

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, J.W. Singleton Centre, Burlington Ontario, on February 1st, 2011

Present: Judy Shiels (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Veerle Ryckewaert (Autism Ontario-Halton Chapter); Amy McKenzie: **Chair** (Halton Council of Home and School Associations); Paulyne Lack (Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario); Lisa Reid (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Heather Thompson (Canadian Mental Health Association); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Lori Kafato (Alternate- Association for Bright Children); Patrice Shennette (Alternate-Autism Ontario-Halton Chapter); Lori Aker (Alternate-Halton Down Syndrome Association); Heather Holden (Alternate-Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Lynn Trevisan: **Vice-Chair** (Member at Large); Jackie Bevers (Member at Large); Jason Bartlett (Member at Large); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Kristen Lochhead (Trustee); Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead (Alternate-Trustee); Dianna Bower (Alternate-Trustee);
Board Liaison and Resource Personnel:
David Board (Superintendent); Sue Roszell (Principal of Special Education) Pamela Cooley (Assistant); Julie Armstrong (HEPA); Patricia Molnar (PSSP)

Regrets: Karen Poole-Lawrence (Easter Seals Society); Nigel Scott (HSPA)

Absent: Maureen Smithers (Alternate-Halton Council of Home and School Associations); Lynne Gurzi (HDEAA); Lisa Griffiths (PSSP)

Agenda Item 1- Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

D. Boag called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He notified the group that the Ministry of Education presentation had to be cancelled.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

J. Hlusko/K. Lochhead

#01-11

“THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Amy McKenzie was elected as SEAC Chair and Lynn Trevisan was elected as Vice Chair.

Agenda Item 2 - Presentations

2.1 Ministry of Education Presentation-Barry Finlay and Moira Sinclair

Cancelled

2.2 Growing Success-Jeff Blackwell and Doug Bothwell

Jeff Blackwell and Doug Bothwell gave an overview of the Growing Success Board policy. They walked through the policy document and administrative procedures with SEAC. The policy contains background information on the Ministry Growing Success fundamental principles, the values of the HDSB and the expectations that come from the policy. They also explained the administrative procedures which are preventative and responsive strategies to support student success, along with the goals of the policy. Lastly, they spoke about the pyramid of interventions.

Any feedback from SEAC members should be emailed to Doug Bothwell: bothwelld@hdsb.ca

Some areas that were mentioned that should be included are accommodations in IEP's and self advocacy.

Agenda Item 3- Call for Notices of Motion/Reports to the Board

D. Boag noted there is a report going to the Board regarding a SEAC member nomination report for an alternate for Tourette Syndrome Association.

Agenda Item 4 - Action

4.1 Approval of the Minutes

P. Lack/ J. Hlusko

#02-11

V. Ryckewaeart noted a change in item 5.1.

“THAT the minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

Agenda Item 5 – Communication to SEAC and Current Successes

5.1 Superintendent's Report

D. Boag highlighted a few items:

There will be a special needs kindergarten evening on March 3rd at Bruce Trail. SEAC members are invited to attend.

L. Reid and V. Ryckewaert indicated interest in representing SEAC at this event.

There will be a Premier parent information evening on March 1st, which unfortunately is at the exact same time as the next SEAC meeting. However, if members could share the flyers with

their associations, and perhaps have their alternate attend the session while they are at the meeting, or vice versa, would be helpful.

Three Board committees have asked for SEAC representation: the Accessibility committee, the Equity and Inclusion committee, and the Parent Involvement Committee. D. Bower gave an overview of these committees as she has served on them in the past. If anyone is interested they should email D. Boag.

D. Boag discussed holding the community consultation evenings again this year. SEAC reps should be at each meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that March 29, 30, and 31 were good dates to look into. Advertising for this will be on the Board website, and in newsletters.

5.2 Association Reports

D. Vandebossche from Learning Disabilities Association of Halton spoke about the 'It Takes a Team' event on Feb 12th. She asked for associations to be present at the event, or if they could provide resources from their associations if they are not able to attend.

5.3 Trustee Reports

J. Hlusko provided an update from the trustees. The following are some issues that were discussed:

- New trustees in training
- Audit committee with the Ministry
- Long term accommodation plan – Halton is the leading Board for growth in Ontario
- Growing Success
- Transportation
- Vote from the public on the holiday break times

Agenda Item 6 – Questions from the Public

None

Agenda Item 7 – SEAC Discussion/Question Period

The following are some the issues that were brought up by SEAC members, which will be looked into:

- Working Together booklet going out prior to IPRC
- Communication to parents at large and the communications committee
- Putting a framework together for association presentations to SEAC. Showing SEAC what the objectives and goals are for all associations represented.
- Getting the order paper together
- The policy for an alternate to speak at the table while a representative is present. Policy states that this is not procedure. D. Bower mentioned that a motion was passed by SEAC in the past that allowed alternates to speak, but there was never a motion put forward to review the policy. This will be brought to the table for next month.

Agenda Item 8-Adjournment

8.1 Motion to Adjourn

K. Lochhead /J. Bartlett

#03-11

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Time: 8:45



Halton District School Board

David Euale, *Director of Education*

Don Vrooman, *Chair of the Board*

SEAC SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **February 1, 2011**

Hi everyone and welcome to all our new members to SEAC. Each month prior to our monthly meeting you will receive a written Superintendent's Report. My goal (which I didn't meet this month!) is to get this out with the agenda about a week in advance so that you will have lots of time to read it prior to the meeting. Typically this report consists of a number of updates since our last meeting. There will be an opportunity each meeting to ask questions related to this report or you can always call me or email anytime as well.

So, a few updates to share with you:

1. LINK (Learn Interface Network and Knowledge) Event – This is a showcase event coming up on March 7th where organizations who work with and support our students and families will share valuable information with you. Please see the flyer attached.
2. Halton Accessibility Showcase is an annual event that takes place each April. It is a huge success each year and attracts organization and agencies who showcase their products and services supporting accessibility. The organizers have asked that I share the application form attached if your association would like to participate and have a table at the event.
3. Two other updates attached. The Ministry of Education, Special Education Branch provides updates periodically that I will pass on to you. In addition MACSE (Ministers Advisory Council on Special Education) meets three times a year and produce minutes that I will pass along as well. These are always excellent resources to help us keep up with current issues being discussed at the Ministry level.
4. One of the topics that surfaces periodically around the SEAC table is teacher training with respect to students with special needs. Special Education Additional Qualification courses are offered in Halton frequently and are often taught by Halton teachers. This spring we will be offering a course in conjunction with York University for just Halton teachers where the course content will be Haltonized. We are hopeful that this exciting new model will attract lots of interest and Halton teachers will have the opportunity of getting additional qualifications in special education while learning along side their Halton colleagues.

5. Transition To High School – this is an annual workshop delivered in partnership by both school boards for parents of students with a developmental disability. Community agencies will also be in attendance to help parents understand the school, Board and community resources available to them and to also support planning for the future. This event will be held on February 17th at 6:30 at the Halton Region Building. Flyer to be distributed at the meeting.
6. SEAC Community Consultation Evenings – this is an opportunity for SEAC to consult with our parents and communities about special education programs and services. Last year we held three evenings where staff and SEAC members ran focus group feedback sessions in Oakville, Milton and Burlington. I would suggest that we plan for the last week or two in March so that we have adequate time to plan and advertise the events. We can talk more about this at our meeting.
7. The Deloitte School Health Support Services Review has been completed and the report is available for review and feedback. It is a fairly hefty document. I will bring copies of the Ministry memo which references where you can find the document on the internet if you are interested in reviewing it.
8. Lastly, the board's Accessibility Committee is looking for a SEAC representative for the committee. The next meeting is in March. If you have an interest in this committee, please let me know.

See you all on Tuesday!