

Wellington Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Wednesday, December 16, 2009

MINUTES

Attendance:

SEAC Members: G. Lavalley (Chair), S. Newcombe (Vice-Chair), V. Dupuis, T. O'Regan, K. Zamin, M.E. McIlroy, C. Rickards

Regrets: J. Hollen,

Guests: J. Furfaro, Trustee
E. Lambert, Educational Assistant, Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School
S. Murphy, Educational Assistant, Holy Rosary

Program Staff: L. Clifford, Superintendent of Education
E. Clinton, Principal of Alternative Education
N. Linforth, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order – G. Lavalley called the meeting to order.
L. Clifford led in prayer

2. Review of SEAC Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept minutes – S. Newcombe
- Seconded by V. Dupuis. Moved.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 New Members – G. Lavalley asked everyone to introduce themselves, and welcomed new members, M.E. McIlroy and C. Rickards

3.2 Request of Funds from Ministry for Psychological Assessments

- L. Clifford noted a trend in Northern Boards as they do not have clinical psychologists at their disposal; recommended we receive and read letters from other Boards, but not proceed with any action as WCDSB is able to facilitate majority of psychological assessment referrals from last year
- E. Clinton advised that WCDSB uses services of Board psychologist and partners with University of Guelph and local agencies and also advised that since WCDSB purchases the services for psychological assessments, we do not have a wait list
- Discussion followed; V. Dupuis suggested we do not send a letter from WCDSB SEAC Committee to the Ministry; G. Lavalley agreed; moved by V. Dupuis, S. Newcombe – carried.

3.3 IEP Ministry of Education Inservice Update from Wednesday, December 9th

– L. Clifford and S. Newcombe

- S. Newcombe advised that she attended a Ministry of Education inservice regarding the IEP (Individual Education Plan) process, based on 14 recommendations from the Auditor General. The expectation is that all Boards will have a process in place to review the IEP process. One of the main areas of focus is to reduce the number of students getting services that have no IEP in place.
- L. Clifford advised that he would like to dedicate a SEAC meeting to a presentation of the IPRC (Identification and Placement Recommendation Committee) process that leads to the IEP
- A provincial report is expected in January or February
- Discussion followed

- 3.4 EA (Educational Assistant) Presentation – E. Lambert and S. Murphy**
- L. Clifford advised that we are partners in special education and that EA's are a vital part of staff in delivering IEP in program; currently have 127.5 EA's on staff, including temporary staff
 - L. Clifford acknowledged that the work of an EA is very challenging and asked that E. Lambert describe her morning
- E. Lambert distributed the Job Description of an EA, outlined the role and responsibilities of an EA and reported the following:
- In period 1, English, there are 16 or 17 students with a variety of needs including: behavioral, a range of capacities – some are quite able to manage program material and others can barely read; some have a great deal of trouble with writing.
 - EA and teacher try to service the whole group; juggle crowd control and support the students
 - Discussion followed

4. Correspondence Items

4.1 Funds allocated for Applied Behaviour Analysis Expertise

4.2 Letter to Minister of Education from Kenora Catholic DSB SEAC

4.3 Letter to Minister of Education from Lakehead Public Schools SEAC

Correspondence items were circulated and those who wanted copies requested them.

5. Additional Items

5.1 Student Support Services Update – L. Clifford

L. Clifford reported the following:

- Department has had several challenges; two co-coordinators are currently off, one on an early pregnancy leave, the other due to illness; one of our Social Workers had a family tragedy in September, one Speech and Language Pathologist is off due to illness, one Youth Worker off; the hope is to get back to a full complement in the new year

5.2 SEAC Meeting Start Time; Future Meeting Agenda Items – L. Clifford

- L. Clifford noted that we have piloted a 6:30pm start time and asked for comments and suggestions for the remainder of the year; the majority agreed to continue with the 6:30pm start time
- G. Lavalley suggested times be assigned within the Agenda to keep the meetings moving
- L. Clifford suggested a limit of one guest/agency per meeting to facilitate the Agenda timeline
- L. Clifford reported that Teachers of the Deaf will present in January and he would like to included the following at future meetings: ASD Consultants; Tracy McLennan, Assistant Superintendent of Corporate Services
- L. Clifford and G. Lavalley to meet prior to January SEAC meeting to discuss future meetings

5.3 PPM 149

- WCDSB is required to have PPM149 posted to the website in January 2010. PPM140 is a list of agencies that our Board has partnerships with.

5.4 Debrief on the Evening's Presentation – G. Lavalley

- G. Lavalley asked the members for feedback on the presentation by two of our Educational Assistants; discussion followed.

Motion to adjourn – T. O'Regan, S. Newcombe. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting – January 20, 2010