



# Wellington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Thursday, November 20, 2008

## MINUTES

### Attendance:

**SEAC Members:** D. Watson, T. O'Regan, V. Dupuis and G. Lavalley

**Regrets:** J. Hollen and S. Newcombe

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

**Guests:** Denise Smith, Autism Ontario, Wellington Chapter

### 1. Call To Order

- 1.1 E. Clinton opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 1.2 T. O'Regan welcomed D. Smith; introductions were made, and an overview of SEAC meetings provided.
- 1.3 D. DiBartolomeo announced that he would be on leave, working for the Ministry of Education, effective January 5, 2009 to January 3, 2011.

### 2. Discussion Items/Reports

#### 2.1 SEAC Goals for 2008-2009

T. O'Regan reviewed three goals set out in the October meeting:

- 1) A SEAC brochure to be produced
- 2) A summative report based on SEAC meetings and school presentations to be present to the Board of Trustees
- 3) Dedication of one SEAC meeting to invite all program staff

D. DiBartolomeo advised that program staff would proceed to build a draft of the brochure and present it to SEAC. Members agreed that they would provide feedback.

D. DiBartolomeo asked for a consensus from the group with regard to a timeline for presentation of the draft summative report to the Board of Trustees. It was agreed that schools would be asked to submit their reports to the Board by February 2009.

It was agreed that program staff will be invited to the February SEAC meeting, and that the agenda will be limited to this and school presentations only.

#### 2.2 Special Education District P.A. Day – December 5<sup>th</sup>

D. DiBartolomeo advised members that a committee of 20 people has been organizing the P.A. Day that is for the whole District.

E. Clinton provided an overview of the day and advised that the goal is to respond to the ongoing call to support staff working in the classroom with children with behaviour and mental health challenges. The day's focus is "We Are Called By Name to Create a Culture of Caring".

E. Clinton provided information on each speaker for the day and their topic.

E. Clinton extended an invitation to SEAC members to register on line and attend.

### **2.3 School Presentations: Schedule & Presentation Template**

D. DiBartolomeo introduced the draft template for school presentations and asked for feedback from the group.

V. Dupuis expressed concern that under the tiered model, tier one had not been included in the template. The consensus was to include all three tiers on the front of the template (successful classroom and school interventions that have improved student achievement for students) and the back of the template would include gaps related to the required training and instructional implementation to improve student achievement for students' learning needs. It was also determined to remove the reference to classroom ratios.

D. DiBartolomeo advised that a second draft would be sent to SEAC members for feedback.

### **2.4 EQAO Results for Special Education**

D. DiBartolomeo reported that Directors of Education across the province would be reporting on EQAO data on special needs students, including Aboriginal and English Language Learners. D. DiBartolomeo pointed out that EQAO is data that should help inform however, there is an achievement gap due to gender, English Language Learners and students receiving special education. The annual report must refer to these gaps; the focus is to improve achievement, increase confidence in public education and reduce the gaps.

### **2.5 CODE Project Update**

D. DiBartolomeo advised that M.B. Tersigni, C. Chaput and E. Clinton attend the summit and presented what the WCDSB project looked like and how they worked with 33 classroom teachers to meet the needs of special education students.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.