

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, October 18, 2004  
7:30 p.m. – Trustee Meeting Room

**Members/Alternates present:** Mrs. R.A. McAuley; Mrs. M. Bursey; Mr. D. Goch; Mr. C. Learn; Mr. B. Quesnel; Mrs. R. Quesnel; Ms. M. Forhan; Ms. G. Pearce; Ms. L. Stanciulescu; Mrs. A.A. LeMay; Mrs. L. Kovalchek; Ms. S. Grierson

**Members absent:** Ms. M. Hastings; Ms. H. Ross

**Staff present:** Mr. T.J. Fauteux, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Mrs. T. Wilson, Chief Social Worker  
Ms. R. Bird, Itinerant Child & Youth Counsellor

**Also Present:** Mr. S. Gajewski, Principal, Bishop Reding Secondary School  
Mr. B. Rivera, Parent  
Mrs. C. McCarney, Parent  
Ms. M. Kohler, parent

**1. Call to Order**  
**1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome**  
The meeting opened with a prayer.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**  
**2.1 Additions**  
The following items were added to the agenda:  
6.7 Evac Chairs Update  
6.8 ASD Consultant

**RECOMMENDATION** Moved by: C. Learn  
Seconded by: L. Kovalchek  
**THAT, the agenda for the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 SEAC meeting be approved as amended.**  
**CARRIED**

**3. Actions to be taken**  
**3.1 Approval of SEAC Minutes – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**RECOMMENDATION** Moved by: A.A. LeMay  
Seconded by: M. Forhan  
**THAT, the minutes of the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 SEAC meeting be approved as presented.**  
**CARRIED**

**4. Presentations**  
**4.1 Bullying Prevention Program**  
Theresa Wilson, Chief Social Worker  
Rosanna Bird, Itinerant Child & Youth Counsellor

Members were informed as to how our Board plans to address the issue of bullying in our schools.

Reference was made to the *Working Together Program*, a school-wide approach to bullying prevention in our school system. Our Board supports the need for a consistent school-based, board-wide bullying prevention program. A system Child & Youth Counsellor has been assigned to facilitate the implementation of the program in the schools. A Resource Guide on the Bullying Prevention Program was reviewed and sections highlighted. The resource guide was based on research information gathered from various sources from across the country and has been distributed to all principals.

The program is currently being implemented in two schools and will be implemented in three additional schools in January 2005. The program is intended to: raise awareness; provide for ongoing education; provide resources for staff, parents and students; involve classroom presentations for students from all grade levels; involve parent and staff presentations; involve school council presentations; include regular monthly school newsletters; provide information for parents and staff on an ongoing basis. Students from grades 4 to 8 have participated in a survey and data is currently being collected, in view of evaluating and validating the program. A post survey will also be conducted at the end of the school year, in order to determine whether behaviour changes have occurred in the school. Staff and parents will have the opportunity to provide input throughout the school year. The program supports our Board's Catholic values and system goals.

Inservice on Bullying Prevention will be provided to all Principals and Child & Youth Counsellors during this academic year.

Around the question of the program and its involvement at the Secondary level, the focus of the program remains at the Elementary level with the intent of creating a ripple effect that would then extend to the secondary school. A guidebook on Bullying Prevention has been developed for the secondary panel and has been distributed to Principals. A different approach for Bullying Prevention at the secondary level will be developed in the coming years, subsequent to the implementation in the elementary panel.

In response to the question of Bullying Prevention and special needs students, the program comes under the responsibility of the Board's Special Education Services Department because special needs students are often victims of bullying. Special needs students will be one of the interest groups represented in the general focus of the program.

Bullying Prevention and students with learning disabilities was discussed and questions were answered. Research shows that a planned and coordinated leadership from school administrators, school staff and parent communities are essential for addressing bullying behaviours in a school.

#### **4.2 ABC (Association for Bright Children) – L. Stanciulescu**

The Association for Bright Children is a support advocacy group composed of volunteers with chapters across the province. Part of its mission is to provide information and support to parents of bright and gifted children. The association is not limited to assisting parents of identified gifted children, but also parents of children with cognitive abilities.

The presentation centred on enhancing the understanding of giftedness, outlining characteristics and pressing needs of gifted children and clarifying myths around giftedness. A strong understanding of particular strengths and needs of exceptional children in our Board is important.

As per numbers from 2003-2004 school year, ABC represents 16% of our Board's special education population. By the Ministry of Education's definition, the *gifted* exceptionality is an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated. Giftedness is sometimes misunderstood. Gifted children should be given the opportunity to grow in an environment where there is early identification - gifted characteristics appear at a very early age: problem-solving, reasoning and advanced cognitive abilities, rapid learning capabilities, extensive vocabulary, excellent memory, personal sensitivity, unusual curiosity, high degree of creativity, etc. It is common for gifted children to have dual and even triple exceptionalities.

Myths around giftedness were reviewed and it was pointed out that, according to research, gifted students need opportunities to be together. They require challenges in the company of their intellectual peers and need to interact within all levels of abilities.

## 5. Action Items

5.1 There were no action items.

## 6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

### 6.1 Update – *Special Education Annual Plan 2005*

The November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 SEAC Meeting will consist of 15-minute presentations for parents by associations represented on SEAC on the subject of the Board's *Special Education Annual Plan 2005*. Associations who are interested in presenting at the November 15<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting, will confirm their intent to present with the Special Education Services Office. Each presentation will last no longer than 15 minutes. The November SEAC meeting will be held at Notre Dame Secondary School auditorium, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

### 6.2 IEP Resource Guide – September 2004

The Ministry of Education has released the revised edition of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Resource Guide. The document will be reviewed and the changes noted and implemented.

Our Board's IEPs, for this academic year, have been released. New IEPs will not be released until October 2005. Special Education staff will accommodate and adjust the existing IEPs throughout the current academic year.

### 6.3 Consent Forms Procedures

Principals have been inserviced and the flyer will be in the schools in early November. Previously signed SE1 Consent Forms will be honoured.

### 6.4 Update – Learning Disabled and Deaf & Hard of Hearing Reviews

Audits will be conducted for establishing the standards of the Learning Disabled and the Deaf & Hard of Hearing. The steering committees have been set up. Initial information should be available to members of SEAC for the January SEAC Meeting. A report will be drafted in April 2005 and a report with specific recommendations submitted to the Board in May 2005.

### 6.5 SEAC Christmas Dinner 2004

Members of SEAC will confirm their attendance with the Special Education Services Office.

### 6.6 SEAC Calendar of Events

Reference was made to the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Notre Dame secondary school.

### 6.7 Evacuation Chair

The special evacuation chair is designed to assist in the emergency evacuation of special needs students from a school building. Eight of our schools have been equipped with a special evacuation chair located in each stairwell of the school. Members viewed a video on the installation, function, operation and costs involved with the *Evac Chair*. The *Evac Chair* is in complete compliance with the Halton Region Fire Departments.

### 6.8 ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Consultant

The Ministry of Children & Youth Services created a new activity (ASD Consultant) to provide funds to agencies to support schools with assistance for students identified with autism spectrum disorder. A protocol with Erinoak Children's Centre will be drafted to supply the Board with a consultant from their Agency. The ASD Consultant will work with Board staff. This initiative enhances the new ASD Transition Centre Program located at St. Patrick Elementary School. Members of SEAC will be kept informed, once the protocol and signed agreement have been completed between the Board and Erinoak Children's Centre.

**7. Information**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by:	A.A. LeMay
	Seconded by:	C. Learn
<b>THAT</b> , items 7.1 to 7.3 be received as information.		
<b>CARRIED</b>		

**8. Agency Updates**

8.1 There were no agency updates.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

9.1 November 15, 2004

SEAC Association Presentations: *Special Education Annual Plan 2005*

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

November 15, 2004

Location: Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, Burlington

Time: 7:30 p.m. - School Auditorium

**11. Adjournment**

**11.1 Motion for Absenteeism**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by:	A.A. LeMay
	Seconded by:	R. Quesnel
<b>THAT</b> , Ms. M Hastings and Ms. H. Ross be excused.		
<b>CARRIED</b>		

**11.2 Motion for Adjournment**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by:	A.A. LeMay
	Seconded by:	S. Grierson
<b>THAT</b> , the meeting adjourn.		
<b>CARRIED</b>		

**11.3 Closing Prayer**

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:40 p.m.