

Halton Catholic District School Board

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

Monday, May 28, 2007
7:30 p.m. – Board Room
Catholic Education Centre

Members/Alternates Present: Ms. P. Houlahan, Ms. M. Kohler, Mr. C. Learn, Ms. J. Matters,
Ms. C. McCarney, Ms. R. Quesnel, Mr. B. Rivera, Mr. J. Trovato,

Members Excused: Ms. K. Drexler, Ms. M. Hastings, Ms. L. Kovalchek. Ms. L. Volkers

Staff Present: Mr. G. Mahoney, Superintendent of Special Education Services
Mr. P. Mayne, Principal, St. Christopher School
Ms. M. Martino, Consultant, Special Education Services
Ms. V. Goodwin-Duncan, Consultant, Special Education Services

Recording Secretary: Ms. M. MacLellan

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

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Additions – 7.1 ABA - Ministry Training

<p>RECOMMENDATION Moved by: C. Learn Seconded by: M. Kohler THAT, the agenda for the May 28, 2007, SEAC meeting be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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3. **Actions to be taken**
 - 3.1 **Approval of SEAC Minutes – April 30, 2007**

<p>RECOMMENDATION Moved by: C. McCarney Seconded by: J. Matters THAT, the minutes for the April 30, 2007, SEAC meetings be approved with amendments.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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4. **Presentation**
 - 4.1 **Baseball: Everyone Belongs** *Patrick Mayne*

Patrick Mayne shared the DVD from the day at the Rogers Centre, May 16, 2007. The whole day was a wonderful success and the highlight of the year for many students. The planning committee is considering the possibility of including the Secondary School students as well next year.

5. **Action Items**

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 Range of Placement Survey

Gary distributed a handout of the formulated Salary and Benefits of Current System-level Services by Exceptionality for 2007 and the Projected Congregated Class Cost in Draft for 2007, both attached. The Projected Draft reflects ballpark numbers.

We are looking at a model that can embrace Options 3, 4 and 5, although we cannot assume that all students/parents would opt for congregated classes.

In the Gifted area, we would consider offering the services of a Child and Youth Counsellor, if needed.

In the LD area, we are hoping to open a North Learning Disabilities Learning Centre for the new school year. We have approximately 750 LD students, 150 of which would be able to attend the LDLC. Most Boards would use Options 4 or 5 for the LD classes.

Most parents of students with Mild Intellectual Delays and Developmental Delays are looking for integrated placement. We probably could not fill more than a few classes of these students. We presently have strong life-skills components for these students. Currently we have 180 MID students and 130 DD students.

If these services replaced the services we presently have, it would actually cost less than it does now.

Miranda Kohler asked if we, as a SEAC, needed to create a plan and how quickly could this happen. Gary advised that it will be difficult to make changes quickly due to the summer holidays coming up. We need to decide what models we wish to implement. As a Special Education Services Department, we are looking and discussing various models and will present them to SEAC when they are ready. We need to address, not only the Options, but the practical school functions as well.

When asked, Gary explained that studies do not exist in most Boards showing the graduation rates of students in various models. As well, most Boards do not have research departments. Although it would be a wonderful opportunity to do this research, it would be very costly to the Board to do so. We have to decide as a SEAC group in which direction we wish to proceed and create Resolutions we can bring to the Board regarding expansion of services and contained placement.

Gary advised that SEAC will make the decision on which group of students will be addressed first. The Range of Placement Survey has given us a suggested direction. We need a team who will create a model for action and decided how we wish to prioritize (exceptionality, etc).

It is difficult to determine what a “Best Practice” is. What would be the criteria – work placement, socialization, academics, student happiness, etc?

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney

Seconded by M. Kohler

THAT, a Motion be made at the next meeting to make a Resolution to go to the Board regarding expansion.

CARRIED

MOTION*Moved by: J. Matters**Seconded by: C. Learn***RESOLVED THAT**, SEAC seek Board approval to expand the Range of Placement Options for all exceptionalities as deemed appropriate by SEAC with a start date of September 2008.**CARRIED****6.2 Spirit of Inclusion Up-date***Gary Mahoney*

The Selection Committee selected, in full agreement, Marisa Norris from Canadian Martyrs Elementary School and Stefanie Kisluk from Notre Dame Secondary School, as this year's recipients. The awards will be presented at the June 5th Board Meeting. Next year, the Spirit of Inclusion will be part of the Sharing the Spirit Ceremony.

7. Information**7.1 ABA Ministry Training***Gary Mahoney*

Our Board is sending 8 staff, including Chuck Learn, acting as the SEAC representative.

8. Agency Updates**9. Future Agenda Items****9.1** Transformation Paper**9.2** Follow-up to Ministry Reference Committee on Autism – This is covered by the ABA Ministry Training**9.3** Revisions to the Special Education Parent Guide**9.4** Safety Rooms**10. Date of Next Meeting**

June 25, 2007 ** Start time will be 6:30.

11. Adjournment**11.1 Motion for Absenteeism****RECOMMENDATION***Moved by: C. McCarney**Seconded by: J. Matters***THAT**, K. Drexler, M. Hastings, L. Kovalchek and L. Volkers be excused.**CARRIED****11.2 Motion for Adjournment****RECOMMENDATION***Moved by: P. Houlahan**Seconded by: J. Trovato***THAT**, the meeting adjourn.**CARRIED****11.3 Closing Prayer**

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