

**Halton Catholic District School Board  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, December 15, 2008  
7:00 p.m. – Bronte Room, Hampton’s Restaurant,  
Quality Hotel, 754 Bronte Rd., Oakville

**Members/Alternates Present:** Ms. K Drexler; Mrs. P. Houlahan; Mrs. L. Kovalchek (Chair); Mrs. J. Matters;  
Ms. C. McCarney; Mrs. R. Quesnel (Vice Chair); Mr. B. Rivera; Mr. J. Trovato;  
Mrs. L. Volkers

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:** Mr. C. Learn;

**Staff Present:** Mrs. S. Rossini, Superintendent of Special Education Services  
Ms. J. Foster, Supervising Principal  
Ms. T. Wilson, Chief Social Worker  
Ms. C. Bauman, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. T. Browne, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. V. Goodwin-Duncan, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. S. Miller, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. J. Parisi, Special Education Consultant  
Ms. K. Slomka, Special Education Consultant

**Recording Secretary:** Ms. K. Harkness

---

**1. Call to Order**

**1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome**

The meeting opened at with a prayer read by L. Kovalchek.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: P. Houlahan*

*Seconded by: J. Matters*

**THAT, the agenda be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Actions to be taken**

**3.1 Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2008**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved by: R. Quesnel*

*Seconded by: P. Houlahan*

**THAT, the minutes for the November 24, 2008 SEAC meetings be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Presentations**

There were no Presentations.

**5. Action Items**

There were no Action Items.

**6. Reports/Updates/Discussion**

**6.1 Gifted/MID/DD Program Updates**

*Suzanne Rossini*

S. Rossini provided a report to SEAC for the purpose of reporting the progress made to date of contained classes and to outline commitments.

There are five main topics: Goals of the placement program; Teacher selection and professional development; Program methodologies; Communication with Parents (that includes supplementary guides for DD, MID and Gifted and information nights) and Transportation.

Questions were then fielded. C. McCarney requested a copy of the report which will be provided once S. Rossini has had the report vetted through the Board of Trustees at the end of January and through the Board's Admin Council.

## **7. Information**

### **7.1 L.I.N.K. (Learn, Interface, Network and Knowledge)**

*Theresa Wilson*

T. Wilson talked about the upcoming L.I.N.K. community showcase of services for students and families in Halton happening on Thursday, February 26, 2009.

Information has gone out to all service providers in Halton electronically. There will be a mass mailing in the New Year.

Presentations will occur every half hour and there will be opportunities to network. SEAC members were encouraged to attend and L. Kovalchek asked about the possibility of SEAC having a table at the event. T. Wilson agreed to coordinate that with L. Kovalchek.

### **7.2 Superintendent's Report**

*Suzanne Rossini*

S. Rossini talked about the conference for students with LD. The conference was very well attended and Todd Cunningham was the guest speaker.

The Christmas dance for Special Needs took place at Bishop Reding. S. Rossini attended this board-wide dance which is held at a different school each year. The event was quite successful – 60-70 students attend; the host school decorated and got quite involved; the girls had their hair done by the Cosmetology students; the boys were done up in shirts and ties; all the kids danced and had a great time. S. Rossini did a walkabout, talking to students and handing out candy canes.

The Ministry of Education provided a regional presentation for Special Education. They are looking to work with the various school boards in Ontario to develop consistency. They are also looking to collect information from parents.

S. Rossini asked SEAC to consult on the Ministry of Education's rubric. P. Houlahan proposed that it be a working session of 10-15 minutes during a SEAC meeting. A link to the C.O.D.E. website is to be provided to all SEAC members by K. Harkness so that all members will have a chance to look at this rubric ahead of time. The purpose is to provide input for the Ministry of Education as well as for everyone to use as a self-reflective process.

## **8. Additional Discussion**

**8.1** L. Kovalchek asked that Conflict Resolution/Shared Solutions for parents be added as a future agenda item. She would like to explore how best to communicate information to parents (e.g., website posting, email to parents, any other ideas).

**8.2** C. McCarney is working on updates for newsletters.

**8.3** A.A. LeMay requested that minutes from SEAC meetings be provided the Board of Trustees.

## **9. Agency Updates**

There were no updates

## **10. Future Agenda Items – January 26, 2009**

10.1 Update on EQAO Results (oral report)

*Erica Van Roosmalen*

10.2 Review of Parent Involvement in the Development of the IEP

*Suzanne Rossini*

10.3 CCAC Supports - *the Chair requested that SEAC members submit specific questions in advance*

*Karen Drexler*

## **11. Other Items**

### **SEAC Message for School Newsletters**

11.1 C. McCarney will prepare a message from SEAC for the March school newsletters.

11.2 R. Quesnel asked T. Wilson to prepare an update for the newsletters on mental health issues.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

- 12.1 Gifted Screening Procedures
- 12.2 Impact of Proposed Full Day Kindergarten on Special Education Resources
- 12.3 Home Instruction for Special Education Students
- 12.4 Provincial IEP Changes
- 12.5 SEAC Information Flyer
- 12.6 Conflict Resolution/Shared Solutions for Parents

*Tami Browne  
Suzanne Rossini  
Theresa Wilson*

**13. Next Meeting:** January 26, 2009

**14. Adjournment**

**14.1 Motion for Adjournment**

***RECOMMENDATION***

*Moved by: C. McCarney*

*Seconded by: J. Trovato*

***THAT, the meeting adjourn.***

***CARRIED***

**14.2 Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed with a prayer read by L. Kovalchek.