

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Monday, May 16, 2005
7:30 p.m. – Main Board Room

- Members/Alternates present:** Mrs. R.A. McAuley; Mr. C. Learn; Mrs. M. Burse; Ms. M. Hastings; Mr. David Goch; Mrs. A.A. LeMay; Mrs. L. Kovalchek; Ms. S. Grierson; Ms. L. Stanciulescu
- Members absent:** Ms. H. Ross; Mrs. R. Quesnel; Mr. B. Quesnel; Mrs. M. Forhan; Ms. G. Pearce
- Staff present:** Mr. T.J. Fauteux, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Mr. T. Browne, Mrs. M. Cox, Mrs. V. Goodwin-Duncan, Mrs. J. Parisi,
Special Education Consultants
Mrs. T. Wilson, Chief Social Worker
- Also present:** Mr. G. Mahoney, Assistant Superintendent of Education
Mr. S. Gajewski, Principal, Bishop Reding Secondary
- Recording Secretary:** Ms. C. Quesnel
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1. **Call to Order**
 - 1.1 **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - 2.1 **Additions**
 - 7.1 Letter - ABC
 - 8.1 Autism Society Ontario, Halton Chapter Update
 - 8.2 Canadian Downe Syndrome Association Update
 - 2.2 **Deletions**
 - 9.2 Presentation – *Brian P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2005*

This special presentation will be held at the June 7th, 2005 regular Board Meeting.

<p>RECOMMENDATION Moved by: L. Kovalchek Seconded by: L. Stanciulescu THAT, the agenda for the May 16th, 2005 SEAC meeting be approved as amended. CARRIED</p>
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3. **Actions to be taken**
 - 3.1 **Approval of SEAC Minutes – April 18th, 2005**

<p>RECOMMENDATION Moved by: L. Stanciulescu Seconded by: M. Hastings THAT, the minutes for the April 18th, 2005 SEAC meeting be deferred to the June 20th, SEAC Meeting. CARRIED</p>

Remarks were made to the fact that the April minutes did not reflect the entire content of discussions around the range of placements for all exceptional students whose needs cannot be met in the regular classroom, as well at the early identification for gifted students within the Special Education Annual Plan 2005.

It was pointed out that minutes should not carry specifics to any one issue, but should reflect a summary of discussions, along with a record of all motions.
A summary will be added to the April minutes as an attachment and brought back to the June meeting.

4. Presentation**4.1 KITS – Resource Tool for Parents** (M. Forhan, L. Kovalchek)

This item will be bought back to the September SEAC Meeting.

5. Action Items**5.1 Annual Special Education Plan 2005**

Members of SEAC took note of changes and modifications. Sections/inclusions were highlighted and questions were answered.

Members were reminded of the remaining steps in the process regarding the finalization of the Board's Special Education Plan 2005:

- a motion to submit to the Board of Trustees for approval
- submission to the Ministry – July 1st, 2005

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A.A. LeMay

Seconded by: C. Learn

THAT, the Special Education Annual Plan 2005 be submitted to the Halton Catholic District School Board for approval.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:**In favour**

David Goch
Susan Grierson
Alice Anne LeMay
Chuck Learn
Ruth Anne McAuley
Lori Kovalchek
Maureen Bursey

Against

Laura Stanciulescu
Maureen Hastings

The motion was carried.

Congratulations, on behalf of the Board's SEAC, were offered to the Special Education Annual Plan Committee for their diligent work.

A report along with the Special Education Annual Plan 2005 will be submitted for Board approval at the June 7th, 2005 regular Board Meeting.

Associations are welcome to submit a Minority Report to the Board, in the case where there might be a disagreement with the Board's Special Education Plan. Minority reports should be submitted to the Superintendent of Special Education Services office prior to July, 2005.

Input from SEAC regarding range of placements as well as early identification has been discussed with staff and professional testimony from our Board's Psychological advisor appears on this meeting's agenda.

Around the suggestion that the timeline, prior to June 2006, for review by SEAC of the range of existing placement opportunities in the context of identifying student needs be moved up earlier - the intent of the timeline, prior to June 2006, is that SEAC would receive the report on this review at the May 2006 SEAC Meeting.

SEAC members are welcome to request information at any time, within the context of SEAC meetings, as well as directly from the Superintendent of Special Education Services.

Around the question of early identification for gifted students, members were reminded that the Board has identification tools used by early years and primary teachers for every student in their classroom.

In our schools there is opportunity for parents to bring to the attention of the teacher their feelings and suggestions around their child's need for challenges and need for enrichment. System schools have a team meeting process in place, involving the school special education resource teachers and consultants, classroom teacher, principal and parent(s). This is what has been established in our Special Education Plan and this is what is currently being done within this Board's Special Education Services.

Should a parent become dissatisfied, as indicated in our Board's Special Education Parents' Guide available to all parents, the parent begins by directing their query to the school principal. If this is not satisfactory, the parent then calls the Superintendent of Education who will then contact the Superintendent of Special Education Services to investigate the situation. If an association representative who sits on SEAC receives such a call, they should direct the parent to call the Superintendent of Special Education Services who will investigate.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 Letter – Pryor, Linder and Associates

Members took note of the content.

6.2 Brian P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2005

The Selection Committee met and two successful recipients were chosen. Members of SEAC are invited to attend a special award presentation held at the regular Board Meeting, June 7, 2005 at 8 p.m. Mr. Fichaud will present the elementary award and Mayor MacIsaac will assist with the secondary award.

6.3 2005-2006 SEAC Meeting Schedule

Members took note of the new schedule and it was agreed that the April meeting be held on the 24th.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: M. Burse

Seconded by: L. Kovalchek

THAT, the SEAC April 17th, 2006 meeting be changed to April 24th, 2006.

CARRIED

Members of SEAC were invited to attend our Board's track and field event which takes place on June 20th, 9:00 a.m. Rain date, June 21 – at Christ the King Secondary, Georgetown.

7. Information

6.1 Letter – Association for Bright Children (ABC)

Members took note of the written response from the Association for Bright Children (ABC) to a letter from Dr. Pryor, our Board's Psychological Advisor, on early identification for giftedness.

8. Agency Updates

8.1 Autism Society

Members were informed that the representative for the Autism Society, Ontario – Halton Chapter will be resigning his seat on the Board's SEAC.

8.2 Down Syndrome Society

A brief account of activities was given on the recent Canadian National Conference for the Canadian Down Syndrome Society.

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 Final Application – *Annual Special Education Plan 2005*

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

9.3 Calendar of events 2005-2006

10. Date of Next Meeting

June 20th, 2005

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. Learn

Seconded by: L. Kovalchek

THAT, Mrs. M. Forhan; Ms. H. Ross; Ms. G. Pearce; Mr. B. Quesnel and Mrs. R. Quesnel be excused.

CARRIED

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A.A. LeMay

Seconded by: S. Grierson

THAT, the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:00 p.m.