

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

Monday, April 27, 2009
7:00 p.m. – Board Room
Catholic Education Centre

Members/Alternates Present: P. Houlahan; L. Kovalchek (Chair); J. Matters; Cheryl McCarney; M. McDermott; L. Preza; R. Quesnel (Vice Chair); S. Rossini; J. Trovato; L. Volkers

Staff Present: T. Browne, Consultant
J. Foster, Supervising Principal
S. Palijan, Research Officer

Members Excused: K. Drexler

Members Absent: C. Learn, B. Riviera

Recording Secretary: N. Brock

REVISED

1. Call to Order
1.1 **Opening Prayer**

2. Approval of Agenda

L. Kovalchek noted that Item 6.3 Phoneme Touch & Say will be deferred to a future meeting. Also noted was a date correction for the next SEAC meeting which will be Monday, May 25, 2009.

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p><i>Moved by: R. Quesnel</i> <i>Seconded by: P. Houlahan</i></p> <p>THAT, the agenda be approved as amended.</p> | <p>CARRIED</p> |
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3. Actions to be taken
3.1 Approval of Minutes – March 30, 2009

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p><i>Moved by: R. Quesnel</i> <i>Seconded by: M. McDermott</i></p> <p>THAT, the minutes for the March 30, 2009 SEAC meeting be approved as submitted.</p> | <p>CARRIED</p> |
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4. Presentations
There were no presentations.

5. Action Items
There were no action items.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion
6.1 **SEAC Information Flyer**

J. Trovato

J. Trovato presented a draft version of the SEAC flyer to the members for their review. Members of SEAC provided input and made suggestions around the content. It was decided that J. Trovato send the flyer via electronic mail to each member of SEAC for further review.

L. Kovalchek thanked J. Trovato and P. Houlahan for their work on the flyer.

6.2 **Gifted Screening Procedures**

T. Browne

T. Browne provided an overview to SEAC members regarding the screening results, programs, classes and number of students in these classes. Also outlined were the placement options and how the programs are delivered to best suit the needs of the gifted learner. A handout of the Gifted Booklet was provided to SEAC members for future reference. Discussion took place around the criteria, screening process, percentile and placement options.

The members examined the proposal of moving gifted classes next year. J. Matters voiced concern regarding the move of contained classes with the combination of pressures and classes that are in a fragile stage. Also, the issue of logistics and timing would have to be re-established regarding transportation. S. Rossini explained that the school boundary reviews and the projections placed accommodation pressures on the current locations. However, the moves are not mandatory until the 2011 – 2012 school year.

P. Houlahan reiterated the importance of students being permanent members of their school communities. J. Trovato expressed an expectation that this be stated emphatically across the Board. S. Rossini agreed that the location issue is broader than just the physical space, it depends on the culture, community and how the students are embraced.

The following recommendation was presented:

RECOMMENDATION

*Moved by: P. Houlahan
Seconded by: J. Trovato*

***Whereas** the Halton Catholic District School Board established Special Education delivery models of range of placement options one to five as defined by the Ministry in the 2008-2009 school year for students identified as Exceptional : Intellectual; and*

***Whereas** the Halton Catholic District School Board SEAC committee was instrumental in the recommendations for the implementation of the placement options one to five; and*

***Whereas** SEAC's commitment supports the integration of students in specialized classrooms into their respective school communities;*

***Resolved that** SEAC recommends that the Halton Catholic District School Board commit to the long term permanency of location for each of the congregated classrooms ensuring that all students become a part of their school communities at Ascension, Canadian Martyrs, St. Peter, St. John Oakville, Holy Family and St. Raphael.*

CARRIED

L. Kovalchek thanked T. Browne and requested that any further questions be forwarded to her attention.

6.3 Phoneme Touch & Say

A. Cooke

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

6.4 Increasing Revenue: Letter to the Ministry of Education from SEAC

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek did not have specific information to share but requested to keep the item on the record. S. Rossini suggested that P. McMahon, Superintendent of Business Services be invited back to a future SEAC meeting as the funding model has been changed for 2009-2010 school year which will have a direct effect on Special Education programming.

6.5 SEAC DVD: School Councils

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek requested S. Rossini's assistance to bring this idea to fruition and recruit appropriate individuals to create the DVD along with a set of questions. It was requested that the members of SEAC forward any contributions towards the question list to the SEAC Chair. The target date for the completed DVD is September 2009 in time to present at each school's first 2009-2010 Catholic School Council Meeting.

6.6 Parent Information Night 2009-2010

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek spoke to a past agenda item regarding the issue of SEAC holding a Parent Information Night for the next school year. There was discussion around possible topics, key note speakers, guests, dates and timelines. The event will be further discussed after the Parent Information Night on April 30, 2009 to form a better understanding of how to proceed.

7. Information

7.1 Awards of Excellence and Halton Accessibility Showcase

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek had the privilege of presenting the Spirit of Inclusion awards at the Board's 21st Annual Student Awards of Excellence Ceremony which took place on April 21, 2009 at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington. She thanked the members of SEAC for their participation. The evening will be aired by TV COGECO between Tuesday, April 29, 2009 and Sunday, May 10, 2009. L. Kovalchek made special mention of the superb performance by the St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School choir that evening.

L. Kovalchek shared with the members of SEAC, the theme "Tree of Understanding" and a brief outline of the April 24, 2009 PA Day which she attended at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Oakville. The day was very organized and inclusive. She very much appreciated being able to participate and looks forward to the next Special Education PA Day for Secondary on September 3, 2009.

L. Kovalchek thanked J. Trovato, K. Drexler, P. Houlahan, J. Matters and R. Quesnel for their support at the Halton Accesibility Showcase, representing the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for our Board.

7.2 ADR Research/CODE Document Questionnaire

S. Palijan

S. Rossini outlined the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Pilot Project, Shared Solutions and the three (3) strategies used in resolving conflict with programs and services in Special Education, which centred around finding common ground, problem solving and using a facilitator. S. Palijan was engaged to further research into types of conflict by surveying from Principals and SERT's. By emphasizing parent communication, parent engagement and collaboration it is hoped the research will also shed light on "next steps" in our PD directions.

S. Palijan gave members of SEAC a brief overview of the process of gathering data throughout this school year, using clearly defined definitions from Shared Solutions, supporting the CODE Document.

S. Rossini noted the ADR has been posted on our public website under Special Education.

L. Kovalchek thanked S. Palijan.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

S. Rossini

• Ministry of Education – Special Education Update – February 2009 (*handout*)

S. Rossini outlined for the members of SEAC, the binder created for the PA Day that was distributed to each school as well as a link that was placed on our website to assist schools, Principals, teachers, Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Workers and Special Education Resource teachers to work through the four (4) components of the day which was called "Closing the Gap".

The members of SEAC viewed the video clip on the link of a speech on Autism by Zachary, a Burlington student. This video was used to begin the session on "Closing the Gap" with PPM 140 and applied behavioural analysis and a focus on working as a team.

L. Kovalchek shared with the members of SEAC, information about the Halton Accessibility Showcase resource fair for persons of disabilities which is called "Connection 2009" on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

L. Kovalchek reminded members of the e-mail regarding the upcoming Conference "Assistive Technology for All" scheduled August 27 - 29, 2009. S. Rossini agreed to sponsor one member of SEAC to attend this conference.

S. Rossini provided members of SEAC with a copy of the Mental Health Week flyer for their information.

L. Kovalchek noted that SEAC as well as LD, ABC, VOICE and Easter Seals associations will have information tables at the Parent Information Night on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington.

SEAC Meeting Dates for 2009-2010

The scheduled 2009-2010 SEAC meeting dates were presented to the members and approved as presented.

8. Agency Updates
No Agency Updates.

9. Future Agenda Items - May

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| 9.1 | Special Education Budget Update | <i>P. McMahon/S. Rossini</i> |
| 9.2 | SEAC Information Flyer | <i>J. Trovato</i> |
| 9.3 | Parent information Night 2009-2010 | <i>S. Rossini</i> |

10. Future Agenda Items

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| 10.2 | Phoneme Touch & Say | <i>A. Cooke</i> |
| 10.3 | Snoozlen Rooms | <i>S. Rossini</i> |
| 10.3 | "Assistive Technology for All" report | <i>SEAC member</i> |
| 10.4 | Special Education Annual Plan | <i>S. Rossini</i> |
| 10.5 | Home Instruction for Special Education Students | <i>T. Wilson</i> |
| 10.6 | Impact of Proposed Full Day Kindergarten on Special Education Resources | <i>S. Rossini</i> |
| 10.7 | Provincial IEP Changes | <i>S. Rossini</i> |
| 10.8 | Integration Action for Inclusion in School and Community Project | <i>S. Rossini</i> |

11. Next Meeting: May 25, 2009

12. Adjournment

12.1 Motion for Absenteeism

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p><i>THAT, K. Drexler be excused.</i></p> | <p><i>Moved by: P. Houlahan</i> <i>Seconded by: R. Quesnel</i></p> |
| <p>CARRIED</p> | |

12.2 Motion for Adjournment

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p><i>THAT, the meeting adjourn.</i></p> | <p><i>Moved by: C. McCarney</i> <i>Seconded by: L. Preza</i></p> |
| <p>CARRIED</p> | |

12.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:20p.m.