

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

**Monday, March 7, 2016  
7:00 p.m. – Board Room  
Catholic Education Centre**

**Members/ Alternates** L. Cipparrone, D. Hotopeleanu, M. Lourenco, J. Rowles, L. Stephenson, S. Trites  
**Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Members Excused:** B. Agnew, L. Currie, A. Iantomasi, H. Karabela, C. Parreira, R. Quesnel, D. Rabenda

**Recorder:** J. Crew

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**1. Call to Order**

**1.1 Opening Prayer**

**L. Cipparrone**

The meeting began with a prayer at 7:06 pm.

**1.2 Spirit of Inclusion – Presentation of School Plaques**

L. Cipparrone explained the criteria for nominating candidates for the Spirit of Inclusion award and informed members of the unique characteristics of each of this year's recipients that led to them being selected. Sam, a student at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, and Abbygale, a student at St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School are the recipients of this year's Spirit of Inclusion Awards.

A gift and school plaques were presented to each recipient.

**1.3 Approval of Agenda**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by: M. Lourenco

Seconded by: S. Trites

**THAT**, the agenda be approved as submitted.

**CARRIED**

**2. Presentations**

**2.1 Mental Health Strategy**

**P. Webber-Callaghan**

P. Webber-Callaghan provided an update on the Mental Health Strategy. Information included: this is a year for consolidation; actively using the tag line Talk; Learn; Support; goals for 2015-2016 include reviewing our Protocols for Standard Practices and consolidating our Mental Health Action Plan. P. Webber-Callaghan reviewed the programs currently in place as part of action plan.

Work in progress includes: developing a dynamic website on mental health; drafting a policy on suicide prevention; and a draft of the terms of reference for the Mental Health Leadership (MHL) Team (two members of SEAC sit on the MHL team subcommittee); working with research around 'where are we?' and 'where are we going?'

Directions for 2016-17 will include: an ADHD Module; and education around First Nations Métis and Inuit.

P. Codner and P. Webber-Callaghan will be presenting at the LDAH Solutions for Learning Conference March 22 on social emotional programs.

P. Webber-Callaghan asked if members had any questions.

L. Cipparrone thanked P. Webber-Callaghan.

### 3. Actions to be taken

#### 3.1 Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2015 SEAC Meeting

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by: S. Trites
	Seconded by: J. Rowles
<b>THAT, the minutes for the SEAC meeting be approved as submitted.</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>

### 4. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

#### 4.1 Review Chart of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

No updates.

L. Cipparrone asked members if they had reviewed the links on the association page; if they had not checked recently, it was requested they take time to review.

### 5. Action Items

#### 5.1 Special Education Plan (pages 38 to 56)

**L. Cipparrone**

L. Cipparrone asked if there was any further information, changes or comments on this portion of the plan. There were some question around the updating of changes. The process for changes to the plan was reviewed; the updated plan with changes will be posted on the Board website by July 31<sup>st</sup> as mandated by the ministry.

#### 5.2 Webinar PowerPoint Review

**Parent Engagement Subcommittee**

L. Cipparrone provided a draft PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming webinar and did a page by page review. The presentation is a high level overview; members were asked to update/provide any information that they would like included. The format was reviewed and it was reiterated that the content could be altered as members would like. Members discussed the layout; rearrangement and the format for questions.

B. Browne added that the focus is to raise awareness of SEAC, and could end on an invitation to collaborate, noting that relationship is important and teams can always answer questions at the school level. L. Cipparrone asked members to let her know if they think of anything else, the presentation can be sent around again.

There were questions around what tool would be used. The subcommittee will work with I.T. to determine; the format will be slides with voice behind the slides.

B. Browne suggested that with March break and Easter approaching, members may want to get information out to schools as soon as possible for promotion, and registration need to be considered. M. Lourenco will connect with subcommittee regarding promotion information to be sent out and put on the Board website.

L. Cipparrone added that communication could be sent out through associations also.

#### 5.3 SEAC Soundbytes

**Subcommittee**

M. Lourenco provided the final three SEAC Soundbytes; topics include: April - Mental Health and Special Education; May - What is EQAO; June – Transition Planning. Members were asked to review the Soundbytes and provide input; any questions, comments or updates.

## **6. Communications to SEAC**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report**

B. Browne provided the following updates:

- Speech and Language have had a Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA) student on placement for January and February.
- Integrated Rehab update: The ministries are working with experts and service providers to develop and provide two program supports which will be released in Spring 2016:
  - Program Guidelines: The guidelines are built on the core service requirements and provide direction to service delivery areas regarding the implementation of consistent practices across the province.
  - Performance Measures: The ministries are also developing indicators focused on the performance of the integrated system in supporting seamless, effective and timely service delivery. These measures will begin to build the foundation for service delivery accountability and reporting requirements
- Speech Language Pathologists/CDAs/ESL teachers will be collaborating in developing resources/strategies to support development of vocabulary and grammatical structures in children who are ESL or have delayed language development in kindergarten
- Provincial Schools Consultation: The Ministry is conducting consultations to explore ways to provide a range of quality programs and services that best meet the needs of students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, blind or blind/low vision, and learning disabilities; a better understanding of students and their pathways. Two staff and two students will be selected to attend and represent HCSDB.
- Camp Unity – Supporting Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in a summer camp program, which was piloted last year, at St. Paul's in Burlington and OLV in Milton. SEAC members will remember the presentation from a parent whose children attended the camp.
- Speeches - Many of our students did really well preparing for them. Wonderful accommodations including technology, smaller audiences, rehearsals, prompts even some visuals and social stories. Many of our Special Education Team has been asked to judge; proud of the support our students have been given to successfully participate in this event.
- Hoop it Up – Peer Mentor Basketball – on Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> Assumption Secondary School will be hosting a "Hoop It Up" basketball event from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This event is open to grade 7 and 8 students; this is a transition opportunity for students who are considering a placement in the Life Skills program.
- Gifted Parent Information Night will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Corpus Christi Secondary School in Burlington for grade 4 students that are newly identified, to provide as much information as possible to be informed about the process.
- Canadian Educator's Conference on Mental Health takes place April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. P. Codner and B. Browne will be presenting on version big ideas from our Mental Health strategy to highlight work being done at Halton Catholic.
- Kindergarten Parent Night at St. Benedict last week was well attended. Staff talked about process, introduced ideas; L. Cipparrone related, helped ease parents and answered questions; this emphasizes how important relationships are. L. Cipparrone added there were a lot of parents asking really good questions.

### **6.2 Association Reports**

#### **6.2.1 Autism Ontario Association Report**

**L. Stephenson**

L. Stephenson informed members that World Autism Awareness day is Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Autism Ontario Halton will have two 'Raise the Flag' ceremonies for World Autism Awareness Day.:

- Raise the Flag with Mayor Burton on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 6 - 7 p.m. at the Oakville Town Hall
- Raise the Flag with Mayor Goldring on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-3 p.m. at the Burlington City Hall

### 6.3 Trustee Reports

S. Trites noted the most recent Board meeting was postponed because of the snow storm; it was rescheduled to this Thursday. The consultation process for pupil accommodation reviews have begun, there are five areas affected, in particular south Burlington, the St. Patrick/St. Raphael/Ascension meeting took place last week; the meeting for St. John/St. Paul takes place tomorrow. Lots of feedback has been received, it is a very involved process.

### 6.4 Sub-Committee Update

### 6.5 Reports from Other Shareholder Meetings

#### 6.5.1 CPIC Ministry Initiative Information

**L. Cipparrone**

L. Cipparrone read an email on behalf of the Chair of CPIC: *"The ministry is holding its annual PIC symposium on Saturday April 16, and instead of the usual PIC chair plus one, they are inviting up to 15 people per board. The ministry is wanting several more PIC members, members of SEAC and Aboriginal Advisory Committees of the board to attend. This will be just GTA boards; this is not meant for Board staff, or trustees. It coincides with the TDSB Parent conference, and there will be special designation, for the 15 from each board; special seminars. At these seminars, best practices, and other informational issues can be discussed."*

L. Cipparrone will forward the email to members, anyone interested should let her that they would like to attend on April 16; L. Cipparrone will collect the information and forward to CPIC.

### 7. Information Items

D. Hotopeleanu reminded members that March 21<sup>st</sup> is Down Syndrome Day; HDSA is looking forward to competitions in schools.

### 8. Questions from the Public

None received.

### 9. SEAC Discussion/Question Period

### 10. Next Meeting will be Monday, April 18, 2016

### 11. Adjournment

#### 11.1 Motion for Absenteeism

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by: M. Lourenco Seconded by: J. Rowles
<b>THAT</b> , B. Agnew, L. Currie, A. Iantomasi, H. Karabela, C. Parreira, R. Quesnel, D. Rabenda, be excused.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

#### 11.2 Motion for Adjournment

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Moved by: L. Stephenson Seconded by: J. Rowles
<b>THAT</b> , the meeting adjourn.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

#### 11.3 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:10 pm.

