

The Notes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at Pope John Paul II, Lindsay.

Present (Members of SEAC): Bev Aitkenhead, Maria Castiglione, Camille Parent, Allyson DeNoble, Tracy Simmons

Present Administration: Dale Godin, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Mariutti, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Kathy Dunne, Granville Anderson, Annette Watson, Gail D'Arcy, Lise van Laar

Guest: Nancy McCarthy, Retired Principal; Dawn Michie, Principal Pope John Paul II; Marion Stewart and Eric Hansen, Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Due to the lack of quorum, the meeting commenced, however the committee was unable to move any recommended action

A. Call to order:

1. Approval of the Agenda.
No quorum
2. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.
3. Excusal from Attendance
No quorum.

B. Recommended Action:

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 17, 2009.
No quorum
2. Business Arising from the Minutes
Deferred
3. Dawn Michie, Principal, welcomed SEAC to Pope John Paul II CES and gave an overview of the student community at the school. Pope John Paul II has 212 students and hosts one of the Empower programs.
4. Remarks from Chairperson
Bev thanked everyone for coming.
5. Remarks from Superintendent of Schools

IEP training forum held in Barrie, Board team included Dale, Deb Heslinga, Elaine Mason and Tracy Simmons. Information distributed and reviewed. Tracy noted the presentation was enthusiastic, good use of time and a very positive experience. (copy enclosed);

Highlights of the RSEC meeting (committee of Superintendents responsible for Special Education from across the province);

- > PPM 149 – Boards must have protocol by January 2010
- > Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)
- > electronic IEP across the province
- > Special education funding increase of 49 million across the province
- > Special Education Board Plan – transition year, board plans to be incorporated into the Board's improvement plans;
- > IBI – ministry plan for Boards to have transition plan in place to transition students from IBI to ABA;
- > Auditor General has proposed the question “How do you know you are getting good value for increased dollars?” to the Special Education Branch.

6. Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)

Nancy McCarthy, Partnership Facilitator, gave an informative presentation on the Student Support Leadership Initiative. (SSLI)

SSLI is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Child and Youth Services and was developed in response to changes to the safe schools provisions of the Education Act and related Policy/Program Memoranda.

School Boards and community agencies are being asked to work together to establish/enhance local partnerships in geographic clusters across the province.

SEAC was asked for input. Members were asked to fill out the survey on the last page of the presentation handout (enclosed with minutes). Completed surveys may be emailed to Nancy at nmccarthy@cogeco.ca or they may be submitted to Susan or Bev who will forward to Nancy.

7. Deaf Education

Marion Stewart and Eric Hansen, Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, presented the different hearing aids used by students; difference between hearing and language; and the stigma faced by students wearing hearing aids. Consistency is key to success; self advocacy and ownership. Passionate presentation.

8. Communication Book

Deferred

9. Reports from Members

Maria Castiglione

Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough

- > IEP 101 at www.ldaolarning.ca
- > Funding to offer a high school program; tutoring students who are having a hard time adjusting to secondary school; program consists of 2 hours with a tutor and 1 hour of independent learning.

Bev Aitkenhead

Central East Community Care Access Centre

- Speech pick up – Peterborough, October 2008 ;
- New model engage teachers
- Occupational Therapy waiting list – picking up from August 2009, model working well: more engagement with Parents.
- New Model: *one patient one record*; exchange of reports and assessment will be shared and seamless between the different areas; goal is for province wide.

Allyson DeNoble

Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough

- Let your organizations know that Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough have opened a respite home on Brock St., GLEBE HOUSE, for parents who need a break for a few hours to a weekend away from their child. Full time staff 24 hours a day. Telephone number 742-1603

Tracy Simmons

Tri-County Community Support Services

- Please check www.respiteworkertraining.ca for some of our workshops
- Please to announce that one of our therapist is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst
- Lego workshop for Tri-county clients (Social Skills). Pilot starts Jan 2010.

9. Best Practice (*Dale Godin*)

Communication Book handout distributed to members. (copy will accompany notes)
Dale reviewed and discussed the handout. He explained what should be included, a celebration of the day's activities. A communication book is not the place for in depth communication with parent; a role of the teacher not the support worker. What works for one student doesn't necessarily work for another.

Old Business

New Business

1. Dale welcomed SEAC to the upcoming presentation on Equity and Inclusive Education by Randall Lindsey. This will be held in at St. Francis of Assisi CES in Newcastle on January 13, 2010 at 7 p.m.
Present members discussed and agreed to reschedule October 2009 SEAC meeting to the professional development evening on January 13, 2010.

C. Information Items

D. Future Meeting Items

1. Service Dogs Presentation
2. Policy 406: Accessibility & Barrier Free
3. EQAO results
4. Feedback from members regarding the Shared Solutions survey results which were attached to November agenda. (January)
5. Discussion re: OACRS – The voice for children with Multiple Disabilities article. (attached to January agenda)

E. Selection of a Member for Opening and Closing Prayers

Maria Castiglione

F. Selection of a Member to Share a “Best Practice”
Tracy Simmons

G. Future Meeting Date and Location
Thursday, January 21, 2010
Catholic Education Centre
Peterborough
7:00 – 9:30 P.M.

H. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer
Bev closed the meeting with prayer.