

Members/Alternates Present: K. Drexler, M. Hospital, P. Houlahan; L. Kovalchek (Chair); A. LeMay, C. McCarney; M. McDermott; L. Preza, R. Quesnel (Vice Chair); J. Trovato

Staff Present: Suzanne Rossini, Superintendent of Special Education Services
J. Doyle, System Chaplaincy Leader & Faith Animator
J. Langill, Superintendent of Education
S. Palijan, Research Officer
Janet Foster, Supervising Principal, Alternate Programs

Members Excused: J. Matters, L. Volkers

Recording Secretary: J. Crew

1. Call to Order

L. Kovalchek welcomed the members of SEAC to a new school year, and asked that we keep in our prayers Trustee Joanne Matters who underwent surgery this summer.

1.1 Commissioning of SEAC, Opening Prayer

Joan Doyle

1.2 Distribution of SEAC binders

L. Kovalchek invited everyone to pick up their orientation binders. These binders began a year ago with input from SEAC members and have been brought to fruition with S. Rossini and N. Brock. The manuals are working documents, open to revisions as needed. It is up to each member how they use it. Feel free to review and we can revise as necessary. Special thanks to N. Brock for putting these together.

2. Approval of Agenda

That the agenda be amended as follows:

6.4 Reports: Assistive Technology Learning Centre, Contained Classes be moved to 4.2

5.3 Motion re: Contained Classes be postponed to our next meeting in October

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: C. McCarney

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Approval of Minutes June 22, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: P. Houlahan

Seconded by: L. Preza

THAT, the minutes for the June 22, 2009 SEAC meeting be approved as amended. CARRIED

4. Presentations

4.1 HCDSB Strategic Plan

J. Langill

Presentation introduced by L. Kovalchek, who welcomed J. Langill, Superintendent of School Services.

J. Langill presented an overview of the Board's new Vision Statement, which has been developed to lead our Board in a different and positive direction during the Board's 40th anniversary. This Vision statement was passed at the last Board meeting and released to the public. To build on this direction we will need all of SEAC, as stakeholders to help over the next 5 years. Strategic planning requires clear direction. Activities have been started at school level to gather feedback to begin the strategic planning process to achieve our goals and objectives over the next 5 years.

J. Langill referred to poster on the wall 'Catholic Learning Community, Our Vision in Action' and is asking all groups in the Board to look at the four cores statements defined on the poster. J. Langill will provide a sheet to S. Rossini and L. Kovalchek with a more detail on how you might want to work through those areas, at a future date. Would like to start with the positives that you see already fit the vision statement in these core areas. Requests that SEAC as a group talk about how our Board is currently meeting this criteria, in a brainstorming type session and make a list of things that apply to each area. There will be a full report of the strategic planning process at next week's Board meeting on Tuesday, October 6th.

Discussion took place around timing, input and how this relates to Board's Improvement Plan. School effectiveness will be a large part of the strategic plan. J Langill will leave very descriptive steps on how to work though this activity with your group. The activity takes about 20 minutes. A due date of November 30th would be ideal.

J. Langill thanked the members and encouraged them to be involved in this process.

L. Kovalchek thanked J. Langill, stating this is a great opportunity to be involved in this process, it's a very valuable task.

4.2 (a) Reports: Assistive Technology Learning Centre, Contained Classes

S. Palijan

S. Rossini informed members that the information presented is a follow up to the Assistive Technology Learning Centre and is based on a number of surveys sent to students and parents on their learning of Assistive Technology and attending the Learning Centre. The second part of presentation report will be around the Contained Classes and the implementation of classes from last year.

S. Palijan, through the use of a PowerPoint Presentation, presented an overview of the Assistive Technology Learning Centre Program, including program description, research design, program satisfaction, feedback, outcomes from both students and parents, as well as considerations and future directions.

A handout was also provided for future reference.

Discussion took place about students being invited back to another session at the centre, does achievement carry to home class room, are resources back in their home schools. Also, implementation, setup, follow up, is it working? Itinerant Special Education Resource Teachers are going into schools to setup links, to increase the comfort level of teachers using assistive technology, and to identify program areas where assistive technology can be used. Classroom teachers are invited to attend the program and are provided inservice on the inclusion of assistive technology in their classrooms. Assistive technology must go more mainstream.

L. Kovalchek discussed Special Education Professional Development Day, the DVD created on students in LD programs as well, and what an impact it has on a school, seeing a difference in how teachers are responding to students. Staff also benefit from the centre, it is a tool to succeed.

L. Kovalchek thanked S. Palijan for coming and providing feedback. Any further questions could be forward to L. Kovalchek.

4.2 (b) Contained Classes

S. Palijan

S. Palijan provided, through the use of a PowerPoint Presentation, an overview of the Contained Classes, this included background, research design, sample characteristics, outcomes, program satisfaction, program dissatisfaction, and feedback from both students and parents.

A handout was provided for future reference.

L. Kovalchek stated she was impressed to see that the dissatisfaction information being included, in the past have only seen everything that works well.

Discussion took place around the contained classes looking at other exceptionalities, gifted being overrepresented on the survey and tracking across other elements for next evaluation. L. Kovalchek would like to see the dissatisfaction areas addressed. Clarification was provided for questions arising about combined grades, special education transportation funding for contained classes, what happens moving from grade 8 to grade 9, would like to see what the plan is for looking at this. L. Kovalchek spoke of this transition, as well as transition into university.

S. Rossini clarified that contained class teachers were not SERTS, but rather Special Education Teachers (SETs) assigned to one class.

Interest was expressed in hearing enrolment figures for this year. S. Rossini shared the numbers of students per location and provided how these numbers compare to last year. S. Palijan explained that the ATLC report was done differently than the contained class report because we were 3 years into the ATLC program, and we don't have the same kind of numbers yet for the contained classes.

L. Kovalchek thanked S. Palijan for the two presentations and stated she appreciated the opportunity to provide some feedback.

5. Action Items

5.1 Motion re: Revised Special Education Annual Plan

S. Rossini recognized that there was so much more interest, this year, than last year and thanked the members, and proposed to start looking at this year's plan in January, as it is important that we work on this at the same time as we are working on budgets. S. Rossini noted one other addition, section 23, appendix Z, which has been attached to the back of the plan and pointed out that the sections that are faded print are the revisions that were requested by the SEAC members.

Motion was put forward to accept with revisions. L. Kovalchek questioned if members needed time to review the revisions, or to accept the plan as it was revised and sent out with the agenda. Other SEAC members felt they needed time to review. C. McCarney suggested a meeting to convene on this issue only, so as not to delay the submission. L. Kovalchek proposed to make this the priority for our October meeting as it is time sensitive. S. Rossini requested that if we dedicate the October meeting to this, that the discussion be streamlined on the areas of focus, and requested feedback about concerns prior to the October meeting. A show of hands was requested. A show of hands agreed to this being the priority for the October meeting.

5.2 Motion re: New Autism Society of Ontario Member

The nomination was put forth:

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: P. Houlahan

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

THAT, the Halton Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) accept the nomination of Lorraine Cipparrone as representative for the Autism Society Ontario, Halton Chapter, on the Board's SEAC, and recommend that Halton Catholic District School Board appoint Ms. Cipparrone to the SEAC effective October 26, 2009 until November 2010.

CARRIED

L. Kovalchek announced that B. Riviera, Alternate member for Autism Society, Ontario will not be returning to SEAC, and thanked C. Learn and B. Riviera for their years of support and input.

S. Rossini asked if the nomination for a Community Leaving member had been received. L. Kovalchek will connect with J. Crew on this nomination.

6. Reports/Updates/Discussion

6.1 SEAC DVD

L. Kovalchek

L. Kovalchek and R. Quesnel remarked on how impressed they are with the content of SEAC DVD. It is not available tonight, but they hope to have it for the October meeting, it will be brief. If SEAC approves of the DVD, it will be presented to Council Chairs the following week. R. Quesnel and L. Kovalchek will meet with B. Hoffman within the next week or so. This DVD will not be annual event it should last to the end of 2010. L. Kovalchek noted that Autism Society was represented and thanked everyone for their participation

6.2 Catholic Parents Involvement Committee Conference

SEAC

Takes place October 17, 2009 at Holy Trinity, L. Kovalchek cannot attend on that date, but hopes that the majority of SEAC will attend, as there was much valuable feedback last year. There are a lot of presenters, one of particular interest is; Alison Morse, who is knowledgeable and articulate on the topic of communications between parents and educators. L. Kovalchek asked for volunteers to have a table. L. Kovalchek will provide the SEAC board. Other members are encouraged to sign up also.

6.3 Parent Information Night 2009-2010

L. Kovalchek

C. McCarney has done awesome job starting a proposed format. C. McCarney outlined a working document and would like to address two key items concerning; communications: home, school and community and the IEP document.

C. McCarney would like S. Rossini to obtain the documentary 'ADD and Loving it' to play for parents. This would be very enlightening and informative, because we do not have a representative for ADD. This documentary was done by Global, we will need to Investigate if we need permission to obtain a copy that we can legally show to parents.

Require a date and location possibly high school or regional office. L. Kovalchek suggested Corpus Christi, which was used last year. Looking at February to March, need to review dates that work for SEAC and the board, and decide on a weekday verses a Saturday. Perhaps look at dates speakers are available. C. McCarney listed a proposed schedule for the day. A liturgy was suggested. L. Kovalchek asked for volunteers to sit on a subcommittee. Proposed format will be similar to last years but expanded. S. Rossini stated gifted screening is at the beginning of November, second stage is in January, by February parents should know. L. Kovalchek dates looked at were February 23 or 25, March 23 or 25, perhaps see what dates Lynn Ziraldo is available.

Members questioned that historically the information night has been focused on empowering parents for decision making, placements, this seems more expanded. L. Kovalchek clarified that the night is meant be specific to special education programs and how they work. L. Kovalchek requested 3 or 4 volunteers.

7. Information

7.1 Superintendent's Report

S. Rossini

S. Rossini discussed a presentation to be held on Monday November 2 at Corpus Christi Secondary; "Life is a Twitch" teachers and parents are invited, it's a very informative and entertaining presentation on Tourette Syndrome and associated disorders. An information flyer is included in tonight's handouts. Principals have been asked to let S. Rossini know of any presentations are to be held at their schools so she could pass the information to SEAC members.

The hand out of month by month agenda items, has been created to help crystallize the items that need to be addressed by SEAC before the end of year. On the outline distributed, the board's Accessibility Plan will be scheduled for November and the discussion about Special Education Plan can be started in January. Please forward any feedback to L. Kovalchek on items you would like to include. This will be a tool to keep us on track with what we hope to accomplish this year.

The link to the video that was shared with staff on the secondary PA day around the Learning for All K-12 document will be e-mailed to SEAC members .

S. Rossini shared good new stories from emails received and then reviewed various documents included in tonight's handouts, specifically noting the document; Education Policy and Program Update to June 30, 2009, which has been included in the SEAC binders under information.

8. Agency Updates

No Agency Updates

9. Future Agenda Items

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| 9.1 Provincial IEP Changes | S. Rossini |
| 9.2 Phoneme Touch & Say | A. Cooke |
| 9.3 Home Instruction for Students with Special Needs | T. Wilson |
| 9.4 Integration Action for Inclusion in School and Community Project | S. Rossini |

10. Next Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2009

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: A. LeMay
Seconded by: J. Trovato

THAT, J. Matters be excused

CARRIED

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT, the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:42.