



3. **Actions to be taken**3.1 **Approval of SEAC Minutes – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004****RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by: L. Stanciulescu

Seconded by: M. Hastings

**THAT**, the approval of minutes of the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 SEAC meeting be deferred to the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting.

**CARRIED**4. **Presentation****Consultant Presentation – LD Adaptive Technology – Secondary Schools** (K. Slomka)

Mrs. Kim Slomka is a Special Education Consultant, largely responsible for Special Education programs in the Board's secondary schools.

Information Technology is about communication. It offers individualized learning and provides real-world experiences: instant gratification; collaborative research (on line or within the classroom); problem-solving skills; organizational skills; computer literacy for potential employment. Information Technology can rekindle the interest to learn. Research states that, "Maintaining access to technology throughout the student's school career, integrating technology so that it is available for all kinds of leaning and deploying uses of technology that move away from traditional teaching and learning methods are necessary components of a successful technology strategy for educating students at risk."

5. **Action Items****5.1 Annual Special Education Plan 2005 (Draft)**

Two sets of parameters were used for the first draft of the Special Education Plan 2005: 1) the Ministry documentation indicating specific areas that need to be addressed and 2) the Board's Inclusion Policy, which has to be maintained.

Four areas were addressed by the Special Education Plan Team: 1) Staff Training; 2) appropriate Special Education Professionals and their accessibility; 3) Transition Plans; 4) Availability of specialized equipment, where necessary for the learning disabled.

Timelines and expectations for the Special Education Plan were reviewed:

- January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting - SEAC will continue to share thoughts and ideas.
- The Special Education Plan Committee will meet and make changes / amendments for subsequent draft.
- The draft will be forwarded to School Councils and to SEAC for feedback and advice.
- April 2005 - SEAC will review the draft Plan with feedback from School Councils.
- Between April and May the Special Education Plan Committee will meet to incorporate changes and/or modifications to the Plan.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting – SEAC will receive final draft for review and discussion.
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting - SEAC will complete / approve the Plan and recommend its approval to the Board of Trustees.
- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Board Meeting – to trustees for review.
- June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 Board Meeting – to trustees for approval.
- June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – to the Ministry of Education.

Changes and or modifications will be indicated in bolded text in the next draft. Around the question of posting a draft of the Plan on the Board's Website, this would impact on the status of the two main sources of input for the Plan - SEAC and School Councils – it would not be appropriate to post an unapproved document on the Board's Website. The Special Education Plan does not necessarily provide details on educational programs.

Around the question of setting up a sub committee to study the draft Plan line by line with the Plan Committee, the consultation process is there for participation from all associations of SEAC. The Plan will be brought back to the February 21<sup>st</sup> SEAC Meeting for further discussion. SEAC provides advice to the Board and to staff on the Plan and, therefore, is not expected to rewrite the Board's Special Education Plan.

Around the question of a few members of SEAC reviewing the existing Plan and drafting another document for review by all SEAC over the next two weeks – the Ministry of Education clearly indicated that our Board attended to Ministry guidelines and standards within the existing Special Education Plan. It was suggested that, in looking at the existing Plan, the question should be, are we meeting the standards proposed by the Ministry and discussion should continue on additions or modifications to the current Plan.

It was suggested that the February SEAC Meeting be devoted entirely to the development of the Board's Special Education Plan in order to provide ample time for discussion with all members of SEAC.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by: A.A. Le May

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

**THAT**, each member of SEAC provide to the Superintendent of Special Education Services, in writing, by Monday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005, their concerns or suggestions for the Special Education Annual Plan 2005 to be compiled and sent to all SEAC members in view of further discussion at the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting.

**CARRIED**

The thickness of the Plan was commented on as well as the lack of specific detailed information around each exceptionality and placement. The Special Education Plan is meant to be a resource and a reference tool as per the Ministry's expectations. Ministry guidelines for developing a Special Education Plan were reviewed. It was suggested that cross references be added to the Plan to help parents find resources and resource contacts.

Questions from parents who attended the SEAC presentations at the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting, were reviewed by the Special Education Plan Committee. Around the process of community feedback, it was pointed out that the consultation process includes gathering input from SEAC, School Councils and associations represented on SEAC.

Changes brought to sections of the Plan draft by the Committee were highlighted. The content of the Board's Inclusion Policy was discussed and clarified.

Members of SEAC were reminded that the Special Education Plan is the Board's Plan, not SEAC's Plan.

6. **Reports/Updates/Discussion**

**6.1 Autism Program – Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

A meeting will be held at Erinoak on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Peel Board of Education to explain the program. A presentation on the program will be rescheduled.

**6.2 Update–Standards-Based Approach for Students with PDD/Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Two consultants (Student Support Program – ASD) from Erinoak, who work out of the Transition Centre, assist – in an advisory capacity - the Board's consultative staff with the development of programs and training for staff. Written protocol with Erinoak is currently under review.

Regarding our April submission to the Ministry of our Board's review of the standards for students with PDD/Autism Spectrum Disorders, we are still waiting for the Ministry's response.

### **6.3 Answers to Parents – SEAC Presentations – Board’s Annual Special Education Plan 2005**

Questions from parents who attended the SEAC Presentations on the Board's Special Education Plan 2005 at the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 SEAC Meeting were intended for presenters.

Discussion occurred around the fact that this item should have been part of the community consultation process in the development of the Board's Special Education Plan and that Board staff should provide answers to the questions. Input from School Councils will be collected for community consultation purposes in March.

Some members indicated dissatisfaction with the Superintendent's remark that the questions were intended for response from SEAC presenters. SEAC would then use this information during their discussions on the new Special Education Plan 2005.

The item will be further discussed at the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 SEAC Meeting.

## **7. Information**

### **7.1 Nominations – *Brian P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2005***

Members took note of the memo sent out to system principals, soliciting nominations for the above-mentioned award. A selection Committee will be set up at the February SEAC Meeting.

### **7.2 SEAC Calendar of Events**

Members took note of this item.

### **7.3 Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education**

This item will be available at the February SEAC Meeting.

### **7.4 Communication - MPP**

A report was given on recent conference hosted by OCSCA - regarding Ministry claw-backs and Special Education funding – school boards may wish submit to the Ministry a written, detailed outline of monies committed to Special Education expenditures in view of reimbursement from clawed-back funding. Instructions on this process are forthcoming from the Ministry.

### **7.5 *Medical News Today* Article**

### **7.6 Correspondence – York CDSB**

### **7.7 *Parents for Children's Mental Health Newsletter***

Items 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 were received as information items.

## **8. Agency Updates**

### **8.1 Easter Seal Society:**

February 6, 2005 – Easter Seal Telethon

March 6, 2005 – Erinoak Family Skate Day

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

**9.1** Presentation: *KITS – Resource Tool for Parents* (M. Forhan and L. Kovalchek)

**9.2** Selection of Committee - *Brian P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2005*

**9.3** Update– *Board's Annual Special Education Plan 2005*

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

11. **Adjournment**

11.1 **Motion for Absenteeism**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<i>Moved by:</i>	<i>D. Goch</i>
	<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>M. Forhan</i>
<b>THAT, Ms. S. Grierson, Ms. H. Ross and Mr. B. Quesnel be excused.</b>		
<b>CARRIED</b>		

11.2 **Motion for Adjournment**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<i>Moved by:</i>	<i>A.A. LeMay</i>
	<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>R. Quesnel</i>
<b>THAT, the meeting adjourn.</b>		
<b>CARRIED</b>		

11.3 **Closing Prayer**

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 10:15 p.m.