

Halton Catholic District School Board

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

Monday, January 29, 2007
7:30 p.m. – Board Room,
Catholic Education Centre

Members/Alternates Present: Mrs. M. Burse, Mrs. M. Hastings, Mrs. M. Kohler, Mrs. L. Kovalchek, Mrs. A. LeMay, Mrs. C. McCarney, Mrs. R. Quesnel, Mr. B. Rivera, Ms. S. Smith, Mr. J. Trovato, Mrs. L. Volkens,

Members Excused: Mr. C. Learn, Ms. K. Hauwert

Staff Present: Mr. G. Mahoney, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Ms. S. Strong, Manager, Employee Relations, Human Resources
Mrs. A. Sequeira, Claims Management Officer, Human Resources
Ms. D. Kattlus, Manager, Educational Assistants
Ms. A. Jones, Supervisor, Educational Assistants
Ms. M. Morrissey, I/SERT, Gifted
Ms. E. Bukvic, I/SERT, Gifted

Recording Secretary: Mrs. M. MacLellan

1. Call to Order

1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome

The meeting opened with a prayer. As the SEAC was not yet approved by the Board, this meeting consisted of information items only.

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Actions to be taken

4. Presentations

4.1 Accessibility Plan

Stephanie Strong, Anna Sequeira

The Accessibility Plan was shared with attendees (see attached). The completion of surveys by the school Principals has led us to believe that we are addressing the issues in our schools and are being not just compliant with the building code, but are now proactive. Devices being used within the Board include Evac Chairs, elevators in schools, text voicing, computer enhancements, lower counters/desks, automatic door openers, all of which help to make the schools more accessible. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff are working on a visible signing program with our Technicians.

There are many workshops and in-services offered to all staff, who are encouraged to report any concerns to either Stephanie or Anna.

4.2 Behaviour Management Systems

Debby Kattlus, Andrea Jones

This System now replaces the Non-violent Crisis Intervention Program. All the Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Counsellors and many classroom teachers have been trained. BMS is an Ontario-based, not for profit programs, designed specifically to be used in schools. It looks at all environments to see the effect they have on a child; it is directly linked to the best practices in the education process.

The Board proposes a seamless transition, having all Educational Assistants trained within two years. SEAC members are encouraged to attend a training session if they are

interested.

5. Action Items

5.1 The election of the Chair was deferred to the February 26th SEAC meeting.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 Gifted Up-date

Eileen Bukvic, Michelle Morrissey

The goals and objectives of the Gifted Program align with the Board's goals, in that it helps students realize their God-given potential to promote Catholic learning. There are 154 identified gifted students between Grades 5 – 8, who receive 110 minutes of programming every three weeks. Every June, the students are asked what they wish to study the following year and the plans are created from that vantage point.

Gifted students are identified in Grade 4 testing, psychometrist testing and, if they place in the 98th percentile, they are encouraged to participate in the Gifted Program. The staff is offered professional development opportunities to best meet the needs of these students.

7. Information

7.1 PA Day – February 2, 2007

Martha Martino

The PA Day on February 2, 2007, is titled "Sharing Responsibility, Sharing Success". There will be 180 workshops offered at five sites in our Board. The presenters are from our Board, showcasing the strengths we have within the Board. Todd Cunningham will present a mini-keynote address in the afternoon.

7.2 Spirit of Inclusion

Gary Mahoney

This award is given as recognition for students in our system for their contributions to supporting the general quality of life for the Special Needs Students. It has been suggested that the presentations be made at the Sharing the Spirit Award Ceremony.

8. Agency Up-dates

8.1 VOICE – VOICE is having a fundraiser dance on February 17th – please see Rhonda for details.

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 Child & Youth Counsellor Review Results

9.2 Range of Placement Review, up-date

9.5 Transformation Paper

9.6 Budget

10. Date of Next Meeting

February 26, 2007

11. Adjournment

11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:45 p.m.