

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 **September 28, 2011** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: H. Adams, M. Agosta, C. Amenta, K. Bryden, C. Newton, T. McNicol, M.E. Scriver, B. Sheppard, H. Sirola, M. Vaessen-Kurz, P. Whittam

Association Representatives: D. Flynn

Administration: F. Bagley, T. D'Acunto, C. Leger, G. Murphy, M. Paczek

Regrets: T. Ciaravella, N. Colatosti, C. Ferlisi, M. Reaume R. Shepherd, S. Turrin,

Recording: D. Cultraro

Guests: Cathy Craig, Supervisor Physical/Occupational Therapists
 Maria Paczek, Co-ordinator, ASD
 Cathy Leger, Co-ordinator, Special Programs, Elementary
 Geraldine Murphy, Co-ordinator, Special Programs, Secondary
 Ruth McCreight, OECTA & Teacher Notre Dame
 Mary Brumwell, Early Intervention Services
 Mr. Larry Abas, Parent
 Matthew Abas, Student
 Haley Newton, Student

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

P. Whittam welcomed guests

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Approval of Agenda for September 28, 2011.
 Motion – Agenda approved.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

Approval of Minutes June 20, 2011.
 Motion – Minutes approved.

5.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2011:06 was distributed and received by committee.

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Board Agenda

July 2, July 5, August 30 and September 20, 2011 agendas were distributed and received by committee.

6.2 Student In-Services Calendar

September and October 2011 calendars were distributed and received by committee.

7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Near North District School Board letter to the Minister of Education regarding Special Education Survey for Parents, Caregivers and Stakeholders
- 7.2 Near North District School Board letter to the Minister of Education regarding the need for on-site mental health workers in Ontario schools
- 7.3 Near North District School Board letter to the Minister of Education regarding Special Education funding
- 7.4 Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care Memo to Directors of Education et al regarding Services for Students with Special Needs/Special Education Needs and the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (FDK) in Year 2 (2011-12)

8.0 Presentations/Discussions**8.1 Early Intervention Services (EIS)**

Mary Brumwell, Supervisor, Community & Health Services and Mary Ellen Scriver, Early Interventionist presented an overview on Early Intervention Services, Regional Municipality of York Community and Health Services Department – Social Services Branch. Early Intervention Services delivers programs that support children with special needs and their families.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint.

8.2 Summer Computer Camps

Cathy Craig, Supervisor, Physical Management & Occupational Therapy presented an overview of the Vocalinks Summer Assistive Technology Camps. This is the tenth year that the YCDSB delivers this program for both students and parents. They are provided with opportunities to learn the different technological softwares. The camps are designed to reinforce the many strengths of students with learning disabilities, while offering them the tools to tackle their unique learning challenges. The parent portion offers a facilitated forum for exploration of the many strategies to support a child with a learning disability.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint.

8.3 Transition to School Summer Program - ASD Summer Camps

Maria Paczek, ASD Coordinator, presented an overview of the ASD Summer Programs:

1. The 2nd annual Transition to Summer School in partnership with Autism Ontario for primary aged students.
2. Summer Institute for Teachers presented by SSP Kinark Consultants
3. TEACCH 2009 focused on TEACCH strategies, which fits well with the SETT framework and ABA strategies.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint.

8.4 Referral Process

Cathy Leger, Co-ordinator Special Programs Elementary, Geraldine Murphy, Co-ordinator Special Programs Secondary presented Accessing Student Services and Special Education Programs – A tiered Approach to Intervention.

HANDOUT: See PowerPoint.

9.0 Business Arising

- 9.1 Lee Wilson is retiring from the YCDSB. Her retirement celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at the Eagle's Nest Golf & Country Club. Invitations will be emailed to the SEAC Members/Committee.

10.0 Action Items

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter

Sponsoring York ASD Partnership Launch – October 4, 2011. The YCDSB was thanked for their participation. The association also thanked Sue LaRosa for accepting the invitation to speak at the launch.

Autism Ontario Provincial SEAC training weekend is October 21 & 22, 2011 in Toronto

12.0 Items for Future Agendas

12.1 YCDSB Plan for Students with Special Needs/Special Education Needs & the Early Learning Program in Year 1 2010-2011

12.2 Agency Presentations

- Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter – January 23, 2012
- Down Syndrome Association – February 27, 2012
- Learning Disabilities Association – York Region – March 26, 2012
- Community Living Newmarket and York South – December 20, 2011
- The Easter Seal Society – April 23, 2012
- Kinark Child and Family Services – May 28, 2012

12.4 EA/EI Allocations (January/February 2012)

12.5 School Communication Protocol for Parents with Children serviced by Special Education (October 2011)

12.6 Inclusionary practices within schools

13.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at CEC.

14.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 9:10 p.m.