

**Halton Catholic District School Board**

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

Monday, October 29, 2007  
7:00 p.m. – Board Room,  
Catholic Education Centre

**Members/Alternates Present:** Ms. M. Hastings; Ms. M. Kohler; Ms. L. Kovalchek (Chair);  
Ms. J. Matters; Ms. C. McCarney; Mr. B. Rivera;  
Mr. J. Trovato; Ms. L. Volkers;

**Members Excused:** Ms. K. Drexler; P. Houlahan; Mr. C. Learn; Ms. R. Quesnel

**Staff Present:** Mr. G. Mahoney, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Mr. J. Langill, Superintendent of Education  
Ms. J. Parisi, Consultant, Special Education Services  
Ms. K. Slomka, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. M. Martino, Consultant, Curriculum Services  
Ms. T. Wilson, Chief Social Worker

**Recording Secretary:** Ms. A. Swinden

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome**

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with a prayer.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: J. Matters  
Seconded by: C. McCarney*

*THAT, the agenda be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**3.1 Approval of SEAC Minutes – September 24, 2007**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: C. McCarney  
Seconded by: M. Kohler*

*THAT, the minutes for the September 24, 2007 SEAC meetings be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Safe Schools**

*J. Langill*

John Langill, the Superintendent of Education with responsibilities for Safe Schools, provided SEAC members with information regarding the recent revisions to the Safe Schools legislation (Bill 212), now called the Progressive Discipline and School Safety Act. Committee members were provided with the Board's current Safe Schools and Code of Conduct brochure. He highlighted the key changes to the Act, and noted that current procedures under the Safe Schools Act will remain in place until February 1, 2008. J. Langill indicated that he will follow up with further information at the SEAC Meeting in January 2008.

Some SEAC members expressed concern that they were not afforded an opportunity to volunteer to participate on the Board's Safe School Action Team (SSAT). J. Langill indicated that Trustee J. Matters represents SEAC on the SSAT. He noted that the key

role of the SEAC representative on the SSAT is to communicate information from the SSAT back to SEAC. J. Matters invited the other SEAC members to contact her with any comments and/or feedback.

In response to a question posed by one of the SEAC members, J. Langill indicated that he would provide information in January regarding the percentage of student suspensions that apply to special needs students.

Further questions and/or concerns related to Bill 212 may be directed to J. Langill via email at [langillj@hcdsb.org](mailto:langillj@hcdsb.org) , or by telephone at 905-632-6314, ext. 181.

## 5. REPORTS/UPDATES/DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Gifted Parent Consultation

*M. Martino*

M. Martino reviewed the results of the Gifted Range of Placement Survey. She indicated that 161 surveys were sent out to families representing 172 identified gifted students (Grades 5 to 8). Eighty percent (130) of the surveys were returned by the October 29<sup>th</sup> due date. She provided SEAC members with a summary of the responses, noting that 63% of responses indicated a preference for Placement 3, while 16% indicated a preference for Placement 4; and 15% indicated a preference for Placement 5. The feedback indicated that if students were required to travel outside of their geographic area, the interest in Placement 4 and Placement 5 would decrease to 14% and 12% respectively, which would result in a 67% preference for Placement 3.

G. Mahoney indicated that he will be providing the Board of Trustees with a report on the Gifted Range of Placement at its November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Details regarding location of the placements, as well as the provision of information meetings for parents will be determined following the Board's approval of the revised inclusion and range of placement policy and the approval of the new gifted education model. These will likely be through the Board process by early December.

### 5.2 IEP Collaborative Review

*J. Parisi/K. Slomka*

K. Slomka and J. Parisi provided SEAC members with the results of the IEP Collaborative Review. They highlighted the key elements within the report, and provided a sample IEP.

Some committee members suggested that it may be helpful if consultations with parents took place before the IEPs are developed, so that parents may be afforded an opportunity to provide input on the plan. G. Mahoney indicated that coordinating consultation meetings with the parents of all students that receive an IEP may not be a feasible option in terms of time constraints, and doing so would likely hinder the ability of Special Education staff to meet the thirty (30) day deadline. In response to a suggestion that a form requesting feedback be sent home to parents at the beginning of the school year, J. Parisi indicated that the option would be taken under advisement.

Discussion ensued around the possibility of holding a Special Education information night for parents. G. Mahoney indicated that this may be a feasible option after Christmas. The updated Parent Guide pamphlet will be provided at the Parent Information Night if it has been completed in time.

### 5.3 Alternative Dispute Resolution

*G. Mahoney*

G. Mahoney informed the SEAC members that the Halton Catholic District School Board has been selected by the Ministry of Education as one of the boards to participate in the Alternative Dispute Resolution pilot project. He provided a document on the Framework and Purpose of the Pilot, and indicated that he would be attending a meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> to

review the proposal requirements. He will provide more detail at the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

There were no Action items.

## 7. INFORMATION

### 7.1 Halton Accessibility Showcase

*K. Slomka*

K. Slomka provided SEAC members with information regarding the Halton Accessibility Showcase. She invited the SEAC members to attend, noting that members may wish to obtain a table for their agency. She indicated that at the November 26<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting she will provide the committee members with a list of presenters from last year's event. Further details will be shared with SEAC as they become available.

### 7.2 Focus on SEAC & Raising Profile

*L. Kovalchek*

L. Kovalchek provided for the committee members' information and review, a handout outlining the Focus of SEAC. The matter will be addressed as a discussion item at the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### 7.3 Autism Resource Guide

*M. Martino*

M. Martino indicated that the Autism Resource Guide is available online. One (1) hardcopy of has already been forwarded to each school; a second hardcopy will be printed and forwarded to schools.

### 7.4 Board November 20, 2007 Resolution-Gifted Range of Placement

*G. Mahoney*

G. Mahoney will be providing the Board of Trustees with a report on the Gifted Range of Placement at its November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 8. AGENCY UPDATES

M. Kohler provided a copy of the new ABC Ontario pamphlet for each SEAC member.

## 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 Transformation Paper
- 9.2 Special Education Plan – Revision Timeline
- 9.3 DD Review – Final Report
- 9.4 LDLC – Update
- 9.5 Premier Assistive Technology – Presentation

M. Kohl requested that *Parent Booklets* be placed on a future SEAC agenda.

M. Hastings requested that *EQAO* be discussed at a future meeting (January/February).

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 26, 2007

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

### 11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by: *J. Matters*

Seconded by: *C. McCarney*

**THAT**, *K. Drexler, P. Houlahan, C. Learn, and R. Quesnel* be excused.

**CARRIED**

## 11.2 MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<i>Moved by:</i>	<i>C. McCarney</i>
	<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>J. Matters</i>
<b>THAT, the meeting adjourn.</b>		<b>CARRIED</b>

## 11.3 CLOSING PRAYER

The Chair asked for volunteers to provide the opening prayer at future SEAC meetings. J. Matters will provide the prayer for the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:03 p.m.