



Minutes of the seventh (7th) meeting of the 2015-2016 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) held on Tuesday June 21st, 2016 in the Board Room at the SWLSB Administrative Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec

Members present: Pamala Cripton, Lisa Loveland, Evan Caminis, Patricia Sasso, Stephane Henley, Nadia Zuccaro,
First 3 Alternates Present to fill in for 3 absent regular members: Stella Di Falco, Angela Iannantuono, Dayna Morrow
Alternates: Caitlin Harvey, Valentina Basilicata, Jessica D'Ascanio, Evanik Lacroix

Elementary: Brian Benoit, **HighSchool:** Elaine Sassen

Principal: Tammy Marlin

Support Staff: Kate Baldwin,

Non Teaching Professional Staff: Deb Kellman

Also present were: Stephanie Krenn, DG Representative; Silvia Patella, Asst. Director CSD, Peter MacLaurin, Commissioner

Regrets: Marianne Sassen, Yolanta Wiktorczyk, Carla Tosti

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. Additions, changes & Approval of the Agenda

Add: As Point 3, Welcome to all new members & SWLSB Overview PowerPoint

Brian Benoit MOVED THAT the agenda is approved with changes. Seconded by Patricia Sasso.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on January 26th, 2016

Tammy Marlin MOVED THAT the minutes of January 26th, 2016 are approved. Seconded by EVAN Caminis.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For:

Abstain: 6

3. Welcome of New Members

- In turn each member present introduced themselves and briefly mentioned why they have chosen to be a part of SEAC
- The Chair presented a short PowerPoint outlining the role of SEAC as well as information about SWLSB and the challenges we face.

4. Question Period

- I. A member asked why Minutes were missing from the website (only 3 were posted on the School Board website). The chair responded by explaining the procedure. When minutes from a previous meeting are approved, the request to add the to the SWLSB Website must be made to the current representative of the DG. That individual must then make the request to Maxeen Jolin who in turn makes changes or adds content. It can take time.
- II. An audience member asked what are SEAC's top priorities. The Chair responded by referring to the Goals & Objectives document that had been created earlier in the year. In Brief, SEAC's main objectives are to fulfill their mandated role as set out in the Ed. Act. Some off mandate activity includes IEP toolkit distribution as well as workshops for parents.
- III. A member asked for clarification as to how SEAC members are to be seen as advocates in the community. The Chair responded that SEAC members advocate for students with special needs by contributing in their official advisory capacity and by bringing the needs and concerns expressed by parents in their community back to the SEAC table and then to the Parents Committee through that Rep and to the School Board through the Special Needs Parent Commissioner. Members also build awareness of the rights and responsibilities with initiatives such as the IEP Toolkits and workshops.



5. Business Arising

5.1 Interim Chair for the Meeting

Deb Kellman MOVED THAT considering that the 2015-2016 Chair had resigned and that the Vice Chair, due to illness/injury, was unable to step in and that no other member had come forward, Pamala was voted in as Interim Chair for the final meeting of 2015-2016. Seconded by Evanik Lacroix.

5.2 Ratify E-Vote on use of Remaining Budget

An E-vote was sent out to all members proposing that SEAC's remaining budget (a sum of approximately \$700.00) be spent on the printing of IEP Toolkits (approximately \$500.00) and an amount of maximum \$10.00 per person for refreshments for the final meeting of the year. The E-vote results were that the majority were in favour of both expenses.

Lisa Loveland MOVED THAT these two expenses as presented in the E-vote be approved. Seconded by Elaine Sassen.

5.3 Official Presentation of the Policy for the Organization of Educational Services for Students with Special Needs (Ed. Act 187)

The Chair prefaced the presentation by explaining the overall purpose of the Policy and highlighted some key elements that the Policy must contain as per the Education Act. such as: Procedures for Evaluating, Methods for Integrating and Methods for Preparing and Evaluating the IEP's amongst others.

Ms. Stephanie Krenn, Director of CSD began her presentation of the Policy by emphasizing that it IS NOT the official presentation of this document to SEAC. The Policy is still in the Draft stage and will be officially presented to SEAC at some point early in the next Academic year 2016-2017. Ms. Krenn then proceeded to highlight the main differences between the previous Policy and the one currently being assembled.

Discussion ensued.

5.4 Official Presentation of the Financial Resources Available for Services Intended for Students with Special Needs (Ed. Act 187.1)

The Chair prefaced this Presentation by emphasizing that it is SEAC's second mandated role as per the Ed. Act. Not only must the resources available be presented to the Committee but also the allocations of these resources within SWLSB so that SEAC may create their official Advisory Statement. The Chair noted that a recurring obstacle standing in the path of this process is that the Ministry of Education is increasing late in releasing the financial information to the Boards and consequently most SEAC's in the Province have already held their last meeting of the year.

Ms. Krenn presented a comprehensive breakdown of the financials in certain areas such as EDHAA Classroom Support which included things such as Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Consultants, Technicians etc. Along with the allocation of hours of each of these categories in each of our schools.

It must be noted that the information presented to the Committee was the 2015-2016 Financial Resources and Allocations for Students with Special Needs AND NOT the projected amount for 2016-2017.

5.5 Official Report on the Requests for Reconsideration Made under Sec. 9 Relating to Students with Special Needs (Ed. Act. 187.1)

It was reported to the Committee by Stephanie Krenn that a request for this information went out to the SWLSB Secretary General Mme. J Brabant but she has yet to receive a reply.

Note: Evan Caminis left the meeting at 8:00pm



6.0 Reports

6.1 Chairs Report

In packages

Note: Deb Kellman left the meeting at 9:15pm

6.2 School Board Report

Information was covered in the presentations (5.3 & 5.4)

6.3 CSD Report

A document was presented to the Committee in an effort to inform SEAC on the various dossier and tasks CSD has been focusing on over the past several months as well as those which they tend to address in the coming months.

6.4 Treasures Report

In packages

6.5 PC Delegate Report

Pamala Crompton reported that at the last PC meeting the issue of potentially creating a Transgender Policy was brought forward. Discussion ensued and resulted in the opinion that while it is an important and current matter, it is an item that should be addressed at the Board level and falls under the Mandate of CSD.

Silvia Patella added that consultants were given an opportunity to meet with a McGill consultant on this issue. It was a positive and informative experience and the department is aware of the issues within our community.

7.0 New Business

7.1 SEAC Chair 2016-2017

Considering that there were many new members at the table nominations were not made at this time.

7.2 Special Needs Parent Commissioner 2016-2017

The Chair reiterated that as the current Special Needs Parent Commissioner, she will not be seeking a second mandate in the coming year. She asked that all those eligible seriously consider taking the role and are welcome to contact her or the SWLSB for more information.

7.3 SEAC Presence at AGA

With the influx of so many new members, it was mentioned that we now have representation from many different schools (both elementary and high school) across the Board. Members are encouraged to mention SEAC at their respective AGA's.

7.4 Fall Workshops

At the last PC meeting there was a presentation by Linda Mastroianni (Special Education and Autism Consultant) Her presentation focused on preparing transitions with your child. It was noted that transitions from elementary to high school and from high school to post secondary as been an issue brought forward at SEAC on numerous occasions. Ideas for 2016-2017 Workshops Transitioning, Homework, Anxiety & Depression and Brain Training.

The possibility of Webinars and SLive was suggested and will be looked into. Silvia Patella will look at the availability of the Ctr. of Excellence.

8.0 Correspondence None

9.0 Varia: None

10. Question Period None

11. Adjournment

Patricia Sasso MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 9:27pm Seconded by Lisa Loveland