



Wellington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Wednesday, March 26, 2008

MINUTES

Attendance:

SEAC Members: D. Watson, T. O'Regan, and John Hollen

Regrets: G. Lavalley, V. Dupuis

Program Staff: D. DiBartolomeo, Superintendent of Program
E. Clinton, Principal of Student Learning and Achievement
B. Tersigni, Special Education Co-ordinator

Guests: J. Furfaro, Trustee
T. Laxton, Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School
C. Bell, SERT, Sacred Heart Catholic School
J. VanDenheuvel, SERT, Sacred Heart Catholic School
M. McCuen, Safe School/ Bullying Prevention Project Lead
J. Basso, Principal, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
D. Mencfeld, Vice-Principal and SERT, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
E. Zen, SERT, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
S. Newcombe, Member of the Wellington County Learning Disabilities Assoc.

Session A: 7:00 – 7:45 pm

1. Call To Order

1.1 J. Furfaro opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:06pm

2. Review of SEAC October Meeting Minutes

2.1 Received minutes (no quorum)

3. Additional Agenda Items

3.1 Correspondence and information – Special Olympics

D. Mencfeld, Vice-Principal, St. Francis of Assisi and Special Olympics co-chair reported:

-The Special Olympics is scheduled for May 21st this year

-The planning committee is researching the possibility of combining Paralympics with Special Olympics in future

4. Approval of the Agenda

4.1 Agenda was received with the additional item of the Special Olympics

5. Actions to be Taken

5.1 No actions to be taken

6. School Presentation: “Updated Profiles & School Planning for Student Success

- 6.1 **Sacred Heart – Updated School Profile:** T. Laxton, Principal, reported:
- Total enrollment 238
 - Total exceptional students 53 (11 Primary, 20 Junior and 23 Intermediate)
 - 13 students yet to be identified
 - Youth Worker 40 minutes per day crisis support, 30 minutes per day walk-ins + support to Principal
 - 5 school recommendations for Psychological Assessment

School Planning for Student Success

- Catholic Scripture, values and virtues constant reference point for staff and students
- Tutors in the classroom; one in grade 3 and one in grade 6
- Volunteers to assist in Primary classes
- Faculty of Ed. Teacher for seven weeks
- SERT providing direct classroom support most mornings
- Physical fitness initiatives
- Youth Worker provides individual and group counseling, crisis management, behavioral and emotional support
- Primary teachers using data walls, running records, DRA assessments and flexible groupings for literacy
- Junior/Intermediate teachers focusing on reading comprehension
- Literacy team looking to establish a Literacy Club & Literacy Cart
- Strong Start to assist JK and Grade 1 students
- Ready for School program to support parents of children about to enter JK
- Junior Tutor program to teach literacy skills after school to grade 4/5
- Homework club
- HEART program – anti-bullying and reinforcing of good behavior – responding to demands of Bill 212

Additional Strategies

- Strategic splits JK/SK, 4/5, 7/8
- Special Education Resource Teacher covering EA breaks
- Extensive in-servicing
- Behavior logs for unstructured times

Future Considerations

- More programming for our Autistic students
- Increase in direct service time
- Life skills program support for needy students
- Social Worker to help with programming for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
- Youth Worker to work with grades 1, 2 and 7
- Autism Spectrum Disorder School support team to assist with programming
- Support for SK students transitioning to Grade 1
- Additional SERT direct service time

Heart Program – M. McCuen reported:

- Objective of project is to implement a Bullying and Violence Prevention Program, with emphasis on complete school engagement
- Pilot school is Sacred Heart
- Current program is “We Have HEART”; Healthy, Empathetic, Anti-violent, Respectful, Togetherness
- Certificates are issued when staff and or students display any “HEART” behavior
- Program will run in conjunction with other activities that place emphasis on positive peer interactions

- 6.2 **St. Francis of Assisi – Updated School Profile:** – J. Basso, D. Mencfeld and E. Zen reported:
- Current enrolment 462
 - Full time staff 24
 - Seven full time EA's
 - .5 Youth Worker
 - 1.3 SERT
 - Speech/Language Pathologist Caseload 41
 - Library .7
 - Four student teacher candidates from Laurier University
 - Total IPRC 22; 6 Autistic, 1 Behavior, 3 Developmental, 1 Physical Disability; remaining exceptional students are learning disability and language impairment
 - 17 of IEP's non-identified
 - Seven students on action plans
 - 33 students with English Language Learner profiles requiring ELL programming
 - Two Special Needs students entering JK in 2008 (Autism and Developmental Delay)

School Planning for Student Success

- Mini Data wall for each classroom
- Youth Worker groups: Peer Buddies, Peer Mediators, Salvaging Sisterhood, and Classroom Presentations

Technology

- Two students using personal laptops and scanners
- Two students using Headsprout Program
- Three students using Ultra Key Program
- 12 + two Special Ed. Computers in library hub, two additional Spec. Ed. Computers in SERT room

Additional Strategies:

- Teachers, YW, SERT and EA's participated in Behaviour Zone workshop
- SLP, ASD Consultant, Teacher, SERT and EA's participated in PEC's Training
- Numerous consultations with the District's contracted School Psychologist
- Approval for two Psychological Assessments
- Meeting with EA's once per term; revised schedules one per term to reflect changing needs
- Literacy Carts; surveyed student interest with an emphasis on boys' literacy
- DASH program; YMCA/Staff – organized interactive games
- Five students will be participating in the upcoming Special Olympics
- Celebration Assemblies, Falcon Feats – recognition of students' accomplishments inside and outside of school

Session B: 7:45 – 8:45 pm

7. Presentations/Discussion Items/Reports

- 7.1 **School Visits; Information Gathering Process** – D. DiBartolomeo reported:
- D. DiBartolomeo, E. Clinton and MB Tersigni have been visiting schools to meet with school teams to discuss present and 2008-2009 Special Education school programming and support plans for special needs students
 - An observation through school reviews is that Special Education becomes all encompassing at times to include other areas such as English Language Learners, Positive Student Behaviour Programs, students achieving below grade expectations, safe schools and student disengagement
 - Important to continue to review and build capacity at all levels toward student achievement and evidence based programs and practice with respect to student engagement, achievement and special needs
 - A report will be formulated from the school visitations to assist with programming planning for 2008-2009

- 7.2 **Strategic Planning; SEAC Perspective** – D. DiBartolomeo recommended:
- That our SEAC engage in a strategic planning session at our future SEAC meetings to establish future goals and next steps for the committee
 - SEAC members agreed and recommended that SEAC strategic planning be included for our next meeting
- 7.3 **Review of Special Education Plan; Amendment Year** – D. DiBartolomeo reported:
- The Board is required to provide amendments for the Board Special Education plan on an annual basis
 - The major change last year was the revised IEP
 - Each section of the Plan will be reviewed, and updates added where applicable
 - Areas such as training for EA's, measurable IEP's, Autism Spectrum Disorder School Support Team
 - A summative report will be provided to SEAC for review and endorsement prior to forwarding the report to our Board of Trustees for final approval
 - The draft amendment report is targeted for SEAC review at our May meeting

8. Special Education Advisory Committee Agency Reports

- 8.1 Deferred

Session C: 8:45 – 9:00 pm

9. Correspondence

S. Newcombe reported:

- Learning Disabilities workshop to be held April 7th, focus on types of accommodations for post secondary
- Workshop in May (date to be determined); focus to be on "how to get yourself identified". This event is geared towards adults with learning disabilities with the intent to lead up to the conference in 2009 regarding adults with LD and ADHD
- September: parent discussion on parenting children with behavioral disabilities; this will be a discussion rather than a workshop
- Goal is to make more people aware that the Learning Disabilities Association exists

10. Future Agenda Items

- 10.1 SEAC Strategic Planning

11. Review of Meeting Outcomes

- 11.1 Deferred

12. Next Meeting

- 12.1 April 23, 2008

13. Adjournment

- 13.1 Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.