

# Halton District School Board

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

- Present: Dianna Bower (Chair); Janet Barton (Vice Chair); Gisele Murdoch; Debi Turnbull; Sue Adams; Paulyne Lack; Susan Wolak; Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Mary Chapin (Alt. Trustee); Jacqueline Bevers; Tina Wilkins; Wendy Gunn (late arrival); Nancy Petch (alt.); Karen Poole-Lawrence (alt.); Don Vrooman (alt.); Ellen Whitehouse (alt.); Sheri Levy-Abraham (alt); Craig Newman (alt.)
- Resource Staff: Al Greyson, Superintendent; Mark Wickens (HEPA); Lynne Gurzi (HDEAA); Nancy McPhail (PSSP)
- Regrets; Ethel Gardiner, Susan Strachan, John Pepper, Janie Hames (Trustee), Cindy Faria

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m

Change in Agenda: move Matters arising after approval of Minutes.

In J. Hames absence, M. Chapin is voting Trustee member. There is no representation from VOICE, Autism Ontario - Halton Chapter or the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: P. Lack

Seconded by: J. Barton

# 49 - 06

**“THAT the Agenda be approved”.**

**CARRIED**

### 2. Notices of Motion

**None**

**3. Minutes of Meeting October 17th, 2006**

Moved by: P. Lack

Seconded by: J. Bevers

# 50 - 06

**“THAT the Minutes of the meeting of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 be approved”.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Matters arising**

From the Special Education Plan: Appendix 4 has changed and should be distributed to members.

ABC expressed concern that the ABC Ontario Gifted IEP document was referred to as “suggestions” in the minutes. Clarification that it is a position paper on IEP’s and can be accessed on the ABC Ontario website.

P. Lack – re; document from ministry on expulsions: suggestion to have J. Oxley do presentation

D Bower – re: bullying document released by Ministry – does not address special needs students. It was agreed that a letter would be sent asking the Minister to review; possibly through MACSE..

P.Lack thanked Committee for opportunity to attend the special presentation on slower learners given by Dr. Stephen Shaw; question on resource materials and notes from presentation.

Superintendent responded that Dr. Shaw acknowledged Halton as a leader; and suggested that those members who attended could share with their local associations.

Discussion followed

**4. Protocol Committee - D. Bower and J. Barton**

PowerPoint presentation and material previously distributed to members.

Change to note that e-mail addresses be used for SEAC purposes.

Suggestion to look into YAHOO Group as a tool for SEAC members.

Motion to adopt suggestions

Moved by : S. Wolak

Seconded by: D. Bower

# 51 - 06

**“THAT the suggestions of the Protocol Committee be adopted”.**

**CARRIED**

### **SEAC Presentation - Sue Adams**

S. Adams presented the draft presentation that SEAC could use when presenting to groups such as school councils.

It was suggested that under “How can a “SEAC member help parents”, we add another bullet saying: “He/she can help parents understand procedures”.

It was suggested that under “Why would I contact a SEAC member”, that we add that members can provide a list of documents that parents can request, i.e. Working Together.

It was also noted that this could be a useful tool to use during parent/teacher interviews.

Moved by: J. Barton

Seconded by: T. Wilkins

# 52 - 06

**“THAT the SEAC presentation be adopted for use by members when representing SEAC”.**

**CARRIED**

Wendy Gunn joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Superintendent gave thanks to SEAC members for their participation on the committee and distributed awards to all members.

Also gave thanks to resource members who attend the meetings.

J. Barton and S. Wolak left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Further discussion on Special Education Plan process.

### **Process Quadrant:**

Responded to recommendations on enhancing staff; improving access to assessment; to professional services; school based models, putting case loads onto the school level.

### **Financial Quadrant:**

Student needs as a process to talk about types of supports needed; looking to the future.

Superintendent’s belief that based on feedback the following needs to be addressed:

- Earlier and more comprehensive screening of students in early years as part of an early identification initiative
- greater access to Speech and Language Pathologists, including support beyond early primary for students with Communication and Language difficulties
- increasing capacity of classroom teachers to provide for a broad range of needs through strategies and resources described in “Education for All”
- increasing use of Assistive Technology

- more support for students with high needs that may fall under the Behaviour exceptionality, anxiety, depression
- maintenance of a continuum of service model that includes self-contained classes, but with more focused interventions within these classes
- extension of the continuum to secondary

Discussion continued on the following:

- What is being done for total care students?
- Re: Quadrant 4 – to put resources into teacher training
- Training and teaching of EA's; do you begin training all over again Sept. with new EA's or emphasize continuum of service
- More learning centres in schools
- Change in involvement of CAS in schools; more involvement and increased board staff i.e. CYC's and Social Workers
- Partnership between home and school
- Time of meetings i.e. day or evening
- Equity of access to location of IPRC meetings
- Measures of success of child after school experience; suggest bringing in students who have excelled after school to speak to students in schools
- School effectiveness plans consisting of 3 goals: emphasis on literacy and numeracy with final goal being up to the school: majority pick culture and community of school to work on as third goal
- Measurable objectives in IEP's
- Schools made aware of what is available in resources

J. Hlusko left the meeting

J. Bevers and S. Wolak left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Superintendent: next steps; parent student staff questionnaire; meeting with administrative staff to discuss school based needs; meeting with HEPA and HSPA; EA association concerns around current in-service model; meeting with community agencies; internal review of processes; aim to have draft report in February.

Motion to extend the meeting

Moved by: W. Gunn

Seconded by: M. Chapin

# 53 - 06

**“THAT the meeting be extended by 15 minutes.”**

**CARRIED**

## **6. Executive Report**

D. Bower, J. Bevers, P. Lack and S. Strachan attended Dr. Shaw workshop.

Chair want to thank all SEAC members for support and give thought to running for Chair and Vice Chair with new SEAC.

## 7. Correspondence

None.

## 8. Superintendent's Report

Pilot program at Sam Sherratt school: early primary students identified communication. Up to 9 full time students; age appropriate curriculum and others such as "Carolina curriculum"; speech and language pathologist; providing transportation.

Discussion followed.

Motion to extend the meeting

Moved by: W.Gunn                      Seconded by: P. Lack                      # 54 - 06

**"THAT the meeting be extended by 15 minutes".                      CARRIED**

Some discussion on paper distributed by Superintendent re: self contained placements and process; suggestion of distributing along with Working Together document

Suggest duplicating chart showing process of student placement process and adding with Working Together document.

To be brought back when SEAC reconvenes in the New Year.

Motion to extend the meeting

Moved by: W. Gunn                      Seconded by: C. Newman                      # 55 - 06

**"THAT the meeting be extended by 10 minutes.                      CARRIED**

## 9. Association Reports

ABC – members attended Oct. 14 annual meeting; author coming to meeting in April ; invitation extended to Halton personnel.

Down Syndrome – Down Syndrome awareness week.

## 10. Trustee Reports

Trustee M. Chapin advised that last official board meeting to be held Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. New board to be sworn in Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> with election of Chair and Vice Chair; elections on Nov 11 and there will be changes in Trustee representation at SEAC table.

Thanks expressed to Trustee Gardiner's active and extensive participation on SEAC.

**11.: Discussion/Question Period**

Suggestion that all New schools should have hand washing stations near fountains

**12. Current Successes**

**Adjournment**

Moved by: W. Gunn      Seconded by: T. Wilkins

**- 06**

**“THAT the meeting adjourn.”**

**CARRIED**

**Time: 10:10 p.m.**

Recorded by: Lori LePage