

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

January 19, 2010

To: Board of Education Members
From: Elizabeth Keefe
Subject: Special Services Report

1) I recommend adding one 1st-3rd Autism classroom for next school year (teacher to be hired). We currently have 3 students who we have in SEDOL LASSO programs who could be brought back and educated here.

This would be a wash as far as cost; Teacher, aide, and additional 1-day speech would be paid for in tuition savings. This will have us set for educating our own autistic students in EC- 3rd grade (in 2012 we will then need to add a 4-5 grade if numbers hold out).

2) In addition, I recommend adding a part-to-full time BD resource teacher. Currently, we have 1.5 BD teachers at Central and .5 at West. The workload/caseloads for MC are burgeoning, requiring 2 FTE teachers to divide the caseloads, one for K-4 and one for 5-8 grades.

This is not a cost neutral move, however, currently we are able to keep all but the most difficult to manage students educated here in our own gen ed programs quite successfully with the proper support personnel. It would be likely that without this support, more than a few students would be at-risk of needing a SEDOL placement for services, at a significant cost to the district. It would also put us in

danger of not offering a full continuum of services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), mandated by federal and state laws.