



The Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Catholic Education Centre.

- Present (Members of SEAC): Granville Anderson, Bev Aitkenhead, Maria Castiglione, Annette Watson, Allyson DeNoble, Gail D'Arcy
- Present Administration: Dale Godin, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Mariutti, Administrative Assistant
- Resource: Deb Heslinga, Coordinator of Special Education
- Absent: Kathy Dunne, Camille Parent  
*Excused from attendance by motion of SEAC*
- Absent: Tracy Simmons, Lise van Laar
- Guest: Nicole Cumby, Special Education Consultant and Mary Hagerty, ABA Facilitator

### A. Call to order:

1. In the absence of Chair and Vice-Chair, Acting Chair Granville Anderson called the meeting to order and asked Deb to lead the group in prayer.
2. Approval of the Agenda.  
Mover: Maria Castiglione  
Seconder: Annette Watson  
Vote: Carried
3. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.
4. Excusal from Attendance  
R.A. That, Kathy Dunne, Camille Parent be excused from attendance at the September 17, 2009 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.  
Mover: Allyson DeNoble  
Seconder: Annette Watson  
Vote: Carried.

**B. Recommended Action:**

1. Approval of the Minutes of June 18, 2009.  
Mover: Gail D'Arcy  
Seconded: Annette Watson  
Vote: Carried.
2. Business Arising from the Minutes  
No business arising from the minutes.
3. Remarks from Chairperson  
Granville welcomed everyone to the first SEAC meeting of the year, and suggested that Dale as the new Superintendent of Special Education has awfully big shoes to fill.
4. Remarks from Superintendent of Schools
  - Dale thanked Granville for the comment, welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time out of their evening to attend tonight's meeting.
  - Dale shared his professional background and experience with the committee. All students benefit and learn from being with exceptional students. The Board is grateful for the background and expertise you bring in support of our special needs students.
  - Proud of our accomplishments and will continue to move forward with the wonderful work we are doing.
  - Positive feedback from principals regarding PD in a box;
  - Section 23 program has moved to a new location on Lansdowne Street;
  - EA hours have been allocated, due to declining enrolment there are less EA hours. Special Education Consultants continue to assess the schools needs;
  - Congratulations to Steve Egan and St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Campbellford who were awarded the inaugural Mary Cook Inclusive Education Award presented by Community Living Campbellford and Brighton.
5. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Facilitator Presentation  
Nicole Cumby, Special Education Consultant, shared some background information on PPM 140 and its mandate in the use of programs involving ABA for students with ASD. Mary Hagerty, ABA Facilitator, explained ABA and the role of the Facilitator.
6. Special Education Board Plan Review  
Deb distributed a one page snapshot of the Board Plan.  
If there is a specific area you would like to review in depth please let us know at the November meeting and it will be added to the January agenda.
7. Engaging Parents of Special Needs document review  
Information attached to agenda.  
Members divided into groups to discuss. Highlights:  
  
Relationships: communication between parents and school; the use of communication books in addition to student's agenda book – parents need communication on a daily basis.

Leadership: School boards have a responsibility to make parents aware of resources as well as give parents the ability to access those resources, (one page map of how to access resources); What role can the School Council Play?; SEAC is an important piece to help get information out to parents and the community.

Student Achievement: challenge to engage parents; constantly looking for strategies to engage parents; what are the best ways to communicate with parents; diversity appears to be a common threat in many Ministry documents – school boards need to be aware and support diversity.

8. Transitioning to Schools

Deb reviewed the background of the project that included a communication poster of a train highlighting services. It originally began in the City of Kawartha Lake, now has been adapted for Peterborough City and County for Children Birth to 6 years old. Next year we hope to adapt it to Northumberland County.

The process also uses one form for school entry and is used by KPR, Five Counties Children Centre as well as other agencies and as of September 2009.

9. Reports from Members

**Maria Castiglione**

Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough

- Computers for Literacy Development – ready to start the fall session – September 20, 2009 in the satellite offices of Northumberland and Clarington and September 28, 2009 for the City of Kawartha Lakes;
- New program in the City of Kawartha Lakes entitled *New Horizons Seniors for Learning* to be held in Bobcageon. Seniors will be matched with elementary students to work on literacy development;
- Learning Disabilities of Peterborough was awarded the *Spirit Award* by United Way CKL;
- 64 students participated in the SOAR program, Spring – Summer 2009 in Peterborough, Northumberland, Clarington and City of Kawartha Lakes. Grade 7-9 students learned about self-awareness, learning strategies and self advocacy.

**Bev Aitkenhead**

Central East Community Care Access Centre

- Peterborough, Northumberland, Port Hope, & Haliburton areas more structured service delivery model: speech – block of visits within 4 months, therapy break for 4 months then reassess for an additional break; occupational therapy – block of visits over 6 months, therapy break for 6 months, then reassess for an additional break. The model is applicable for all areas except Clarington including Port Hope and Haliburton.
- Speech waiting list – picking up from July 2008;
- Occupational Therapy waiting list – picking up from March 2009.

**Allyson DeNoble**

Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough

- Ran a successful summer school program for three weeks in August at St. Peter secondary school;
- Running a local respite home on Brock Street in Peterborough.

**Annette Watson**Five Counties Children Centre

No report

**Deb Heslinga**Coordinator of Special Education Services

- SERT meeting was held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, topics included the new Ministry electronic version of the IEP, Speech/Language services, Role of the SERT as well as Specialized Equipment and special education forms;
- New SERT meeting ( approximately 20 new SERTS) attended an inservice on September 15, 2009; topics included Resources, Programs IEPs, Equipment
- Principal meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 topics included Role of the SERT – reviewing priorities/consistency across the system; Spinclusion
- New resources for SERTs – *You, Me and My OT* (available at Chapters or ([www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca)) and *Fine Motor Activities* by Janet Finlay of Community Advantage Rehabilitation (CAR) this was provided for all SERTs.

9. Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)

- Dale spoke about this joint project between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The goal of this initiative is to encourage school boards and community agencies to form and strengthen partnerships, increase levels of awareness, remove barriers and create efficiencies in delivering service to children and families.
- Nancy McCarthy and Dr. Brian Desbiens are leading the initiative for Peterborough, Northumberland and Clarington. We have asked them to do a presentation at a future SEAC meeting.

10. Best Practice (Annette Watson)

Occupational Therapy journal article on sensory and its importance ( ie. applications for Board to integrate sensory components into their programming). Some standardized assessments now indicate some children have differences in their behaviour that fall into certain patterns (sensory integrative dysfunction) i.e. poor organization, clumsy etc. The question is knowing “How best to intervene?”  
The goal would be to enhancing the child’s ability to participate in daily occupations. (school – reading, writing, following classroom expectations and routines).

**Old Business****New Business****C. Information Items****D. Future Meeting Items**

1. Communication Book (Deb Heslinga)
2. Service Dogs Presentation
3. Policy 406: Accessibility & Barrier Free
4. Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)
5. EQAO results

**E. Selection of a Member for Opening and Closing Prayers**  
Bev Aitkenhead

**F. Selection of a Member to Share a “Best Practice”**  
Deb Heslinga

**G. Future Meeting Date and Location**  
Thursday, October 22, 2009  
Holy Family Catholic Elementary School  
125 Aspen Springs Drive  
Bowmanville, L1C 0C6  
7:00 – 9:30 P.M.

**H. Conclusion**

1. Closing Prayer  
Deb closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment  
Mover: Bev Aitkenhead  
Seconded: Allyson DeNoble  
Vote: Carried