

In response to concerns raised, members were informed that the Special Education plan is a *staff* plan and it comes to SEAC for advice only. It was noted that if members of SEAC are not satisfied, they have the option to vote against it and file a minority report.

All suggestions from SEAC will be taken to the Special Education Plan Committee for consideration.

7. Information

7.1 Newsletter – *Parents for Children’s Mental Health*

This item was provided as information.

7.2 Notice of Workshop – *Advocating for the Struggling Child*

This item was provided as information.

7.3 Letter – *Ottawa-Carlton DSB*

This item was provided as information.

7.4 Finance Memos

It was noted that in light of the fact that the Board has not to date received any indication of grants for Special Education Funding for the next school year, the committee may not have an opportunity to review the 2005 Special Education Budget before end of June 2005.

8. Agency Updates

There were no agency updates.

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 Final Application – Board’s Annual Special Education Plan 2005

9.2 Presentation – *Brian P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2005*

9.3 *KITS – Resource Tool for Parents* (M. Forhan, L. Kovalchek)

To be placed on the May 16th agenda.

10. Date of Next Meeting

May 16th, 2005

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION	Moved by:	R. Quesnel
	Seconded by:	M. Hastings
<i>THAT, Mrs. L. Kovalchek Mr. D. Goch, Ms. H. Ross, Ms. S. Grierson, Mr. B. Quesnel, be excused.</i>		
CARRIED		

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION	Moved by:	C. Learn
	Seconded by:	M. Hastings
<i>THAT, the meeting adjourn.</i>		
CARRIED		

11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 10:14 p.m.

Amendments to Minutes of the SEAC April 18th, 2005 Meeting

Submitted by: Representative for the Association for Bright Children (ABC)

The ABC representative spoke about the need for a full range of placements to be offered to all exceptional students whose needs cannot be met in the regular classroom.

The ABC representative alleged that there are some gifted students whose needs could not be met currently in the regular classroom and that in a needs-driven system like the special education system, the IPRC must decide on a placement that meets the needs of the child and is in accordance with parental preferences.

The ABC representative noted that in the case of some exceptional students (behavioural, multiple, or developmental exceptionalities), the reality that the needs of the students are too intense to be met in the regular classroom is recognized and a full range of placements is offered to those who need it.

The ABC representative stated that the same full range of placement options must be offered to ASD, LD, and gifted students whose needs cannot be met in the regular classroom and in accordance with parental preferences, as per Reg. 181/98.

The ABC representative addressed concerns mentioned in previous SEAC meetings related to cost and transportation and offered details about the new transportation funding model which makes specific allowances for students placed in self-contained classes.

The ABC representative reminded SEAC members that the SEAC's role includes making recommendations to the school board on any matter pertaining to special education and advising the board on range of placements.

The ABC representative urged SEAC members to consider the mandate of the Education Act, Reg. 181/98 which stipulates exceptional students must be placed in placements that can meet the student's needs and are in accordance with parental preferences; the ABC representative also noted that the reality is that the HCDSB also has some exceptional students whose needs cannot be met in the regular classroom and to whom a full range of placements must be offered as soon as possible.