

Monday, February 22, 2015
7:00 p.m. – Board Room
Catholic Education Centre

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Members/ Alternates Present: B. Agnew, D. Hotopeleanu, A. Iantomasi, H. Karabela, M. Lourenco, C. Parreira,
R. Quesnel, D. Rabenda, J. Rowles, L. Stephenson

Staff Present: B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services
S. Miller, Special Education Coordinator

Members Absent:

Members Excused: L. Cipparrone, L. Currie, S. Trites

Recorder: J. Crew

1. Call to Order

1.1 Opening Prayer

D. Rabenda

The meeting began with a prayer at 7:00 pm.

R. Quesnel introduced a member from VOICE, who was in attendance at the meeting in consideration of becoming an alternate representative on SEAC. Each member of SEAC introduced themselves.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: D. Hotopeleanu

THAT, the agenda be approved as submitted.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2016 SEAC Meeting

L. Stephenson identified 2 minor adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: L. Stephenson

Seconded by: C. Parreira

THAT, the minutes for the SEAC meeting be approved

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

4.1 Review Chart of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

D. Rabenda reviewed items on the chart; no updates or questions were put forth.

5. Action Items

5.1 Special Education Plan (pages 38 to 56)

D. Rabenda

D. Rabenda led members in a page by page review of the Special Education Plan pages 38 to 56.

Discussion included the tier approach to instruction and intervention; the assessment referral process and some acronym clarification. The section will be edited to reflect the profile of a gifted learner.

D. Rabenda express her appreciation for all comments.

5.2 Webinar PowerPoint and Parent Engagement Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee

R. Quesnel provided a subcommittee update: the subcommittee met with L. Cipparrone who subsequently created a draft PowerPoint presentation for the webinar to be reviewed tonight. The presentation is dynamic and fluid, it will require information from each member, which must be submitted to L. Cipparrone by March 1st so that a final draft can be brought to the March 7th meeting. The remaining 3 SEAC Soundbytes for 2015-2016 are currently being developed, they will be presented at the March meeting for approval.

B. Agnew, R. Quesnel and M. Lourenco led members through a page by page review of the presentation printout. B. Agnew noted that the presentation is designed in a collaborative fashion, the goal is to let people know what SEAC does and why, and to encourage others to become more involved. Members were encourage to speak during the webinar regarding their associations and/or member at large backgrounds. Suggestions of what could be included were discussed. The subcommittee expressed hope that everyone would participate; if necessary information could be provided to L. Cipparrone to speak on their behalf.

L. Cipparrone will speak to the generic points of the presentation. Members were asked to review the points and identify if they would like to see anything added, changed or reworded. The pilot webinar presentation will be approximately 45 minutes; participants can engage by entering questions; the presentation can be modified. Several suggestions were discussed.

B. Browne commended the subcommittee on a great introduction to their online approach for raising awareness of SEAC; noting this will engage a much wider audience.

R. Quesnel praised L. Cipparrone for her skills and leadership in taking such a large amount of information and creating this presentation within such a short timeframe. R. Quesnel expressed her appreciation of L. Cipparrone freely sharing her talents and resources through her role on SEAC, and added that L. Cipparrone has also volunteered to help PAAC on SEAC with an upcoming project.

D. Rabenda asked if there were any further comments or questions. D. Rabenda thanked and congratulated the subcommittee for a job well done.

Members were reminded to get their information submitted by March 1st. A run through of the webinar will be scheduled for the March 7th SEAC meeting.

6. Communications to SEAC

6.1 Superintendent's Report

B. Browne began by advising that the next SEAC meeting will be taking place in only 2 weeks due to timing of March break and Holy week.

B. Browne's updates included:

- A third training session of the Empower Reading Program through Sick Kids was just been completed.
- Special Incident Portion (SIP) claims will be submitted to the ministry later in the week. B. Browne thank S.

Miller for coordinating this very involved process; this funding results in providing a lot of support.

- The 'Parent Information Meeting for Students with Special Needs Entering the Kindergarten Program in September 2016' is coming up on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Benedict Catholic School in Milton. All Special Education Consultants and L. Cipparrone will be participating. All SEAC members are invited to attend and be introduced, the evening provides another opportunity for raising awareness of SEAC.
- B. Browne thanked SEAC for their ongoing support around the Board's focus on independence toward pathways beyond, and informed them that Supervisory Officers from other boards are wanting to know more about HCDSB's focus on independence, how our system rubric helps determine allotment of EAs throughout the system, and our use of resources. On March 1st B. Browne will be meeting with SOs from other boards who are wanting to learn more.
- SERT placements for next year are beginning, currently in the process of reviewing criteria to determine how to best staff our schools.
- The Spirit of Inclusion subcommittee met with B. Browne last week to review the nominations submitted from all schools and determine this year's recipients. B. Browne shared the nomination profiles of the elementary and secondary recipients chosen to receive this year's awards.
- The Spirit of Inclusion SEAC presentation for the school plaques will take place at the March 7th SEAC meeting, the recipient's, their families and school staff will be invited to the presentation. On Monday April 25th the individual awards will be presented during the Student Awards of Excellence Ceremony at Holy Trinity. B. Browne expressed his appreciation of the large SEAC presence in attendance at last year's ceremony and encourage members to participate again this year. Members were asked to indicate if they will be attending this year, a reminder will be sent out. B. Browne also elaborated on the significance of this award as it representative of the whole system, and expressed appreciation for the priority from our Board in celebrating the Spirit of Inclusion as the closing award of the night.

D. Rabenda asked if there were any questions.

D. Rabenda expressed her appreciation for all the work Special Education does.

6.2 Association Reports

6.2.1 Easter Seals Ontario Association Report

C. Parreira/B. Agnew

C. Parreira informed members of an Easter Seals Parent Conference and Webcast that will take place on Saturday, April 9th. C. Parreira pointed out that any association could benefit from attending the conference; and informed members that B. Agnew is one of the organizers of this event.

B. Agnew explained that the parent conference was made possible by a grant from the Ministry, the conference is a collaborative special education effort that would be valuable to anyone who would like more information. B. Agnew reviewed the scheduled speakers and the topics that will be covered; and added that registration is now open; there is a \$10 fee to attend which will include lunch; the conference will be on a Saturday starting at 9:00 am; and workshops will be webcast live. B. Agnew asked if there were any questions.

An information flyer provided in the meeting package outlined the conference details:

'Keys to Special Education: Advocacy, Collaboration and Knowledge' Parent Conference and Webcast takes place on Saturday April 9, 2016 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at The Country Day School, 13415 Dufferin Street, King, Ontario L7B 1K5.

6.2.2 ABC Association Report

M. Lourenco

M. Lourenco shared topics for the upcoming ABC Monthly Meetup sessions, and noted that the topics are not unique to the gifted population.

An information flyer provided outlined the session details:

March topics will be about '*High School Options*': March 2nd – South Halton and March 9th – North Halton; April topics will be '*All About Anxiety*': April 6th – South Halton and April 13th – North Halton

All sessions take place from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. South Halton sessions are at Longo's Loft, 3455 Wyecroft Rd., Oakville. North Halton sessions are at Longo's Loft, 1079 Maple Ave., Milton

6.3 Trustee Reports

A. Iantomasi provided updates regarding: Valentines for VETS, 5000 cards were sent out in January; this Wednesday there will be a Council of Chairs meeting; senior staff have been going to the schools affected by the pupil accommodation reviews; community consultations will begin next week; HCDSB has been celebrating Black History Month during February; and the new 2016-2017 School Calendar has been put forth to the ministry of Education.

Questions were asked and discussed regarding the uniform vendor process and special education equipment purchases.

6.4 Sub-Committee Update

6.5 Reports from Other Shareholder Meetings

7. Information Items

D. Rabenda informed members that an extra ticket is available if anyone else was interested in attending the CYO dinner on Thursday.

8. Questions from the Public

None received. D. Rabenda thanked the VOICE association member for attending.

9. SEAC Discussion/Question Period

10. Next Meeting will be Monday, March 7, 2016

March's meeting will include a Mental Health update and the Spirit of Inclusion presentations.

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

RECOMMENDATION	Moved by: M. Lourenco Seconded by: R. Quesnel
THAT, L. Cipparrone, S. Trites, L. Currie be excused.	
	CARRIED

11.2 Motion for Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: C. Parreira

THAT, the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8:30 pm.