

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, J.W. Singleton Centre, Burlington Ontario, on June 21st, 2011

Present

Amy McKenzie: **Chair** (Halton Council of Home and School Associations); Lynn Trevisan: **Vice-Chair** (Member at Large); Veerle Ryckewaert (Autism Ontario-Halton Chapter); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Heather Holden (Alternate-Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Lori Aker (Alternate-Halton Down Syndrome Association); Jason Bartlett (Member at Large); Jackie Bevers (Member at Large); Paulyne Lack (Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario); Vicki De Mone (Alternate-Tourette Syndrome Association); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Lori Kafato (Alternate- Association for Bright Children); Rebecca Kennedy (Easter Seals Society); Judy Shiels (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children)

Board Liaison and Resource Personnel:

David Boag (Superintendent); Pamela Cooley (Assistant)

Regrets

Kristen Lochhead (Trustee); Dianna Bower (Alternate-Trustee); Sue Roszell (Principal of Special Education)

Absent

Patricia Molnar (PSSP); Maureen Smithers (Alternate-Halton Council of Home and School Associations); Patrice Shennette (Alternate-Autism Ontario-Halton Chapter); Lynne Gurzi (HDEAA); Lisa Griffiths (PSSP) Lisa Reid (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Jason Barr (Alternate-Canadian Mental Health Association); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead (Alternate-Trustee); Karen Poole-Lawrence (Easter Seals Society); Radhika Subramanyan (Canadian Mental Health Association)

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

V. Ryckewaert/ S. Foster **#27-11**

“THAT the agenda be approved.”

CARRIED

2. CALL FOR NOTICES OF MOTION/REPORTS TO THE BOARD

None

3. ACTION

3.1. Minutes of June 7th Meeting

L. Aker/V. De Mone **#28-11**

“THAT the Minutes of the June 7th, 2011 meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

3.2. Goal Setting for 2011-2012

The Chair asked members to comment on what goals they would like to set for next year. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Communication- specifically, better use of the website, having the parent information sessions/parent support and mentorship sessions earlier in the year, and the ability for parents to submit their input online.
- Starting earlier with the Special Education Plan review and also creating a long term plan.
- Looking at the Early Intervention process early in the fall.
- Having a SEAC calendar or time table to be able to track important dates or events. Members were asked to look at the Paac on SEAC calendar.
- The idea of having a SEAC Twitter or Facebook page available for information.
- PPM 140 information
- A clear definition on budget accountability from the Board.
- Remembering not only to come up with goals, but to assign people to those goals and perhaps having people sign up for certain items to take care of.
- Having a SEAC representative on all Board committees
- HDSB SEAC needs to be more involved with other SEACs across the province.

D. Boag commented that dates should be set for the community sessions before the summer break.

The Chair commented that there isn't any news yet on the PRO grant.

The Chair commented that the Protocol/Communications committee should look at the communications and website piece as well as the online survey.

The chair noted that the draft Additional Qualification letter regarding the request for a requirement that all teachers should have Special Education Level One will be sent out to members for review. She read the letter aloud and asked for feedback. Discussion followed on the letter and on AQ processes within the Board and the province.

Discussion took place on the Special Education Plan review process. D. Boag commented on how he would like the process to take place and asked members for feedback. He noted he would like to bring a revised version of the plan back to SEAC early in the fall and to bring sections of the plan for discussion in consecutive meetings. Members agreed this was a good way to go through the process. D. Boag will send out a draft timetable for the plan review.

3.3. Presentations (Requests/Suggestions for Presentations)

Members noted they would like to see presentations for the following topics:

- ABA
- HOPES
- UMAB
- Gary Allan
- Pathways – specifically, an update on the 5th pathway
- A presentation late in the year to update SEAC on the new Lexia software that is being implemented
- More in depth presentations from associations, perhaps a short one every month.

V. Ryckewaert noted that 2 presentations in one meeting can lead to the meeting running out of time. It was suggested that the association presentations could take place near the end of the meeting if there is time for them.

3.4. SEAC awards update

There are 4 awards left to hand out.

4. COMMUNICATION TO SEAC AND CURRENT SUCCESSES

4.1. Superintendent's Report

D. Boag noted that there is a handout for members around Primary Complex Needs. It will be emailed as well. He also noted the track meet was a huge success.

The chair noted that next year is the 25th anniversary of the track meet. She discussed the idea of having a special guest attend.

4.2. Association Reports

None

4.3. Trustee Reports

D. Vrooman noted the Trustees are focusing on budget.

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1 question was submitted. The answer will be in next month's minutes:

Why are some students not receiving an IPRC annual review even though the parents returned the form to the school indicating that they did not waive the formal IPRC annual review and wished to attend an IPRC annual review?

6. SEAC DISCUSSION/QUESTION PERIOD

Discussion took place on a letter from TDSB's SEAC and also a memo from the Ministry on Speech and Language services.

H. Holden noted the budget document on the website is missing some footnotes and needs to be corrected.

7. July 5th AGENDA/ORDER PAPER

The main item on the agenda is the vote for the Special Education Plan.

8. ADJOURNMENT

D. Vandebossche/J. Bartlett

#29-11

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED