

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 **May 26, 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, T. McNicol, C. Newton, A. Pizzolato

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

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

Regrets: L. Aqui, C. Laughlin, P. Whittam

Recording: C. Brinias

Guests: A. Leung, Community Living, York South

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- M. Brumwell

2.0 Prayer – M. Brumwell

3.0 Approval of Agenda for April 30, 2008 and May 26, 2008

4.0 Approval of the Minutes of March 31, 2008 and April 30, 2008

5.0 Presentations/Discussions

5.1 SEAC Meeting Dates for 2008-2009

The SEAC Meeting dates for September to December 2008 are:

- Monday, September 22, 2008
- Wednesday, October 22, 2008
- Monday, November 17, 2008
- Monday, December 15, 2008

5.2 ABA Survey Feedback

Boards are required to survey 15% of its schools regarding the implementation of PPM140. The Ministry has provided a template of the survey to be administered. The results of the school surveys are to be submitted to the Ministry by May 29, 2008, and the Board reports will be presented to Minister's Advisory Council of Special Education in early June 2008. See PowerPoint presentation attached for more information.

5.3 Safe Schools Update

As mandated by the Ministry of Education, the Board has developed the following two policies;

- Bullying Prevention
- Board Code of Conduct

Both policies will be shared with school staff and parents in September 2008.

During May and June, a school team comprised of a principal and two teachers are being inserviced on bullying prevention. In September 2008, schools have to establish a Safe and Caring School Team to assist the administration in developing a bullying prevention school plan.

Program Updates:

Feedback from parents and students attending the long term suspension programs at Holy Spirit and St. Luke Catholic Elementary School have been very positive.

5.4 Community Living York Association

Maria Agosta and Cathy Lampole provided a comprehensive presentation on the Community Living Association for York South and Newmarket/Aurora District. Their mission statements both support individuals with an intellectual disability to live, learn, work and participate in an inclusive diverse community. Community Living has grown and developed, keeping in step with the changes that have occurred in the communities of Markham, Stouffville, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Newmarket and Aurora.

With the changes in the structure of government support systems in recent years, the Association realized the need to draft a Community Support Program strategy to deal with the increasing wait lists. The Association has developed the Community support Program to assist you. The Community Support staff provides outreach services to families by working with people living at home or independently. The staff can assist individuals and families to create support systems in the community that ensure that their son/daughter is included in normal activities. The Community Support Coordinator listens to the individual and family's needs, and then connects them to available resources so they can participate.

See PowerPoint presentation and brochure attached for more information.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Third Party Protocol

A revised version of the Third Party Protocol was distributed to all committee members. Changes are marked in red font. SEAC committee to review the changes and determine at the next SEAC Meeting whether the Third Party Protocol is to remain a protocol or recommend to the Board that the document be considered a policy.

6.2 Special Education Plan – Feedback

Special Education Plan Amendments were approved by the SEAC Members.

A motion to the Board was brought forward:

SEAC acknowledges receipt of the revisions to the Special Education Plan and **RECOMMENDS THAT** the Board approve the plan as presented for submission to the Ministry of Education.

6.3 Special Education – Professional Development Day

Memo from the Ministry of Education to all school boards strongly recommends that in the 2008-2009 school year, one of the six professional development days should be related to special education.

A motion to the Board to be brought forward as follows:

SEAC acknowledges and supports the recommendation outlined in the attached memo dated April 3, 2008 from the Ministry of Education, for Boards to dedicate one of their six professional days in the 2008-2009 school year to special education.

SEAC RECOMMENDS THAT the York Catholic District School Board designate one of the six professional development days in the 2008-2009 school year, as a Special Education Professional Day.

7.0 Action Items

8.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2008:04 received by committee

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Board Agenda

April 15 and May 16, 2008 agenda was distributed to members

9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

April 2008 Report received by the committee

9.3 Student Services Inservices

April 2008 calendar was distributed to all members.

9.4 Secretarial Changes

Karen Davis-Dove is the new SEAC secretary. As well, we have AnnaMaria DiCarlo, Maria Francavilla and Denise Simmons retiring in June.

9.5 New Speech Pathologist Supervisor

Janet Littlejohn is the newly hired Speech Pathologist Supervisor to join Student Services.

10.0 Correspondence

- YCDSB Special Olympics Track & Field Meet (Elementary & Secondary) is attached.
- VocaLinks Assistive Technology Camp flyer is attached
- Letter to Hon. Kathleen Wynne is attached
- 2008-2009 School Board Calendar is attached

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region

Important dates to remember:

- May 27, 2008 – Circles program presentation
- June 13 & 14, 2008 – Autism Ontario Provincial Annual General Meeting in Markham
- June 21, 2008 – Family Fun softball day in Woodbridge

For further details and information visit the website at: www.autismontario.com/york

11.2 Downs Syndrome Association

- Annual Picnic will take place at Camp Robin Hood on June 7, 2008
- Executive Elections to elect a new president. Elizabeth Cappin stepped down as president after 8 to 10 years of service.

11.3 Community Living York South

- Table Side Chats - discussion topic to be "Settlement for parents who have a child with an intellectual disability". This will take place at the following dates and locations from 6 to 9 p.m.
 - June 4th at the Vaughan office, 136 Wings Road, Unit 6
 - June 11th at Markham Office, 144 Main Street, Unit 5
 - June 18th at Richmond Hill office, 101 Edward Avenue
 - June 25th at Lebovic Leisure Centre, 30 Burkholder Street in Stouffville
 - July 2 at Thornhill Community Centre, Fireside Lounge, 7755 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, Ontario
- Family Barbecue will take place on Tuesday, June 17th. All interested to register by June 11th by calling Sandy at 905-884-9110/905-889-5239 or 905-771-0011 ext. 600.
- Diverse-a-thon has been cancelled due to low registration
For more information visit website at www.ysacl.on.ca

12.0 New Business

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

14.0 Next Meeting: Monday, June 16, 2008

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