

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 **November 19, 2008** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: K. Bryden, A. Care, C. MacDonald, T. McNicol, C. Newton, O. Pariselli, C. Walsh-Peters, P. Whittam

Association Representatives:

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

Regrets: M. Agosta, L. Aqui, F. Bagley, , T. Ciaravella, L. Ciccone, J. Cocchetto, J. Kelterborn, C. Lampole, G. Murphym A. Pizzolato, M. Reaume

Recording: D. Cultraro

Guests: A. DePinto Cabral (York University, Special Ed),
F. Tomasi (York University, Special Ed),
L. Cording (York University, Special Ed)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- P. Whittam

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 Approval of Agenda for November 19, 2008

4.0 Approval of the Minutes for October 20, 2008

Committee received a copy of the approved Minutes for September 22, 2008

5.0 Presentations/Discussions

5.1 Special Education Budget

Guest speakers Richard Dooley and Jackie Porter from Accounting reviewed the 2007/08 and 2008/09 budgets. The final 2007/08 budget was submitted to the Ministry on November 14, 2008. The 2008/09 budget was approved by the Board in May 2008. Budgets submitted in May 2008 did not include items such as labour/salary adjustments (3% increase) and previous OPA & Code grants.

SEAC would like a revised statement to be submitted in the New Year, once approved by Board, reflecting labour/salary increases and other expenditures.

- See Budget handout

5.2 Special Education Program/Centre Long Term Tracking

During the 2007/08 school year, Student Services made a request to Information Systems to develop a report that provides information on the placement, attendance of students in Special Education Programs and Centres. This report would also provide long term information on the student's academic performance.

- See Special Education Program/Centre Long Term Tracking handout

5.3 EA Process

A review of the roles and the responsibilities assigned to Education Assistants (EA's) was provided.

EA hours are assigned to the schools and principal, in collaboration with staff, allocate hours to a student or group of students. EA hours are generated by Student Profile.

A third of the special education funding is allocated to EA staffing.

SEAC recommended that principals and teachers receive more training in how to communicate use of EA's to parents.

- See EA Criteria and Allocation presentation

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Election of Vice Chair

Paul Whittam moderated the election – Cenza Newton was nominated and position was accepted.

7.0 Action Items

8.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2008:08 received by committee

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Board Agenda

October 7 and October 21, 2008 agendas were distributed to SEAC Members.

9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

October 2008 Report received by the committee.

9.3 Student Services In-Service Calendar

October calendar distributed to SEAC Members.

10.0 Correspondence

10.1 Education Law Vol. 20, No. 2 October 2008 distributed to SEAC Members.

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region

- AutismONTARIO Provincial SEAC Training & Development held November 7 & 8, 2008 @ Holiday Inn Yorkdale. Special Guests included Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne and Minister of C&Y Services, Deb Matthews.

- PPM140 Parent Survey (Ministry of Education) currently available @ www.autismontario.com – survey closes November 30, 2008.
- AutismONTARIO Public Policy Paper – Re: Recommendations for Supports & Services for adults with ASD titled “Forgotten: Ontario Adults with Autism & Asperger’s Syndrome” was released October 15, 2008 – can be accessed @ www.autismontario.com.
- AutismONTARIO – York Region Chapter hosts Lindsay Moir November 26, 2008 – Topics to be discussed are Effective School Meetings, Meeting Management Skills, Effective Advocacy and How to Better Communicate & Prioritize Your Childs Needs. Individual appointments are available – for more info www.autismontario.com/york.

11.2 Down Syndrome Association of York Region

- Down Syndrome Awareness Week was November 1-7, 2008. DSAYR held the annual Buddy Walk at Richmond Green. In addition to raising awareness, the event raised close to \$15,000 which will be used to subsidize programs for the children (i.e. speech & language, music therapy).
- SEAC presentation to DSAYR on EA Criteria & Allocation and other initiatives – in New Year (i.e. IEP review).

11.3 Learning Disabilities

- Programs are up and running. Social skills registration starts in January.

12.0 New Business

None to report

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

13.1 ABA Presentation

**14.0 Next Meeting: Monday, December 15, 2008 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ CEC
Followed by Christmas dinner at Kingsbridge Conference
Centre (Connections Restaurant) @ 8:00 p.m.**

15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 8:56 p.m.