

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

Monday, May 25, 2009
7:00 p.m. – Board Room
Catholic Education Centre

Members/Alternates K. Drexler; P. Houlahan; L. Kovalchek (Chair); J. Matters; C. McCarney

Present: M. McDermott; S. Rossini; J. Trovato

Staff Present: J. Foster, Supervising Principal
S. Zucker, Senior Administrator, Financial Services

Members Excused: B. Riviera; C. Learn; L. Preza; R. Quesnel (Vice Chair); L. Volkers

Members Absent: K. Drexler

Recording Secretary: N. Brock

1. Call to Order

1.1 **Opening Prayer**

2. Approval of Agenda

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney
Seconded by: M. McDermott

THAT, the agenda be approved as submitted.

CARRIED

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT, the minutes for the April 27, 2009 SEAC meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Action Items

5.1 Nomination – New Alternate SEAC Member

Lori Kovalchek

RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT, the Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) accept the nomination of Mary Hospital as an alternate representative for the Association for Bright Children (ABC) of Ontario, Halton Chapter, on the Board's SEAC, and recommend that Halton Catholic District School Board appoint Ms. Hospital to the SEAC effective May 25, 2009 until November 2010.

CARRIED

5.2 .

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: M. McDermott
Seconded by: C. McCarney

THAT, the Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) accept the change of April 2010 meeting date to April 26, 2010.

CARRIED

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 Special Education Budget

S. Zucker/S. Rossini

S. Zucker, Senior Administrator of Business Services provided through the use of a PowerPoint presentation, the budget as presented to the Board as a whole, specifically the area of Special Education. The presentation included highlights on revenues, expenditures and grants. It was noted that submission of the balanced budget is due June 30, 2009 to the Ministry of Education.

Discussion took place around funding, student support and the shortfall. A handout was provided for future reference. Members of SEAC support the budget and applauded the presentation as it was very informative and clear.

L. Kovalchek thanked S. Zucker.

6.2 TRAC Program

S. Rossini

S. Rossini spoke of the history of TRAC and gave a brief outline which included the three (3) parts of the program. Discussion took place about the programs challenges and sustainability as well as a comparison to the Structured Teaching Program which has similar teaching strategies. C. Learn and B. Riviera were instrumental in the implementation of this program and it was decided that discussion is required involving these individuals. An information handout was provided for future reference.

6.3 “Parents and Communities as Partners” Conference – April 28, 2009 - report

C. McCarney

C. McCarney shared with the members of SEAC, the outline of the conference which included the implemented Parent Policy along with the toll free parent support hotline and tip sheet. The workshops included discussion around fostering new attitudes about parent engagement, suggestion for conversation with children about school and being involved.

C. McCarney presented S. Rossini with the information booklet handed out at the conference.

L. Kovalchek thanked C. McCarney for her participation in the conference and the information she brought back to the members of SEAC.

7. Information

7.1 SEAC Information Flyer

J. Trovato

J. Trovato thanked J. Matters for her input into the flyer. It was decided to send the draft out to SEAC members for further input and review. A final will be forwarded to S. Rossini for her approval.

7.2 Parent Information Night 2009-2010

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek thanked the Special Education staff and members of SEAC for their participation in a very successful evening that approximately 120 parent attended at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington on April 30, 2009.

P. Houlahan thanked L. Kovalchek and S. Rossini for their well received presentations that evening.

Discussion took place around cost and obtaining funding for the 2009-2010 Parent Information Night which will be facilitated by SEAC.

7.3 Invitation to “Tetra Toronto Assistive Technology Forum”, June 18, 2009

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek presented information about the upcoming workshop on Thursday June 18 at the CNIB centre. The flyer was distributed to SEAC members for their consideration.

7.4 Superintendent’s Report

S. Rossini

New Initiatives

S. Rossini briefly described for the members of SEAC, the Special Education New Initiatives which were outlined in the budget presentation.

SEAC DVD

L. Kovalchek suggested the members of SEAC formulate questions that will be used to create the DVD. Discussion regarding the composition and contents of the DVD included separate chapters highlighting student video clips, promoting education as a school community and the Spirit of Inclusion Award. It was noted that the DVD will be uploaded onto the Special Education website for availability to the public.

L. Kovalchek requested S. Rossini to facilitate B. Hoffman, Media Technician, in the creation. The anticipated

presentation date for the DVD is October 28, 2009 at the first Council of Chairs Meeting.

First Student Bus Company

S. Rossini shared with the members of SEAC, the plan in place for the affected students regarding the possible strike action of the First Student Bus Company.

Integration Action for Inclusion in School and Community Project

A handout including the results was provided to members of SEAC for future reference.

Hoops for All

L. Kovalchek accepted her invitation to attend the event.

8. Agency Updates

No Agency Updates.

9. Future Agenda Items - June

- 9.1 Integration Action for Inclusion in School and Community Project
- 9.2 Special Education Annual Plan
- 9.3 SEAC DVD

S. Rossini
S. Rossini
all

10. Future Agenda Items :

- 10.2 Phoneme Touch & Say
- 10. "Assistive Technology for All" report
- 10.3 Home Instruction for Special Education Students
- 10.4 Provincial IEP Changes

A. Cooke
SEAC member
T. Wilson
S. Rossini

11. Next Meeting: June 22, 2009

12. Adjournment

12.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney
Seconded by: M. McDermott

THAT, B. Riviera; C. Learn; L. Preza; R. Quesnel (Vice Chair); L. Volkers *be excused*.

CARRIED

12.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: J. Matters
Seconded by: P. Houlahan

THAT, *the meeting adjourn.*

CARRIED

12.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:53 p.m.