

# HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 20, 2006  
7:30 p.m. – Main Board Room

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

**Members absent:** Ms. H. Ross; Mrs. L. Vokers; Mrs. L. Stanciulescu

**Staff present:** Mr. G. Mahoney, Superintendent, Special Education Services  
Mrs. K. Slomka, Consultant, Special Education Services  
Mr. J. Langill, Assistant Superintendent, School Services

**Recording Secretary:** M. MacLellan

---

1. **Call to Order**
  - 1.1 **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> Moved by: Alice Anne LeMay Seconded by: Lori Kovalchek <b>THAT, the agenda for the February 20, 2006, SEAC meeting be approved as amended.</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>
--

3. **Actions to be taken**
  - 3.1 **Approval of SEAC Minutes – January 16, 2006**

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> Moved by: Alice Anne LeMay Seconded by: Mary Forhan <b>THAT, the minutes for the January 16, 2006 SEAC meeting be approved as presented.</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>
--

4. **Presentation**
  - 4.1 **Flu Pandemic Plan**

*John Langill*

John Langill advised the World Health Organization declared that we are in the Pre-Pandemic stage, although concern about the mutation and spreading of disease continues. The Board has identified what it considers to be "Essential Services" and is aware of the importance of communications with staff, schools and parents regarding potential school closures, infections, etc. The decision to close a school will be made by the Health Department.

Kits have been sent to the schools to help teach the students about germs, viruses, the importance of proper hand-washing and hand sanitizing.

The Board will keep the parents as informed as possible.

- 4.2 **Off-Site Co-op Opportunities**

*Kim Slomka*

Special Education Co-op students, whose program follows the expectations outlined in their IEP, fall into one of four stages.

Stage 1 – the student is heavily supervised.

Stage 2 – (approximately 16 years of age) the student is assessed and it is determined that they are able to work independently for a short period of time. They may work in the school cafeteria, library, attendance office or with the custodian.

Stage 3 – (approximately 17 – 19 years of age) the student is ready for an out-of-school placement. If it is not within walking distance, then the student would undergo transit training first. The student must be ready to work independently for an extended period of time.

Stage 4 – (after the age of 19) the student is able to be at a placement for most of the school day and work very independently. Not all students reach this level. It is hoped that this type of co-op placement leads to post-school employment.

The Passages Program is working to help students find employment after they finish secondary school.

## 5. Action Items

There were no action items.

## 6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

### 6.1 IEP 2004 Guidelines

*Kim Slomka*

The computerized IEP Engine is presently being developed. The Special Education Consultants are in the final stages of this project and will hopefully be prepared to train the staff for September 2006.

Parents shared concerns regarding IEPs. They were advised that the Board is working towards compliance with the Ministry of Education's expectations for IEPs.

### 6.2 Funding Model Information

*Gary Mahoney*

After attending a meeting last week, Gary reported that no new information regarding the Funding Model was conveyed. The Board received approximately \$900,000 upon filing our Net New Needs for 2005-2006 school year. The Ministry of Education removed the \$40 million cap and has a limit of \$17,000 for each claims.

### 6.3 Minority Report

*Gary Mahoney*

Gary Mahoney distributed the responses from ABC and the Autism Society (attached).

### 6.4 Selection Committee for the B. P. Fichaud Spirit of Inclusion Award 2006

*Gary Mahoney*

Gary Mahoney sought information regarding the Spirit of Inclusion Selection Committee. It was stated that traditionally, we receive input from a mayor in Halton, three SEAC members and one trustee. The volunteers for this committee were Mrs. R. Quesnel, Mrs. L. Kovalchek, Mrs. M. Forhan and Mr. D. Goch.

## 7. Information

### 7.1 CUPE Update

*Gary Mahoney*

Gary Mahoney explained that, due to the government's plan to revise the pension plan, CUPE members are prepared to participate in illegal strike action. The Board has assessed the effects of such an action by its Educational Assistants, clerical workers and custodians. All the Board's CUPE locals have a valid legal contract until 2008 and two of the locals do not seem to want to be part of this strike action.

Most Boards are sending home letters to the parents of Special Education students, advising them to line up alternate care if a sudden need arises. Parents are welcome, if they wish, to come to volunteer at the schools with their Special Education children, in order to help maintain normalcy.

## 8. Agency Updates

### 8.1 Anti-bullying

*Chuck Learn*

Chuck Learn distributed an anti-bullying flyer, which will also be shared with Theresa Wilson, the Board's Chief Social Worker.

### 8.2 LD Association

*Maureen Hastings*

Maureen Hastings reported that there is a member of the LD that is very ill and asked that we remember this member in our prayers.

### 8.3 Easter Seals

*Lori Kovalchek*

Lori Kovalchek informed the members that the schools are having a Penny Power Drive for the Easter Seals.

### 8.4 Special Olympics

*Maureen Bursey*

Maureen Bursey reported that there is a desperate need for coaches and facilities for the Special Olympic basketball teams.

## 9. Future Agenda Items

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

March 20, 2006

## 11. Adjournment

### 11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: C. Learn*

*Seconded by: M. Bursey*

*THAT, Ms. H. Ross, Mrs. L. Stanciulescu and Mrs. L. Volkens be excused.*

**CARRIED**

### 11.2 Motion for Adjournment

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: A. A. LeMay*

*Seconded by: L. Volkens*

*THAT, the meeting adjourn.*

**CARRIED**

### 11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:30 p.m.