

Minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held in the Library, Gardiner Public School, Georgetown, Ontario, on October 5th, 2010

- Present: Amy Collard (Member at Large) (Chair); Amy McKenzie (Halton Council of Home and School Associations) (Vice Chair); Paulyne Lack (Tourette Syndrome Association); Dianna Bower (Halton Down Syndrome); Don Vrooman (Alt. Trustee); Craig Newman (VIEWS); Karen Poole-Lawrence (Alt. Easter Seals Society); Vicki DeMone (Alt. Tourette Syndrome Association); Jennifer Hlusko (Trustee); Patrice Shennette (Alt. Autism Ontario); Donna Danielli (Trustee); Janet Barton (Community Living)
- Resource Staff: David Boag, Superintendent of Education; Pamela Cooley, Secretary; Julie Armstrong (HEPA); Lisa Griffiths (PSSP)
- Regrets: Veerle Ryckewaert (Autism Ontario); Lisa Reid (Alt. Halton Down Syndrome)
- Absent: Leslie Howchin (Alt. Community Living); Lynne Gurzi (HDEAA); Greg Allen (ABC); Anita Phillips (Alt. ABC); Patricia Molnar (PSSP); Nigel Scott (HSPA); Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead (Alt. Trustee)

Agenda Item 1- Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

A. Collard called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. She gave a special thank you to the families that came out to participate and to Gurdeep Lall, Principal of Gardiner School for hosting the SEAC meeting.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

D. Bower/ J. Hlusko

#40-10

“THAT the Agenda be approved”

CARRIED

Agenda Item 2 - Presentations

2.1 Parent Involvement Committee-Yaw Obeng

Y. Obeng spoke about the new Equity and Inclusive Education Policy. He asked for a SEAC representative to be on the steering committee. The first meeting is on October 29th, at the J. W Singleton Centre, 8:30 am. He said there will be communication about this sent out to SEAC.

D. Bower and D. Danielli put their names forward to be considered for the Equity and Inclusive Education committee.

Y. Obeng gave an overview of the role of Parent Involvement Committee and discussed the registration process. He mentioned that they would like a SEAC representative to sit on the PIC. He also noted that the PIC's annual conference is Saturday, October 23rd. The keynote speaker at the conference is Louise Kent from the Free the Children organization.

A. Collard suggested asking again in January when the new SEAC comes in.

Y. Obeng mentioned that information on PIC is on the website under the parent info section.

2.2 Accessibility-Jacki Oxley

J. Oxley spoke about the Creating a Culture of Accessibility document. She noted that the document focuses on people-first terms and inclusive language. This document has just been sent out to schools. So far, there is good feedback on it.

J. Oxley offered to take questions on the Accessibility plan. She mentioned that on page 18, there is a web link to the customer service video. There are 2 sections of the video that raised some concern, but those concerns have been addressed.

Discussions took place on building codes. J. Oxley mentioned that the goal of AODA is to make Ontario completely accessible by 2025. Facility services hired a firm to do accessibility audits of all buildings in the Board. These audits are very detailed. Priority lists were created for each facility. A link to the audit is in the Accessibility plan on page 8.

Agenda Item 3- Call for Notices of Motion/Reports to the Board

None

Agenda Item 4 - Action

4.1 Approval of the Minutes

D. Bower/ A. McKenzie

#41-10

D. Bower noted a change on page 2 relating to the 5th Pathway and the Supported Day Program.

“THAT the minutes of the September 14th, 2010 meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4.2 Monthly Reports

4.2.1 Special Education Plan

No discussion

4.2.2 Protocol/Communications Committee Report

Report from A. McKenzie:

The Communications Committee met and we discussed the success of the Parent IEP night as well as the fact that Staff has this event on their radar as a yearly event. We are grateful to Staff for their hard work in putting this together. We were happy to see that the advertisements also went out for the October 5th meeting of SEAC in the North. Thanks to David, Marnie and Jason for their help in that.

The Committee needs someone to be at the SEAC table at the PIC conference on October 23rd. (D. Danielli volunteered).

There still needs to be more SEAC content (and potential links) for the HDSB website, so if anybody has time, please make notes and pass them along.

The Protocol Committee is working on putting together the training session for the new SEAC in January (A workshop on Jan 25th, 2011). D. Danielli will be getting together with the Committee to go over the pieces to be contained in that evening. As well, if members have any additions to that, please feel free to bring them forward to the Committee.

The Binders are being put together now but we're looking at a digital version as well and some memory sticks to hand out to members as well as the hard copy.

4.2.3 Accessibility Committee Report

The Accessibility Committee will be meeting on October 25th to look at new standards. They are also meeting with the city Accessibility Committee for Burlington to look at accessibility of the new Alton high school.

4.2.4 Early Learning Program

No updates this month.

Agenda Item 5 – Communication to SEAC and Current Successes

5.1 Superintendent's Report

D. Boag gave the following updates/comments from the Superintendent's report:

- The IEP evening was well received and staff did a wonderful job.
- A team from the Board went to the Ministry funding input session. There were several boards providing input at this session. He mentioned that there are similar challenges in surrounding boards.
- The SRT pamphlet has been created. It is still in the draft stage right now, but it will be sent out to SEAC for feedback.

- Update on the SEA process for this year: The department is expecting to roll out 750 laptops this year. There were 6 summer camps held in the summer that were a week long. This school year, the department is hoping to do some more after school camps and also some parent focused evening sessions. Some EA's will be trained on the software this Friday for the PA day.

5.1.1 Order Paper

None

5.1.2 School Board Communications to Parents

None

5.2 Chairs Report and Correspondence

A. Collard welcomed all the public members that came to the meeting, and mentioned the following items:

- Thanked Trustees G. Tuck-Kutarna and G. Ockenden for coming, along with the Director D. Euale.
- Thanked those involved with the IEP evening for making it a successful event.
- The Special Education funding summary from the Ministry session should be available in November and will be forwarded to SEAC.
- She attended the Safe Schools training on September 30th. The focus was on bullying.
- She sent a note to L. Clark to thank her for her contributions to SEAC.

5.3 Association Reports

D. Bower had an association report from Halton Down Syndrome Association:

NEW INITIATIVES:

The HDSA Learning & Resource Centre will be starting Phase II shortly and have expanded the number of groups of participants.

HDSA will be holding a parent information night for parents on special education on October 21, 2010.

HDSA will be partnering with LDAH and the Ministry of Education to provide a workshop for parents on the IPRC process and IEP's. More information to follow.

OTHER INFORMATION:

A reminder that the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario will be holding its annual conference the weekend of October 15-17, 2010.

Our Provincial Association will be part of the Ministry of Education Stakeholder Consultations on October 22, 2010. I will be attending on behalf of our provincial association.

5.4 Trustee Reports

D. Danielli mentioned the following items that the trustees are looking at:

- Program and accommodations
- Community consultation piece.
- Boundary reviews
- Presentation from Free the Children.
- Looked at Palermo school walking routes.
- Update on EQAO results – Halton is up across the board – up higher than the provincial average.

Agenda Item 6 – Questions from the Public

1) A question was asked about cutting funding for EA's.

D. Boag's response: The Board is funded for a certain number of EA's. EA's are not being cut to the system, but as needs change, EA's may be moved from one school to another. For example, a student may move schools or a higher needs student may show up at another school. Anything heard about reducing EAs from a specific school at this point are just rumours.

2) A question was asked about SEA laptops. The parent wondered why a student needs a Board laptop when they have one at home.

D. Boag's response: The laptops being used by students need to be able to get on the network in the school. Also, Ministry licensed software that the student would be using needs to be loaded on a Ministry machine.

3) A teacher in the gallery commented about training for special education teachers. If training is not mandatory, mileage is not covered for teachers. Most sped training takes place in the south. If the training is not mandatory, teachers are paying out of pocket to be trained. Therefore, teachers in the north are receiving less training than those in the south. There is a geographical inequity in the Board.

D. Boag's response: This issue is definitely on the radar. New St tends to be the default location for training because of the space. There will be a conscious effort to have training more central.

Trustee G. Tuck Kutarna thanked SEAC for coming to the North.

Agenda Item 7 – SEAC Discussion/Question Period

D. Bower asked what the agenda for PA day for Special Education has on it at this point.

S. Roszell mentioned that right now they are focusing on the PA day this Friday, October 8th. The board has planned a lot of focused training for EA's. The umbrella theme is inclusion and independence. Some examples of workshops available include: Famous People Players, Stuart

Ablon's presentation on Collaborative Problem Solving and training for assistive technology software.

D. Bower asked if presentations from the Multi-disciplinary team, Special Ed Supervisors, and LDAO for the web-based teaching tool could be added to the order paper as ideas for the new SEAC. She also asked about information on the Board Improvement Plan that should be brought to SEAC.

D. Boag said he will have something to bring back next meeting about the BIP.

D. Danielli mentioned that the CEC conference is on Nov 12th and 13th. Information is on the website. www.cecontario.ca

Agenda Item 8

8.1 Review of Changes to Order Paper

No changes.

8.2 Review Agenda for November, 2010

The next meeting is on November 2nd at the JWS. There are no presentations since it is the last meeting before the New SEAC comes in. There will be a dinner at 6 pm.

8.3 Motion to Adjourn

D. Bower/ P. Lack

#42-10

“THAT the meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Time: 8:15