

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 22, 2008** at the Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Agosta, L. Aqui, K. Bryden, A. Care, T. Ciaravella, C. Lampole, C. MacDonald, T. McNicol, C. Newton, A. Pizzolato, P. Whittam

Association Representatives: L. Ciccone, J. Cocchetto, M. Reaume, R. Shepherd

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

Regrets: J. Kelterborn

Recording: C. Brinias, D. Cultraro

Guests: M. Morgielewicz

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

- P. Whittam

2.0 Prayer – P. Whittam

3.0 Approval of Agenda for September 22, 2008

4.0 Approval of the Minutes for June 16, 2008

Committee received a copy of the approved Minutes for May 26, 2008

5.0 Presentations/Discussions

5.1 A Shared Responsibility Report - Highlights

In 2006 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) released Ontario's first Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health, entitled *A Shared Responsibility*. The Framework sets the strategic direction for change in the delivery of child and youth mental health services and supports over the next decade.

A product of cross-sectoral collaboration, which included one year of province-wide discussions with over 300 participants from a very wide range of government and community partners, the framework articulates four overarching goals:

- a coordinated, collaborative and integrated system
- timely access to services for children, youth and their families/caregivers
- enhanced ability to respond to child and youth mental health issues at all levels of need
- an accountable, well-managed sector.

The framework recognizes that child and youth mental health is a shared responsibility. It is designed to foster collaboration amongst everyone who shares responsibility for the healthy development of Ontario's children and youth: families/caregivers, schools, communities, service providers, government and all child- and youth-serving sectors.

To learn more about Ontario's Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health, please visit www.gov.on.ca/children/english/resources/needs/STEL02_179873.html

Continuum of Needs-Based Services and Supports

The framework is based on a key concept: a *Continuum of needs-based services and supports*. The Continuum recognizes that mental health services and supports range from functions such as health promotion/illness prevention for children who are not currently experiencing mental health problems, through to functions related to highly specialized services to address children with severe, complex needs.

- See Continuum of Needs-Based Services and Supports Level A-D attached for more information.

5.2 School Board Special Education Program & Financial Pilot Review

In 2007 the province conducted pilots across the province to review Special Education Programs and Financials in preparation for the provincial Auditor General. The YCDSB was selected to be one of the pilots for review. Several focus groups were interviewed by a ministry team such as principals, teachers, parents, community groups and SEAC members. The ministry released its findings to the board with key recommendations for consideration. The YCDSB has developed a plan in response to the recommendations.

- See Summary of Recommendations attached.

5.3 Educational Assistant(s) Assignment to Schools

Discussion around the new process of how Educational Assistants are assigned to schools.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Special Education budget update.

7.0 Action Items

8.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2008:06 received by committee

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Board Agenda

July 2 and August 26, 2008 agendas were distributed to members

9.2 Report to the Directors: SE/IPRCs

June 2008 Report received by the committee

9.3 Highlights of Folder

- Resource Staff Allocations 2008/09
- Student Services Secretary Assignments
- SEAC Meeting Dates 2008-2009
- SEAC – Terms of Reference 2008-2009

- SEAC Membership List 2008-2009
- School Year Calendar 2008-2009
- List of Centres 2008-2009
- Special Education Inservice Calendar

10.0 Correspondence

11.0 Association Reports

11.1 AutismONTARIO - York Region

- Autism Ontario York Region Chapter would like to thank our Board for its collaboration and participation in the transition to school program.
- It was a very successful and well received program and the feedback was very positive.
- It was a pleasure to work with all those involved in this program with a very special thank you to Maria Paczek & Angela Cabraja for their enthusiasm and hard work in making this happen for our families.

11.2 Down Syndrome Association of York Region

- Community Partners Open House – October 16/November 12
 - DSAYR will be represented
- Chatterboxes Program – 2nd semester stats – September 23
 - Focus on speech and language therapy
- Buddy Walk – Sunday, November 2 at Richmond Green
 - This fundraising day allows for DSAYR subsidy for several programs
- Music Therapy – next set of services begins October 4

11.3 Early Intervention Services

- CARF accreditation went well on September 17, 18 & 19. The official results will be announced in 4 to 6 weeks.

11.4 Kinark Child & Family Services

The review of intake procedures completed and new system installed. This will ensure decreased wait lists and match clients to the most appropriate service. Clients are triaged and assessed and provided with up to 4 sessions to provide immediate assistance. The Intake-Triage Interview sessions is now called Direct Response.

12.0 New Business

13.0 Items for Future Agendas

- 13.1** Long Term Program Tracking Tool
- 13.2** EA Criteria
- 13.2** Special Education Budget

14.0 Next Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2008

15.0 Motion to adjourn meeting was made. Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.