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 24, 2010** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	H. Adams, M. Agosta, M. Brumwell, K. Bryden, T. Ciaravella, C. Lampole, T. McNicol, C. Newton, A. Pizzolato, P. Whittam
Association Representatives:	L. Ciccone, D. Flynn, M. Reaume, S. Turrin
Administration:	F. Bagley, T. D'Acunto, C. Leger, G. Murphy, M. Paczek, L. Wilson
Regrets:	A. Care, M.E. Scriver
Recording:	D. Cultraro
Guests:	K. Amenta, Aurora/Newmarket Community Living L. Abas, Parent H. Reaume, YCDSB Consultant, Elementary S. Persad, YCDSB Chief Psychologist

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE
P. Whittam welcomed guests

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 Approval of Agenda
Approval of Agenda for November 24, 2010.
Motion – Agenda approved as amended to include under Business Arising, SEAC Elections, Lee Wilson Announcement and PAAC Handbook (Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee).

4.0 Approval of the Minutes
Approval of Minutes October 19, 2010.
Motion – Minutes approved.

5.0 SEAC Report to Board
Report 2010:08 was distributed and received by committee.

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Board Agenda
November 9, 2010 agenda was distributed and received by committee.

6.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs
N/A.

6.3 Student In-Services Calendar
November and December 2010 calendars were distributed and received by committee.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Education Law Vol 22, No. 1 September 2010 was distributed and received by committee.

7.2 Education Law Vol 22, No. 2 October 2010 was distributed and received by committee.

7.3 Ministry of Education Minutes for the Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education was distributed and received by committee.

7.4 Ministry of Children and Youth Services October 2010 MACSE Updates was distributed and received by committee.

7.5 Report to the Minister of Education's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) – October 14, 2010 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Update on Ministry Activities was distributed and received by committee.

8.0 Presentations/Discussions

8.1 Threat Management

Dr. Schrine Persad, Chief Psychologist and Geraldine Murphy, Coordinator, Secondary presented the YCDSB Student Threat Management protocol/process (Safe Schools Policy 202). The YCDSB has been and is committed to creating and maintaining school environments where students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Any threat of violence will not be ignored by our schools.

All staff and students will be informed of this process and what's available to them as support. Communicating this information to every staff member, parents and students is important.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint presentation.

8.2 GAGGLE – Promoting Literacy through Email

Helen Reaume, YCDSB Elementary Consultant for Area 4 presented the YCDSB Promoting Literacy through Email. The E-Mail Literacy – Multi-Media Project is based on research from Closing the Gap: Assistive Technology. Students are partnered with e-mail pen-pals from other schools in the York Catholic District School Board. Accounts have been purchased and set-up through www.gaggle.net, a safe and secure e-mail provider. Daily letter-writing sessions are used to draft, revise and complete one e-mail correspondence per week. Skill development is targeted in the areas of motivation for writing, written expression, reading, word processing, and social skills. Student e-mail account log-in and password are used at school with supervision**,** to ensure confidentiality and privacy. Use of Inspiration/Kidspiration, Word Q and/or Clicker 5 software will be implemented to facilitate letter-writing sessions.

For those students participating in the Multi-Media Powerpoint Books initiative, students assume the role of school photographer, using the digital camera to photograph school events. Digital photographs are downloaded to create interactive multi-media books which are shared with pen-pal partners. Real-life activities will stimulate literacy skills based on meaningful experiences and accessing prior knowledge.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint presentation.

9.0 Business Arising

9.1 SEAC Elections

At the January 26, 2011 meeting, SEAC nominations and elections for chair and co-chairs will take place.

9.2 Lee Wilson Announcement

Lee Wilson announced that she is stepping down after 11-1/2 years as Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners effective January 1, 2011.

9.3 PAAC - Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee

Handbook was distributed. Please review. Discussions will take place at the January 26th, 2011 SEAC meeting.

10.0 Action Items

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 Down Syndrome Association of York Region

See attached DSAYR Programs or visit www.dsayr.on.ca for more information.

11.2 Kinark Child & Family Services

TAMI presentation was held on November at the YCDSB. It was a great success.

12.0 Items for Future Agendas

12.1 YCDSB plan for Services for Students with Special Needs/Special Education Needs and the Early Learning Program in Year 1 2010-2011

12.2 GAGGLE Update

12.3 Review of PAAC - Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee

14.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Boardroom at CEC followed by dinner at Fellini's Italian Eatery.

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