

Halton District School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Boardroom, JW Singleton Centre, Burlington, Ontario, on May 2nd , 2006.

- Present: Dianna Bower (Chair); Gisele Murdoch; Susan Strachan; Paulyne Lack; Susan Wolak; Janie Hames (Trustee); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Mary Chapin (alt. Trustee); Wendy Gunn; Tina Wilkins; Karen Poole-Lawrence (alt); Ellen Whitehouse; Sheri Levy-Abraham; Craig Newman (alt.)
- Resource Staff: Al Greyson, Superintendent; Gillian Hall, Caroline Koekkoek, Deb Wood; M.J. Farris (HSPA); Lynne Gurzi (HDDEA), Michelle Joly, (PSSP)
- Regrets; Janet Barton (Vice Chair); Cindy Faria, Joanne Arnold, Debi Turnbull, Sue Adams, John Pepper, Ethel Gardiner (alt. Trustee); Jacqueline Bevers, Nancy Petch (alt.); Karen Curtis (alt.)
- Absent: Don Vrooman (alt.)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

In S. Adams absence, S. Levy-Abrahams is voting member for LDAH; in J. Arnolds' absence, K. Poole-Lawrence is voting member for Easter Seals Association. There is no representation from Community Living, Voice or Halton Council of Home and Schools.

Chair reminded members that meeting was video voice recorded

Chair extended welcome to Linda Melton and the York University Additional Qualification Candidates taking Part 1, 2 or 3 Special Education.

Presentation

Superintendent introduced Steven Parfeniuk, Superintendent of Business Services, who did a presentation on the Budget Process.

Copies of PowerPoint presentation distributed as well as information sheet on acronyms.

Ministry of education website www.edu.gov.on.ca

Following presentation Superintendent Parfeniuk asked for questions and input from SEAC members

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: S. Strachan Seconded by: T. Wilkins # 23 - 06

‘THAT the Agenda be approved’. **CARRIED**

2. Minutes of Meeting April 4th, 2006

Moved by: T. Wilkins Seconded by: P. Lack

Minutes as amended :

Moved by: T. Wilkins Seconded by: S. Wolak # 24 – 06

“THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of April 4th, 2006 be approved with the correction on Pg 3. under Correspondence: E-mail was received thanking SEAC for involvement in presentation to M.M. Robinson”.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of Meeting of April 10th, 2006

Moved by: S. Strachan Seconded by: P. Lack # 25 – 06

“THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of April 10th, 2006 be approved”. **CARRIED**

4. Matters Arising

None

REPORTS

5. Executive Report

Thanks to S. Wolak for volunteering to be on the Committee for the Dudley and Nora Brown scholarship fund.

Thanks to S. Adams and S. Levy-Abraham for welcoming SEAC members to their “Advocacy and the I.P.R.C. process” presentation. M. Sinclair suggested they pass on to their respective Associations that feedback is welcome. There is a parent engagement button on their website.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Superintendent’s Report

School effectiveness survey report distributed. Info through school councils.
Purpose to gather impressions about public’s perception of schools’ effectiveness.

Advertisement to go out for three speech and language consultants.

CAPSLE -Canadian Association for Practical Studies of Law and Education conference held this past weekend in Montreal attended by Superintendent and C. Koekkoek, member of psych staff.

Questions followed

Moving in directions that were recommended from last year.

8. Association Reports

S. Strachan, announced that Karen Curtis has resigned as alternate rep on SEAC as she has accepted a paid position with the Board as a psycho-educational consultant.

Down Syndrome -D. Bower. Next annual meeting to be hosted in Vancouver Aug. 23rd.
Buddy walk held in Coronation park. May 25th annual meeting.

9. Trustee Reports

J. Hames: last meeting held April 26th, meeting reports and motions; approved School Calendar for 2006 –2007. Motions passed re: amendment to Special Education plan.

Trustee determination for election in the fall - redistribution of 4 in Burlington, 1 Trustee to Halton Hills.

Committee of the Whole meeting to be held May 3rd.

UPDATES

10. Special Education Review Committee

Superintendent Greyson advised that direction received from Ministry not to undertake major changes because of impending changes to be announced.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan i.e. EQAO assessment targets.

Alignment with Halton District School Board and standards developed by Ministry and effective practices of Ministry.

Alignment with student services and other board departments. Employing expertise of SEAC associations. Plan to develop communication strategies.

Distributed draft of budget for 2006 2007 – requested feedback from SEAC associations.

Superintendent acknowledged Caroline Koekkoek and thanked her for tremendous amount of work on Special Ed Plan.

DRAFT plan distributed and Caroline went over a few changes.

Goals: 1. compliant with Ministry standard
2. accurate up to date info
3. make the document as user friendly as possible

Members of Committee: Al Greyson, Caroline Koekkoek, Susan Wolak, Dianna Bower, Bruce Jones, Paul Tate.

Placement Process approved by Board last week not included in the Plan yet; some wording relating to parent involvement included.

Clarification on process: SEAC to review and come back to June meeting for approval.

Question on Minority reports – follow procedure as per standard Board reports, which is that on receipt of to send to Ministry along with Plan.

Need to get to Trustees by meeting on June 15th. Next SEAC June 6th.

Tues. May 16th possible for another meeting to discuss any changes to the plan

11. Protocol Committee

Put on hold at the moment as Special Ed plan and budget process more a priority.

12. Awards Committee – W. Gunn

40 nominations this year: 28 for Support for Special Education and 12 students for Outstanding Achievement.

Requested volunteers to distribute the awards at school meetings and assemblies.

13. Ontario Disabilities Association (O.D.A.) – J. Arnold

No report

14. Behaviour Task Force – W. Gunn/J. Barton

Meeting held May 2, 2006. Survey from Dr. Katherine Bennett, which will be distributed to all groups.

Investigating other boards with Behaviour classes; some boards do not have BRC classes.

15. Learning Disabilities Task Force

Reminder

16. Communications Committee/SEAC website – J. Barton

No update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17. Future Presentations:

List distributed and discussion. Revised list will be added to Agendas.

Restorative Justice Circles Training comes from First Nations; person who would deliver presentation is currently on 2-year leave from Board.

Possible for other areas of Halton to hold meeting in Oakville for example: T.A. Blakelock H.S.

NEW BUSINESS

18. Discussion/Question Period

OAFCCD – how are students with more than one exceptionality counted
Superintendent Greyson -More detail required.

Due to the time a motion to extend the meeting:

Moved by: W. Gunn Seconded by: S. Wolak **# 26 - 06**

“THAT the meeting be extended by 10 minutes”. **CARRIED**

Suggestion of inservice for IPRC language and documentation for Committee members.

Timing of SRT's - challenge to meet ministry guidelines for IPRC's due to delay with new process being put in place.

Flowchart – emphasize on-going process of parent information

Clarification – re: Education for All document – Resource document, not a Ministry policy document.

CODE project: next review May 18th meeting with others who participated in CODE project.

New teacher mentoring – Board involvement.

19. Notices of Motion

None

20. Current Successes

W. Gunn – Pilgrim Wood twin day raised money for McMaster hospital \$2000 matched by Scotia bank. They are having a telethon this Sunday.

Thanks extended for SPPC process.

A. Greyson spoke of the success of the Disabilities Fair in Milton last week and offered congratulations to all Associations who participated.

Distributed copy of invitation to special athletes' track meet to be held **Thursday, June 1st** at Nelson High School.

Adjournment

Moved by: W. Gunn

Seconded by: S. Wolak

27 - 06

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Time: 9:40 p.m.

Recorded by: Lori LePage