

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 **March 31, 2008** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Agosta, L. Aqi, F. Bagley, M. Brumwell, K. Bryden, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, J. Kettleborne, T. McNicol, C. Newton, A. Pizzolato

Association Representatives: J. Cocchetto, R. Shepherd

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

Regrets: C. Lampole, P. Whittam

Recording: C. Brinias

Guests: S. DaCosta, Educational Assistant, Exceptionalities Course
G. Bartoloniso, Educational Assistant Certificate Program
S. BeBedts, Educational Assistant Course
S. Ceniti, Educational Assistant, Exceptionalities Course
M. Cisternino, Educational Assistant Certificate Program
M. Deveaux, Superintendent of Education: School Leadership
D. Difelice, Educational Assistant Certification Program
Z. DiPasquale, Educational Assistant, Exceptionalities Course
L. DiVu, Educational Assistant, Exceptionalities Course
A. Gheorghe-Kireanu, student, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
R. Gheorghe-Kireanu, parent, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
C. Henry, student, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
T. Henry, parent, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
C. Leva, Educational Assistant Course
M. Marossieky, Sacred Heart CHS
G. Rocha, Educational Assistant, Exceptionalities Course
J. Stoica, student, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
M. Stoica, parent, Our Lady of Annunciation CES
E. Watters, teacher, Our Lady of Annunciation CES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- M. Brumwell

2.0 Prayer – M. Brumwell

3.0 Approval of Agenda Motion – Agenda approved

4.0 Approval of the Minutes of February 25, 2008

Motion – Minutes approved

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

5.0 Presentations/Discussions

5.1 Activ Lingua Demo – Student Presentations

The Special Education Technology Committee (SETT) researches new and innovative assistive technology. Activ Lingua and Activ Studio are two tools that they selected to pilot in two elementary schools.

Ms. Watters, the core resource teacher at Our Lady of Annunciation, and three of her students demonstrated how these tools facilitated student learning and enabled them to achieve their IEP goals.

Helen Reaume, Special Education Consultant pointed out that the instruments highly motivate and engage students who may have different learning styles. Activ Lingua technology can be used for whole class, small groups, or individual instructional sessions.

Handouts:

- **Activ Lingua PowerPoint Presentation**

5.2 ABA Phase II Plan

The goal for the ABA Phase II training is to broaden awareness amongst staff involved with students in the Social Communication Program/and or Functional Life Skills Program. In February, six high schools participated in additional training of their staff. 83 elementary schools will participate in additional training in April/May. Total staff trained during Phase II is approximately 350.

The SEAC ABA Sub Committee finalized the communication strategy of the ABA Phase II Plan. The following communication strategies were put in place:

- PPM 140 and the ABA Question and Answer documents were placed on the YCDSB Website via “Student Services” or “Parents and Students” tabs.
- Letters are going out to parents who have students in the social communication program directing them to the Ministry’s website and Board Website.
- An overview of ABA will be published in the Director’s Monitor in order to reach the general community
- Feedback surveys were sent to teachers who participated in the ABA training Phase I. Summary of feedback to be completed by mid April.
- Phase II pre-knowledge survey for Phase II will be issued in May. Summary to be compiled by September 2008.

The SEAC ABA Sub Committee will be meeting on April 30th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the ABA focus for the next school year.

5.3 Kinark Child and Family Services – Presentation by L. Aquí

Kinark Child and Family Services is a not-for-profit children’s mental health organization in Ontario that provides expert help to children and youth, their families and communities. They provide a variety of services:

1. Treatment and Family programs:

Within all of the program areas, a range of treatment services including individual, family and group counseling is provided to children and their families within local communities. These services are provided to children who are living at home or youth living on their own, as well as to children who are in residential care.

2. Kinark Outdoor Centres:

This is an outdoor school, Skill Development and Adventure-Based Program for schools, agencies and faith communities established since 1985.

3. Autism Services:

Kinark's Central East Autism Program offers services to children who have a diagnosis of autism. These services include IBI, which is based on the principles of ABA.

4. Youth Justice Service:

Kinark Child and Family Services provides intensive treatment and support to youth in conflict with the law and who have serious mental health issues. Kinark runs intensive programs that treat youth at home and in the community.

For more information, visit Kinark's website at www.kinark.on.ca

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Third Party Protocol

"Third party" is defined as any service provider who is not an employee of the Board. The third party policy will apply to present and future service providers.

The York Catholic District School Board is committed to working collaboratively with educational advocates, medical and social service professionals/ paraprofessionals and other like visitors to our schools from the community to meet the needs of our students.

Because of this commitment, the York Catholic District School Board has undertaken to articulate a protocol that is designed to help external professionals/paraprofessionals understand more fully how they can successfully assist a child, in collaboration with the school personnel, to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the school setting and do so in accordance with the Education Act and Board Policies.

In summary the protocol is designed to help external professional/paraprofessionals do the following:

- Work in collaboration with school and board personnel
- Share knowledge and skills necessary for the student to thrive in the school setting
- Work in accordance with the Education Act and Board Policies

A draft of the protocol has been forwarded to stakeholders for their feedback. All SEAC members are to e-mail their feedback to Tina D'Acunto at <Tina.D'Acunto@ycdsb.ca> or provide feedback at the next SEAC Meeting – April 30, 2008.

Handout: Third Party Protocol

7.0 Action Items

8.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2008:02 received by committee

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Board Agenda

February 5, 2008 agenda was distributed to members

9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

February 2008 Report received by the committee

9.3 Student Services Calendar

February 2008 calendar was distributed to all members.

9.4 YCDSB PACE Conference – April 2, 2008 at the CEC

Key Note Speaker at the conference will be Erica Andrew presenting “The Challenges of Giftedness”.

10.0 Correspondence

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region

Dates to remember:

April 17 to 19	Social Learning Conference (see attached flyer)
April 22	Transition to School Information Session (7 to 9 p.m.)
April 25	Together for Autism Day - for information or to register www.togetherforautism.ca (See attached flyer)

For more detailed information visit our website at: www.autismontario.com/york

11.2 Down Syndrome Association of York Region

1. A presentation was given to volunteers of the York Region Police as part of “Project Lifesaver”. Volunteers were informed and asked questions about Down Syndrome such as and potential behaviours of people with down syndrome, effective communication strategies, and how they may relay to volunteers entering the home to change the battery on wrist bands. Project Lifesaver combines radio technology with police rescue teams to establish a life saving system for people with risk of wandering and/or disorientation. See pamphlet attached.

2. Presentation to Down Syndrome Association of York Region on SEAC activities.

3. Networking evening to take place in May (date to be determined).

11.3 Learning Disabilities Association – York Region

On Sunday, May 4th, the LDAYR is holding their 9th Annual Vintages and Jazz fundraising event. The afternoon will offer an opportunity to sample fine Ontario wines and enjoy the food and participate in the silent auction while listening to the sound of Jazz. Tickets are \$25.00 per guest from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Atrium. Call 905-770-9377, ext. 23 for more information.

12.0 New Business

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

14.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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