

Halton Catholic District School Board

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

Monday, February 26, 2007
7:30 p.m. – Board Room,
Catholic Education Centre

Members/Alternates Present: Ms. K. Drexler, Ms. P. Houlahan, Ms. M. Kohler, Ms. L. Kovalchek, Mr. C. Learn, Ms. J. Matters, Ms. C. McCarney, Ms. R. Quesnel, Mr. B. Rivera, Ms. S. Smith, Mr. J. Trovato,

Members Excused: Ms. M. Hastings, Ms. K. Hauwert, Ms. L. Volkers

Staff Present: Mr. G. Mahoney, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Ms. K. McCarthy, I/SERT, PDD/Autism
Ms. J. Kochanka, I/SERT, Secondary
Ms. J. Foster, Vice-Principal, Holy Trinity Secondary School
Ms. M. Tessari, Principal, Holy Rosary School, Burlington

Recording Secretary: Mrs. M. MacLellan

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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**
 3. **Actions to be taken**
 - 3.1 **Approval of SEAC Minutes – November 27, 2006 and January 29, 2007**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. Learn

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, the minutes for the November 27, 2006, reflect the absence of Alice Anne LeMay and that the minutes of January 29, 2007, reflect the next meeting as February 26, 2007.

CARRIED

4. **Presentation**
 - 4.1 **ASD/PDD**

Chris Hartley

Chris Hartley from Erinoak informed the membership that our Board is in partnership with Erinoak. A protocol has been developed to meet the individual needs of students as well as support for staff, which is broken down into four basic components: planning, consultation, training and resource development. There is also a considerable amount of capacity-building and joint training taking place this year.

Karen McCarthy provided a list by Grade Distribution of ASD students (see attached). Karen assists with the IEP planning and implementation, program development, safety plans, behaviour strategies, and transition planning in the schools, always keeping the child's dignity foremost in mind.

Anne Burns runs the TRAC program, which is a 3-pronged program and includes in-service to teachers, educational assistants, and parents.

Judi Kochanka informed SEAC that, in Secondary Schools, there are life-skills teachers who help our ASD/PDD students prepare for post-secondary life. STEP (Student Team Event Planner) was formed last year. This team of Special Needs students meets monthly to organize events for the special needs students, including dances, in-services, and sports

events. Faith in Action is a program helping non-special needs students integrate with special needs students and engage them in social activities, such as playing board games, etc. Bullying Awareness is being addressed and coping skills are being enhanced.

5. Action Items

5.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, who sit for each school year and are re-elected annually.

RECOMMENDATION	<i>Moved by: C. Learn</i>
	<i>Seconded by: R. Quesnel</i>
THAT, Lori Kovalchek be nominated for Chair of SEAC for the term of December 2006 to December 2007.	

RECOMMENDATION	<i>Moved by: L. Kovalchek</i>
	<i>Seconded by: J. Matters</i>
THAT, Rhonda Quesnel be nominated for Chair of SEAC for the term of December 2006 to December 2007.	

Lori Kovalchek was elected Chair.

RECOMMENDATION	<i>Moved by: C. Learn</i>
	<i>Seconded by: L. Kovalchek</i>
THAT, Rhonda Quesnel be nominated for Vice-Chair of SEAC for the term of December 2006 to December 2007.	

Rhonda Quesnel was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

5.2 Selection of Committee for Member-at-Large

A Selection Committee, consisting of at least 3 SEAC Members must be struck to select one Member-at-Large for Board approval. Chuck Learn, Pauline Houlahan and Rhonda Quesnel volunteered for this committee.

5.3 Spirit of Inclusion Selection Committee

Joanne Matters, Bingo Rivera and Karen Drexler will serve as the Spirit of Inclusion Selection Committee.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 Progress Report – Range of Placement

Mary Tessari, Janet Foster

Mary Tessari (Elementary Principal) and Janet Foster (Secondary Vice-Principal) presented the results of the year-long study (see attached). The results showed that inclusion is strongly supported by both parents and students. Only in the event of a severe exceptionality is Option 5 desired.

Recommendation from this Report include further training and professional development for staff, mentorship programs, revision of the Special Education Parent Handbook, and an increase in TRAC, Triple A, and GLE classes in Secondary Schools.

Members were encouraged to share this document with their Associations and bring feedback.

- 7. **Information**
- 8. **Agency Updates**
- 9. **Future Agenda Items**
Ministry Up-date regarding Autism
- 10. **Date of Next Meeting**
March 26, 2007
- 11. **Adjournment**
11.1 **Motion for Absenteeism**

RECOMMENDATION	<i>Moved by:</i>	<i>P. Houlahan</i>
	<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>C. Learn</i>
<i>THAT, M. Hastings, K. Hauwert and L. Volkers be excused.</i>		
CARRIED		

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

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

11.3 Closing Prayer

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