

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 20, 2005
7:30 p.m. – Main Board Room

Members/Alternates present: Mrs. R.A. McAuley; Mrs. M. Bursey; Ms. M. Hastings; Mr. D. Goch; Mrs. A.A. LeMay; Mrs. R. Quesnel; Ms. L. Stanciulescu

Members absent: Ms. H. Ross; Mr. B. Quesnel; Mrs. M. Forhan; Ms. S. Grierson; Mr. C. Learn; Ms. G. Pearce; Mrs. L. Kovalchek

Staff present: Mr. T.J. Fauteux, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Mr. G. Mahoney, Assistant Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Ms. C. Quesnel

1. Call to Order

1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

2.1 Additions

7.2 OCSTA Report

7.3 Expert Panel

7.4 Ministry of Education Finance Office

7.5 Update – Special Olympics – Secondary Schools

8.1 Agency Update – M. Bursey

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A.A. LeMay

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, the agenda for the June 20th, 2005 SEAC meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Approval of SEAC Minutes – April 18th, 2005 & May 16th, 2005

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: L. Stanciulescu

Seconded by: M. Hastings

THAT, the minutes for the April 18th, 2005 and May 16th, 2005 meetings be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Discussion took place and changes were brought to the minutes of the May 16th, 2005 meeting.

4. Presentation

There were no presentations.

5. Action Items

There were no action items.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 SEAC Calendar of Events 2005-2006

Discussion took place around future agenda items and questions were answered.

Members of SEAC requiring further clarification were asked to contact Mr. Gary Mahoney, who will be stepping in as Superintendent of Special Education Services on August 1, 2005.

The September agenda will include the review of standards for the identified Communication, Learning Disabled Students. The review of standards for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students will be added to the October agenda. The October agenda will also include a Special Education Budget Comparison 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

A report on Special Education Funding will be shared with SEAC as soon as possible in the new school year. An update / report on the review of standards for Gifted Education will also be shared with SEAC.

Around the question of SEAC's involvement in the Board's Budget Consultation Process, consultation is difficult when the appropriate documentation from the Ministry is not received in a timely manner. Correspondence from the Superintendent's office on this issue will be forwarded to the Ministry and shared with SEAC.

6.2 Update – Annual Special Education Plan 2005

Written responses from the Board around Minority Reports and the Special Education Plan will be forwarded to appropriate associations over the course of the summer and shared with SEAC in the Fall.

Results of the Ministry review of our Board's Special Education Plan 2005 is expected some time in December and will be brought to SEAC at that time.

6.3 Range of Placements

Discussion took place and detailed information was given regarding the rationale for the current range of placements within the Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Services. There are currently two placements – Regular Classroom and Community Living Class and within these two placements, there are a range of placements.

The difference between resource assistance and resource support was clarified. *Resource Assistance*: the Special Education Resource Teacher acts as a consultant with the classroom teacher for the development of a program response, i.e., FM system for the student in the classroom; *Resource Support*: an adult would be tending to the student, i.e., Educational Assistant, Itinerant Teacher, school SERT, etc.

7. Information

7.1 Letter – Ottawa-Carleton DSB

Members took note of this item of correspondence to the Premier of Ontario around the funding formula and Children's Mental Health Services.

7.2 OCSTA Report

Members of SEAC were updated on the Provincial Special Education Funding Working Table. Members of the Working Table include representation from OCSCA (Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association), CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) and OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association). A meeting was held during which Ministry staff provided an overview of funding approaches that could be used to fund special education in Ontario. Various options were discussed. A political report will be prepared for submission to the provincial government.

7.3 Ministry of Education Expert Panel

The Ministry of Education has put together an *Expert Panel* made up of English and French-language educators and researchers recognized for their expertise and leadership in the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics to students with special education learning needs. The Panel's primary goal is to guide schools and school boards in allocating funds and human resources to support literacy and numeracy instruction for students with special education needs from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

7.4 Ministry of Education Finance Office

Reference was made to a Memo received from the Ministry of Education Finance Branch and a summary was provided on the Ministry's 2004-2005 allocations from the Effectiveness and Equity Fund. The funding will be used to support students from the 2004-2005 school year and is available as one-time only funding for 2004-2005. Any unspent special education revenue, including the EEF allocations in 2004-2005, will be placed in a special education reserve and boards' 2005-2006 high needs allocations will be adjusted for any amounts in the special education reserve at August 31, 2005 that is greater than 2% of their 2004-2005 ISA 2 & 3 allocations.

7.5 Update – Special Olympics – Secondary Schools

Appreciation and thanks for the great turnout at the Board's Secondary Special Olympics events that took place on June 20th at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Oakville.

8. Agency Updates

8.1 Club 21 offers services to special needs students after graduation. Parents are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 - 7 p.m. at Oaklands.

8.2 Deaf & Hard of Hearing Annual Picnic

The Board's annual Deaf & Hard of Hearing Picnic held at Lowville Park on June 15th was an enormous success.

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 Review – Standards – Identified Communication – LD Students (September)

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

9.3 Review – Standards – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (October)

10. Date of Next Meeting

September 19th, 2005

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A.A. LeMay

Seconded by: M. Hastings

THAT, Mrs. M. Forhan; Ms. H. Ross; Mr. C. Learn; Mr. B. Quesnel; Ms. S. Grierson; Mrs. L. Kovalchek and Ms. G. Pearce be excused.

CARRIED

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A.A. LeMay

Seconded by: M. Bursey

THAT, the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

11.3 Closing Prayer

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