

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

Monday, January 26, 2009
7:00 p.m. – Board Room
Catholic Education Centre

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

Members Excused: Mrs. J. Matters; Mr. C. Learn

Staff Present: Ms. J. Foster, Supervising Principal
Dr. E. van Roosmalen, Chief Officer, Research and Development Services
Ms. S. Miller, Special Education Consultant

Also Present: Mr. M. McDermott

Recording Secretary: Ms. A. Swinden

1. Call to Order

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Introduction of Special Education Staff

2. Approval of Agenda

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney
Seconded by: P. Houlahan

Recommended that, the agenda is approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Actions to be taken

- 3.1 Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: P. Houlahan
Seconded by: C. McCarney

THAT, the minutes for the December 15, 2008 SEAC meetings be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Action Items

- 5.1 Nomination – New SEAC Member

Lori Kovalchek

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney
Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, the Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) accept the nomination of Mike McDermott as representative for the Learning Disabilities Association of Halton, Ontario, on the Board's SEAC, and recommend that the Halton Catholic District School Board appoint Mr. McDermott to the SEAC effective February 23, 2009 until November 2010.

CARRIED

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

- 6.1 **Update on EQAO Results (oral report)**

Erica van Roosmalen

E. van Roosmalen, Chief Officer of Research and Development Services, provided an overview of the EQAO results through the use of a PowerPoint presentation.

6.2 Update on Our Kids Network

Erica van Roosmalen

Dr. van Roosmalen addressed *Our Kids Network*, a regional partnership designed to provide service integration in Halton. She highlighted data from the document entitled *A Vision for Children in Halton - Report Card*. Dr. van Roosmalen invited members of SEAC to contact her should they have any questions or concerns. She also noted that additional information is available online at www.ourkidsnetwork.ca

6.3 Engaging Parents of Students with Special Needs (C.O.D.E. publication) Part I

Janet Foster

J. Foster reviewed with SEAC members the publication released by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), *Engaging Parents of Students with Special Needs*. The first key element in the document, Student Achievement, was reviewed by the committee. The members discussed the strategies in place to encourage parent involvement within our school system.

The Chair requested that SEAC members bring back the CODE publication to the next meeting, as S. Rossini will be addressing the next key element within the matrix, Leadership.

6.4 Spirit of Inclusion Award

Lori Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek addressed the Spirit of Inclusion Award. SEAC members were provided with the current nomination form, as well as the description of the Spirit of Inclusion Award, as first developed by SEAC and approved by the Board in 1999. L. Kovalchek noted that last year's nomination committee had recommended a review of the candidate nomination criteria, as the list of criteria had deviated from its original form. It was determined that SEAC would include with the nomination form the original criteria listed on the document created by SEAC in 1999.

The Chair requested volunteers to serve on the nomination committee to determine the award recipients for this year's Spirit of Inclusion Award. She noted that Mayor of Burlington, Cam Jackson, has also been invited to serve on the nomination committee. The following SEAC members volunteered: *Rhonda Quesnel*; *Mike McDermott* (pending Board approval of his appointment to SEAC); *Joe Trovato*; and *Joanne Matters*. Wednesday, March 4th, or Wednesday March 11th, were put forth as possible dates for the nomination committee to meet.

7. Information

There were no Information Items.

8. Agency Updates

There were no Agency Updates.

9. Future Agenda Items – February 23, 2009

9.1 Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Project Update

Rita Carmichael

9.2 Special Education Budget Process

Paul McMahon/Suzanne Rossini

9.3 Family/Information Night

Suzanne Rossini

9.4 Engaging Parents of Students with Special Needs (C.O.D.E. publication) Part II

Suzanne Rossini

9.5 Director of Education – Michael Pautler

10. Future Agenda Items

10.1 CCAC Supports

Karen Drexler

- *The Chair requested that SEAC members submit specific questions in advance*

10.2 Gifted Screening Procedures

Tami Browne

10.3 Home Instruction for Special Education Students

Theresa Wilson

10.4 Impact of Proposed Full Day Kindergarten on Special Education Resources

Suzanne Rossini

10.5 Provincial IEP Changes

10.6 SEAC Information Flyer

11. Next Meeting: February 23, 2009

12. Adjournment

12.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, Mrs. J. Matters, and Mr. C. Learn be excused.

CARRIED

12.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: C. McCarney

THAT, the meeting adjourns.

CARRIED

12.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8:52 p.m.