

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: November 28, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
802 Drury Lane
Burlington, Ontario

Members Present	B. Agnew	J. Parisi
	R. Barreiro	R. Quesnel
	D. Hotopeleanu	D. Rabenda (Chair)
	A. Iantomasi	L. Stephenson
	H. Karabela	S. Trites
	M. Lourenco	

Staff Present B. Browne, Superintendent of Special Education Services
W. Reid-Purcell, Special Education Coordinator

Members Excused L. Cipparrone
L. Currie
C. Parreira

Recording Secretary J. Crew

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer,

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer led by D. Rabenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: R. Quesnel

RESOLVED, that the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

2. Presentations

3. Actions to be taken

3.1 Minutes of the October 24, 2016 SEAC Meeting

Information on the Renewed Math Strategy as a future agenda topic was revised.

Moved by: A. Iantomasi

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the October 24, 2016 SEAC Meeting be approved as amended.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED.**

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared

5. **Business Arising from Previous Meetings**

5.1 **Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

No updates were received.

6. **Action Items**

7. **Communications to SEAC**

7.1 **Superintendent's Report (B. Browne)**

B. Browne provided updates on the follow topics:

- **ABA for All – Three Pronged Approach:** support for the implementation of the Ontario Autism Program resulted in the hiring of additional School Support Transition Specialists (SSTS) staff to support the system. This plan has three main components throughout the system:
 - **ABA/PPM 140 Capacity Building** –supporting capacity building throughout the system through an 'ABA for All' professional development series
 - **Transdisciplinary Rounds** –re-structuring of the approach to multi-disciplinary work, congruent with PPM 159 Collaborative Professionalism
 - **SSTS Walk Ins/Phone Support** –SSTS staff will be available to support educators in the use of a variety of ABA Strategies

Further information on this strategy for system capacity building and support can be presented at a future SEAC meeting should SEAC like a presentation.

- **Early French Immersion (EFI) Pilot Program** is currently in year 4; a committee made up of parents, staff, and trustees was established to review the program. There are several areas of concern, an area of concern for SEAC to be aware of is early intervention; providing timely support as early as possible
- **Natural Playgrounds/Accessibility/SEAC Support** – B. Agnew is providing the lens of parent and representative of Easter Seals for the kindergarten naturalized play areas. Brenda's willingness to participate and add value to the entire system brings tremendous perspective to helping make our playgrounds as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- **Mental Health:** B. Browne and our Mental Health Leader attended the Children's Mental Health Ontario conference in Toronto; lots of emphasis on the importance of wellbeing (Achieving Excellence) to achieve student success.
- **Suicide Prevention Strategies:** School boards in Ontario are required to have suicide prevention strategies in place to support student well being. HCDSB schools have at least two teachers trained in *SafeTALK*, a tier one intervention. All CYCs and Social Workers have been trained in *Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)* a higher level, clinical approach to supporting students in tier two and three crisis.
- **Special Needs Strategy (SNS):** HCDSB participated in a phone call with the Ministry of Education about the SNS, specifically the Integrated Rehab plan; the call was in direct response to the concerns raised re: impacts on schools; conversations are happening and are being heard.
- **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Claims:** Work is wrapping up regarding SIP claims to support students whose needs are intense and require more than one support worker for their program.
- **OCASE Conference:** Thursday December 1st, B. Browne and C. Cipriano are participating on a panel with legal regarding Special Education issues of provincial concern.

- **Life Skills/Best Buddies Christmas Dance:** Tuesday December 13th from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at Assumption CSS. SEAC are invited, let us know if you'd like to come, so introductions will be arranged
- **CPCO Magazine:** the theme of the winter edition of CPCO magazine (the provincial magazine for principals in Ontario) is "human dignity"; B. Browne has written an article focused on the work HCDSB is doing on student independence; B. Browne will bring a copy for SEAC's December meeting

7.2 Association Reports

Further to the information from the October SEAC meeting, M. Lourenco explained the requirements needed for the Gifted Education course at Wilfrid Laurier University to count as an elective. The course has one opening remaining, information for someone from the Board to attend as a participant was provided.

The meeting paused at 7:30 pm for the scheduled Webinar presentation and resumed following the webinar.

7.3 Trustee Reports

Information was provided on recent Board meetings.

7.4 Sub-Committee Update

B. Browne commended the subcommittee on the relevance and timeliness of the December Soundbyte. Members discussed upcoming soundbytes and webinars moving in the same direction to continue providing these kinds of practical tips.

7.5 Reports from Other Stakeholder Meetings

8. Information Items

The Chair introduced and welcomed J. Parisi SEAC's newest Member-at-Large. Members introduced themselves.

9. Questions from the Public

10. SEAC Discussion

11. Next Agenda: Meeting Monday, December 12, 2016

December's SEAC meeting will be followed by a social gathering, invitations will be sent out. It was determined that the PAaC on SEAC Resources presentation deferred from the October SEAC meeting will be added to December's agenda.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Resolution re Absentees

Moved by: R. Quesnel

Seconded by: L. Stephenson

RESOLVED, that L. Cipparrone, L. Currie, C. Parreira be excused.

CARRIED

12.2 Adjournment and Closing Prayer (D. Rabenda)

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: M. Lourenco

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with a prayer led by D. Rabenda.