

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, J.W. Singleton Centre, Burlington Ontario, on June 7th, 2011

Present

Amy McKenzie: **Chair** (Halton Council of Home and School Associations); Veerle Ryckewaert (Autism Ontario-Halton Chapter); Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Lori Aker (Alternate-Halton Down Syndrome Association); Heather Holden (Alternate-Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Jason Bartlett (Member at Large); Jackie Bevers (Member at Large); Paulyne Lack (Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario); Lisa Reid (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Jason Barr (Alternate-Canadian Mental Health Association); Vicki De Mone (Alternate-Tourette Syndrome Association); Kristen Lochhead (Trustee); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead (Alternate-Trustee); Dianna Bower (Alternate-Trustee)

Board Liaison and Resource Personnel:

David Boag (Superintendent); Sue Roszell (Principal of Special Education); Pamela Cooley (Assistant); Julie Armstrong (HEPA)

Regrets

Lynn Trevisan: **Vice-Chair** (Member at Large); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Lori Kafato (Alternate-Association for Bright Children); Karen Poole-Lawrence (Easter Seals Society); Radhika Subramanyan (Canadian Mental Health Association); Rebecca Kennedy (Easter Seals Society)

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) Judy Shiels (VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children)

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

J. Bartlett acted as Vice-Chair for the meeting.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

J. Hlusko/V. Ryckewaert **#21-11**

“THAT the agenda be approved.”

CARRIED

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

A notice of motion was brought forward from J. Bartlett.

A notice of motion was brought forward by LDAH. It will be covered under section 3.2.

The Chair called for a motion to waive the rules of notice of motion to be able to vote on the motion brought forward from LDAH in section 3.2.

D. Vandebossche/ L. Reid. #22-11

“That the rules of notice of motion be waived.”

CARRIED

3. ACTION

3.1. Minutes of May Meeting

J. Bevers/J. Hlusko #23-11

There is one change to a spelling mistake.

“THAT the Minutes of the May 3rd, 2011 meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3.2. Special Education Plan Review/Vote

Discussion took place on budget items in regards to the Special Education Plan, and whether the plan would be voted on in this meeting or a future meeting. Members decided to discuss concerns they have over the plan and the amendments.

It was decided that SEAC recommendations will be reflected in the plan.

The list of amendments was discussed.

The Chair spoke to the primary complex needs report submitted by V. Ryckewaert.

D. Boag spoke about the Board Improvement plan.

L. Aker discussed the suggested amendments from HDSA.

D. Vandebossche spoke about the report submitted from LDAH. D. Boag responded to this report and the recommended changes. K. Bateman-Olmstead said that further work is needed to support LD.

D. Vandebossche expressed concern that there isn't an option for self-contained at the high school level and noted that the Satellite Program was excellent.

The chair asked members how they wanted to proceed with voting. Discussion followed. Autism Ontario, Tourette Syndrome Association, HDSA and LDAH all expressed that they would not like to vote on the plan this evening.

Discussion took place on having an additional meeting. There will be the regularly scheduled meeting on June 21st, and an additional meeting tentatively set for July 5th.

The Chair asked for someone to make a motion to defer voting on the plan until the Board approves the budget.

D. Vandebossche/ L. Reid #24-11

CARRIED

This motion was later revised:

D. Vandebossche/V. Ryckewaert #24-11

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT SEAC has deferred the vote to support or not support the HDSB Special Education Plan 2011-2012 until the Board has approved a budget for 2011-2012.”

Discussion took place on this motion.

CARRIED

Members discussed the list of SEAC priorities.

The Chair noted that SEAC will be presenting at the Board meeting on June 15th. Members should attend this meeting.

The motion from LDAH regarding SEAC recommendations was brought to the table:

Whereas one of SEAC's major responsibilities is to make recommendations to the Board regarding effective special education programs and services for students with special needs (Reg. 464/97 Section 11(1));

Whereas Reg. 306 Section 2 (2) states "every board shall maintain the Special Education Plan in respect of the board and ensure that the Special Education Plan is amended from time to time to meet the current needs of the exceptional pupils of the board;

And whereas HDSB SEAC has spent countless hours listening to our community and to each other before discussing priorities for Special Education.

D. Vandebossche/V. Ryckewaert #25-11

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT Halton District School Board SEAC presents the SEAC Priority Items for Board Consideration 2011 2012. We recommend that the Board consider each item in the priority order as presented. SEAC requests a written rationale for any priority item not accepted.”

CARRIED

3.3. SEAC Awards

The Chair noted that some awards still need to be presented and asked for volunteers.

3.4. Monthly Reports

3.4.1. Safe Schools Action Teams Advisory Group

The Chair noted they are working on a conference for the fall.

3.4.2. Protocol/Communications Committee

Report submitted by J. Bartlett. Report is listed in the Appendix.

3.4.3. Early Learning Program

S. Roszell commented that a media release was sent out identifying the new schools for year 4 and 5.

3.4.4. Accessibility Committee

Report Submitted by V. Ryckewaert. Report listed in the Appendix.

3.4.5. Equity and Inclusion Committee

Report submitted from D. Vandenbossche. Report listed in the Appendix.

3.4.6. P.I.C

There will be a conference on October 22nd.

3.5. Special Athletes Track Meet

The Track meet is on June 13th at IRHS. Members should try and come out.

4. COMMUNICATION TO SEAC AND CURRENT SUCCESSES

The Chair read a letter that was sent from Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The chair noted that N. Scott will no longer be the representative for HSPA. S. Roszell noted that J. Armstrong will no longer be the representative for HEPA .

The Chair mentioned that new members have joined the committee; Radhika Subramanyan from Canadian Mental Health Association and Rebecca Kennedy from Easter Seals.

4.1. Superintendent's Report

D. Boag noted that a written report was not sent out. He mentioned the torch run on Friday June 3rd , and the upcoming Special Athletes Track Meet.

D. Boag spoke to the Administrative Procedure on External Agencies.

4.2. Association Reports

L. Reid submitted a report from HDSA and D. Vandenbossche submitted a report from LDAH. Both reports are listed in the Appendix.

4.3. Trustee Reports

K. Lochhead mentioned that trustees attended the Child and Youth Mental Health Summit. TVO recorded this so it should be on their website.

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

6. SEAC DISCUSSION/QUESTION PERIOD

L. Aker commented on Board personnel being present in meetings with the principal.

H. Holden commented on the lack of tracking of concerns raised in question periods.

D. Boag commented that associations could collect that data and capture that when doing revisions to the Special Education Plan.

J. Bartlett commented on Tecumseh losing its Vice Principal and its effect on kids with special needs.

Director Euale commented on the Principal and Vice Principal allocations.

7. NEXT AGENDA/ORDER PAPER

Members should send information for what they would like to see on the agenda for the 21st. Goal setting will be discussed at this meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

P. Lack/D. Vandenbossche

#26-11

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Monthly Reports

Protocol/Communications Committee Report: J. Bartlett

The Protocol and Communications committee operates under a dual mandate. Communications activities are currently given higher priority; they are the public face of SEAC and are often time sensitive. Protocol activities are vital to maintaining structure, order and focus to SEAC meetings; these are internally focused activities which are not time sensitive and are accordingly given a lower priority.

Communications Activities

Better communications channel(s) for SEAC to communicate with parents

Meeting with Bruce Smith (CIO HDSB) on May 17th was productive and encouraging. The HDSB is willing to support SEAC using board resources to create a self-managed web site. Due to extra budget working meetings no further discussion or meeting since the 17th.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application

Application for PRO grant was submitted. Awaiting Ministry response on application approval.

Protocol Activities

SEAC Committee Involvement

The committee will contact the HDSB trustees to obtain a list of sitting committees and determine if SEAC should have a seat on these committees. This list will be circulated to SEAC.

SEAC Committee Striking protocol

Request has been made to review aspects of how a new SEAC is formed and ratify any practices that differ from established policy into a new policy for SEAC approval. Considering the current SEAC is beginning a new term this item will be tabled for future consideration.

SEAC Meeting Protocol

The committee will investigate options for ensuring key points are reflected in the minutes while maintaining a desired degree of brevity in the minutes.

The committee will review use of an order paper for every SEAC meeting to track key dates, activities and requests for information

Accessibility Report: V. Ryckewaert

The Accessibility Committee met on May 30, 2011. We updated the Accessibility Plan with the changes that occurred this year. We evaluated the Accessibility Action Plan for 2010-2011. Next year we will be working on a multiyear plan now that the Regulation on Integrated Accessibility has received final approval. Jacki Oxley will present the plan in September to SEAC.

Equity and Inclusion Committee Report: D. Vandenbossche

The committee met on May 26, 2011 to listen to Pardeep Singh Nagra from Toronto District School Board. TDSB has an Employment Equity Office and Pardeep is the manager. He also does all of the PD/training for the school board regarding equity and inclusion education. First he talked about what is happening in the TDSB and then he talked about what equity is and is not as well as equitable human resources practices. Pardeep said that he spends a lot of time defending equity and hopes that knowledge will move us toward action. Pardeep is willing to share his training modules with HDSB and will help us get started with staff training.

Association Reports

Halton Down Syndrome Association: L. Reid

HDSA had its AGM on Friday, June 3, and voted in its Board of Directors for 2011/2012. It has the largest board in many years, 9 people, including one Director at Large who is a self-advocate – an individual with DS who is a full voting member of the board. It also has 3 board members who have babies under a year old, so it is well positioned for the future.

The Ontario association, DSAO, is having their annual conference in October and has many workshops that will be of interest to educators. Among the speakers is Dr. Ian Manion, a psychologist specializing in mental health, and father of an adult child with DS. Dr. Manion will be speaking about mental health and mental illness in general, and why these are important to individuals with DS and their families. There will also be workshops on disability awareness, effective teaching strategies for the student with DS, and understanding the communication needs of this population. We will send around the registration package in case anyone is interested. (www.dsao.ca)

Learning Disabilities Association of Halton: D. Vandenbossche

1. LDAH had a very successful workshop with Dr. Maggie Mamen – What the Eye Doesn't See – Understanding Non Verbal Learning Disabilities. Fifty people were in attendance so our room was packed to standing room. The evaluations were very positive and participants asked for Dr. Mamen to be invited back in the fall.
2. Deadline for summer Tutoring and Keyboarding classes is June 15.
3. The tech camp for August 2-5 is filling up. We are investigating the possibility of running this program in the school year. The camp will have instruction in Premier as well as Kurzweil.
4. We continue to investigate bringing training for University of Kansas Learning Strategies to Halton teachers.