributed and received by committee

**6.0 Information Items**

**6.1 Board Agenda**

May 26, 2009 agenda was distributed and received by committee

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

May 2009 Report was distributed and received by committee

**6.3 Student In-Services Calendar**

May, June and July 2009 calendars were distributed and received by committee

**7.0 Correspondence**

7.1 Education Law Vol 20, No. 9 May 2009 was distributed and received by committee.

**8.0 Presentations/Discussions**

**8.1 LD Conference Feedback**

Claire Laughlin and Geraldine Murphy provided feedback on the LD Conference held at Seneca College and at the CEC.

Students participated in a full day program at Seneca College. Activities, presentations were geared to meet the interest of both elementary and secondary students. Farley Flex, our motivational guest speaker, captured the interest of everyone.

Parent's day took place on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> with approximately 100 parents participating. Monica Sinclair, an Educational Officer from the Ministry of Education, spoke to parents regarding what's available to students with learning disabilities. All workshops were very well received and found to be very informative.

Everyone was very appreciative of this opportunity.

**HANDOUT: See Powerpoint presentation.**

**8.2 Ministry Survey ABA Implementation**

Tina D'Acunto provided update on survey.

Surveys have been mailed out – Elementary in January and Secondary in February.

**PPM140** ministry survey was shared and board results were provided.

Overall results were very impressive. This survey demonstrates how well our schools are implementing ABA strategies

Moving forward to next year, goals have been set and teams are looking forward to improving our survey results.

ASD Programs and training schedules are in place for the summer and classes are full.

**HANDOUT: PPM140 YCDSB Survey Results**

**8.3 ASD Acting Coordinator Position**

Maria Paczek was welcomed and she discussed her new position as Acting ASD Coordinator. She provided an overview of her role and responsibilities.

**HANDOUT: See handout.**

**8.4 Acknowledgements**

Lee Wilson acknowledged the following SEAC Members:

Clare MacDonald has retired from SEAC. She was thanked for her dedication and service. Paul Whittam was recognized for winning the Father of the Year Award at the Yes I Can award ceremony sponsored by the York Region Council for Exceptional Children.

**8.5 SEAC Budget Presentation**

Meetings have taken place. Paul Whittam will be doing a presentation at the June 16 Board of Trustees meeting. He will be advocating for the students and will state that SEAC cannot and will not accept any budget reductions in special education; Special Education should not be compromised as it is an area of continued growth. Other points he will make are as follows:

- Enrollment to increase marginally but enrollment of exceptional students are increasing
- we are expecting over 100 Early Facilitation students with no staffing increase
- Ministry budget increasing by \$34,000 next year - does not cover the cost of one EA; funding model extremely flawed and inadequate
- boards that have continually done extremely well are being penalized
- SEAC committees have an arising awareness that there is an increase in students requiring special education services.

We need to go to the Ministry requesting additional funding.

**HANDOUT: See attached speech.**

## **9.0 Business Arising**

### **10.0 Action Items**

- 10.1 SEAC meeting dates for 2009-10 school year to be sent out by Dora (via email).
- 10.2 Special Education Plan was reviewed. Minor changes to be incorporated by Dora are as follows: Autism Society to be changed to Autism Ontario

### **11.0 Association Reports**

#### **11.1 Autism Ontario York Region Chapter**

One to one summer support worker reimbursement fund – application available online at [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com); Up to \$600 per child; For minimum of 500 children in Ontario

A-Ok Camp – AO Summer Youth Program and A-O Adult Summer Day Program starts June 26; MCYS has included A-Ok and Summer Youth Camp Program into their annualized budget – a minimum of \$36,000/year.

Summer to school transition program – August 17-26 at Holy Spirit Catholic School. We would like to thank Maria Paczek for all her hard work.

Parent Support meetings to continue throughout the summer. For more info: [www.Autismontario.com/york](http://www.Autismontario.com/york)

#### **11.2 Kinark Child and Family Services**

Accreditation completed, achieved 98% average as an agency in all standards.

Suggested reading: “Sparks” by John Ratey, M.D.

#### **11.3 Learning Disabilities Association**

We would like to thank Claire, Geraldine and the conference team for hosting an informative and educational conference. The response was positive, stemming from students regarding Friday’s events to the parents about Saturday’s workshops. Your hard work, commitment and dedication to the students was evident.

On Sunday, May 7, the Learning Disabilities Association held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintages and Jazz fundraiser. The guests of this event enjoyed an afternoon of great jazz music and wonderful wine tasting from two wineries.

On Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> the association is holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual picnic from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. The evening will include BBQ, games, prizes, face painting, family races and much more. All are welcome.

Social Skills Summer Camp will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 484 Water Street in Newmarket. The dates are as follows: July 6-10 (Ages 6-8) from 9:30 to 3:30 and August 17-21 (Ages 9-12) from 9:30 to 3:30. Cost is \$300.00 for members and \$350.00 for non-members. For more information call 905-884-7933 x21.

On behalf of the Association we wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

**12.0 New Business**

**13.0 Items for Future Agendas**

**13.1 IEP Audit – Fall 2009**

**13.2 Special Education Program Survey – Fall 2009**

**13.3 Secondary Exam Week**

**13.4 Kinark Autism presentation**

**14.0 Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Boardroom at CEC

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