

Halton District School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Boardroom, JW Singleton Centre, Burlington, Ontario, on February 7th, 2006.

Present: Dianna Bower (Chair); Janet Barton (Vice-Chair); Gisele Murdoch, Cindy Faria, Joanne Arnold, Susan Strachan, Susan Wolak, Janie Hames (Trustee); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Jacqueline Bevers, Wendy Gunn, Tina Wilkins, Nancy Petch (alt.); Ellen Whitehouse (alt.); Sheri Levy-Abraham (alt.); Karen Curtis

Late Arrivals: Sue Adams, Paulyne Lack, Ethel Gardiner, (alt. Trustee); Don Vrooman (alt.), Craig Newman (alt.)

Resource Staff: Al Greyson, Superintendent; Deb Wood, Caroline Koekkoek, Jo-Anne Trigg, Mark Wickens, Michelle Joly, Mary Jane Farrish,

Regrets: Debi Turnbull, Karen Poole-Lawrence (alt.)

Absent: John Pepper, Mary Chapin (alt. Trustee)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

The Chair informed the members that the meeting would be video/voice recorded.

The Chair welcomed Sheri Levy-Abraham, alternate for Learning Disabilities Association of Halton Inc. to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Trustee Hlusko who is replacing Paul Tate as Trustee representative.

There is no representation from VOICE. With S. Adams late arrival, S. Levy-Abraham is voting member for LDAH.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: S. Wolak

Seconded by: W. Gunn

06 – 06

“THAT the Agenda be approved with the addition to Unfinished Business h) M.M. Robinson presentation update March 6th– P. Lack”

CARRIED

2. Minutes of Meeting January 10th, 2006

Moved by: J. Barton Seconded by: T. Wilkins # 07 – 06

“THAT the Minutes of the meeting of January 10th, 2006, be approved”.

CARRIED

Moved by: J. Arnold Seconded by: T. Wilkins # 08 – 06

“That an amendment be made on Page 2, second paragraph to read: Jackie will return in May with results from the web-based survey”.

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Executive Report

Chair reported speaking at in-service for new SERTS .

D. Turnbull and J. Barton will be attending meetings for parents of children new to kindergarten.

5. Correspondence

Letter from Simcoe Catholic DSB received re: funding issues.

Flyers from YMCA on students access program.

January issue of Our Voice.

6. Superintendent’s Report

Copy of report distributed.

Introduce J. Trigg to speak to kindergarten entry process. Copies of document “Planning Entry to School” distributed. Attended Ministry meeting where resource guide introduced for children including special needs children entering school. The intent was to try to have consistency across school boards with evidence based guide.

Note “best practices” in appendix.

Superintendent introduced Deb Wood speaking to the Learning Centre March conference. Outline handed out. This year Learning Centre is celebrating its 20th anniversary. This Annual

one-day in-service will be on Tuesday, March 7th, 2006 in Milton. Entitled “Teachers Learning Collaboratively” with guest speaker Eric Walters in the morning (children’s author). Space is limited but SEAC members welcome for the guest speaker portion of the program.

Summary From Report:

Superintendent spoke to the Committee established at looking at former consultation process. Apologies extended to Susan Strachan and S. Wolak as they had been inadvertently left off original email list.

IPRC Manager is looking at current documents and “user friendliness” of same.

Budget Update: admin council supports request to allocate up to 22 additional E.A.’s and 2.5 Special Education Resource Teachers from the Net New Needs funds.

With reference to appendix to 2003 2004 Special Ed document and feedback from Ministry the document attached to report.

At Committee of the Whole meeting Feb. 1st, Trustees provided with a summary of Special Education statistics.

Letter sent to MPP Mr. Chudleigh re: Local Health Integrated Networks.

Question on NNN amount: was it full amount that we received and if not will something be forthcoming

Superintendent Greyson – not full costing and will report back to SEAC, still making decisions as to how best to use the dollars.

7. Association Updates

G. Murdoch – ABC “What Gifted Students Need” - document will be sent via email to members. AGM May 5th and 6th. May 5th is for educators May 6th for parents and children

S. Levi-Abrahamson – LDAH - There is an open house February 11th.

D. Bower – Down Syndrome Association - Jan. 26 meeting presentation on YMCA employment program

8. Trustee Updates

J. Hames – Jan. 18th Board meeting and then Jan. 25th dealt with accommodation issues and Special Ed plan amendments

Draft Capital Strategic Plan required by Ministry. Four public meetings to be held in each municipality.

Handouts giving changes to Special Ed Plan

S. Strachan thanked Trustee Janie Hames for representing SEAC views so well at Board meeting.

9. Unfinished Business

a) Behaviour Task Force – A. Greyson

No update at this time.

J. Trigg - met with Dr. K. Bennett for preliminary reporting.

b) L.D. Task Force

On hold.

c) Communications Committee - J. Barton

In process of setting up meeting dates and interested volunteers to contact J. Barton.

d) O.D.A. Update – J. Arnold

Nothing to report.

e) New Schools Update - J. Arnold

Nothing to report.

f) Protocol Committee

Dates to be provided via email.

g) Awards Committee – W. Gunn

W. Gunn gave overview of one of the nominations from last year and read the nomination received last year for teacher Mr. Cann.

Members are encouraged to speak about the upcoming awards to their schools .
Comments on getting information out to parents in schools. Suggest items in school newsletters and continue with board website.

h) Presentation at M.M.Robinson

March 6th School asking SEAC reps to attend meeting with association “information boards”

Presentation: Ministry of Education

Ministry personnel Moira Sinclair, Bruce Drewett and Craig Shelswell made a presentation on SEAC procedures and responsibilities as well as some special Education Policy and Programs overview.

Distributed handouts: - one of the slide presentation and the other of Roles and Responsibilities of Special Education Advisory Committees.

10. Discussion/Question Period

Member suggested working with Chedoke McMaster and distributed workshop list. Superintendent reiterated that department was and still is working with Dr. Bennett of McMaster University.

Question on rating of delivery of services worldwide.
Superintendent responded that not aware of any international basis.

Question on gifted programming at Hawthorne Village.
Superintendent: requested clarification of question and then reported on staffing complement.

11. Notices of Motion

None.

12. Current Successes

Burlington Post Young citizens of the Year award: student nominated for work with children with Downs Syndrome.

13. Future Presentations

I.E.P.'s
Cathy Schaeffer and Bruce Drewett, Ministry of Education

Grant Clark
Secondary Policy

Suggest invitations to School Councils for Ministry presentations.

C. Faria – suggestion from Ministry personnel as there was more information to share than could be presented this evening. Moira had suggested a Saturday PD day for SEAC when Ministry personnel could present the whole day.

Suggest having someone for Best Start Programme do presentation.

Literacy and Numeracy from CODE project presentation (possibly March)

14. Adjournment

Moved by: W. Gunn

Seconded by: P. Lack

09 - 06

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Recorded by: Lori LePage