

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2019

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair
Mackenzie Carrier, Community Living Timmins
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Heather Demers, The Lord's Kitchen
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Ron MacInnis, NCDSB Trustee

1. Welcome and Prayer

Daphne Brumwell welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.
Daphne chaired the meeting until the elections took place.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: M. Carrier

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the minutes of June 24, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Elections

Election of Chair

Daphne Brumwell opened the nomination process. Kim Bordignon nominated Joel McCartney as Chair of SEAC. Mackenzie Carrier seconded the nomination. Joel accepted the nomination. Joel McCartney nominated Kim Bordignon as Chair of SEAC. Mackenzie Carrier seconded the nomination. Kim declined the nomination. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Daphne Brumwell declared Joel McCartney, Chair of SEAC for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: B. Richer
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Joel McCartney as Chair of SEAC for the 2020-2021 school year.
CARRIED.

Election of Vice-Chair

Joel McCartney opened the nomination process. Joel McCartney nominated Kim Bordignon as Vice-Chair of SEAC. Mackenzie Carrier seconded the nomination. Kim accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Daphne Brumwell declared Kim Bordignon, Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: B. Richer
SECONDED BY: M. Carrier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Kim Bordignon as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2020-2021 school year.
CARRIED.

5. Schedule of Meetings

Jean provided a copy of the meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year to the committee. The meeting dates will also be posted to the NCDSB website.

6. School Year Calendar

Jean provided to the committee the final version of the 2020-2021 of the school year calendar by email.

7. Special Education Staffing Update

School	# RTs	#Intervention	# EAs	CYW Hr/Wk	Empower	Specialized Classroom
Aileen Wright	1		2	11		
BBS	1		2	11		
ECCS	2		2.6	27.5	Yes	
Holy Family	1		2	11		
OHS	2		4	0		
OICS	2		3	27.5	Yes	
Pope Francis	2	.1	5.5	27.5	Yes	
Sacred Heart	1	.5	2.7	27.5	Yes	
St. Anne	1		2	17.5		
St. Jerome	1		4.37	27.5		1.0 Communication Class
St. Joseph	1		3.5	27.5		1.0 Essential Skills
St. Pat's COBALT	1		3.5	27.5		0.5 Essential Skills
St. Pat's KAP	1	.5	3.6	27.5	Yes	
Virtual Program	0	0	9.23	11		
TOTAL	17	1.1	50	8.04		

8. Return to School in Pandemic: Implications for Students with Special Needs

Daphne shared that we currently have 61 students in the virtual program who are identified with an exceptionality. This does not count the students with non-identified IEPs. For students from Grade 4-8, 41% of virtual learners have special needs. Unfortunately, many of the students who most need to be in school have chosen the virtual program. Furthermore, a large number of these students have not been engaging in the daily learning to the degree they need to be. There is significant concern about gaps getting larger for these students.

The RT in the homeschool will continue to support the virtual teachers in the creation of IEPs. In some instances, RTs will also continue to support virtual students with small group instruction in Reading and Math. We have reassigned 3.3 EAs for small parts of the day, and reassigned and backfilled another 5.5 EAs to support the virtual program.

9. Update on the Summer Transition Program

We are pleased to share that every NCDSB school offered a Summer Transition Program for students who had special needs and/or mental health concerns. Just over 140 students participated in a 4 day program at their school between August 17th and August 28th. An additional 10 students participated in a 9 day program designed for students on the Autism spectrum. This program was a partnership with HANDS.

10. Speech & Language Services

We continue to receive enhanced Speech and Language Services through Therapy Path thanks to the Northern Support Initiative. John Stark has been able to hire a therapy assistant in the Cochrane area, bringing the total number of assistants working in NCDSB schools to a total of 3. Two of these assistants reside in the Southern part of the board, while one resides in the North. In addition to regular assessment and therapy, they will be conducting the SK Language Screens again this year in all schools for those students who are attending school in-person. These screens are used to support decisions regarding additional assessments and tiered support. They are proving to be very useful information for us on many different levels.

11. Specialized Classrooms – Update for 2020-2021

All specialized classrooms that were created last year are continuing this school year. In all cases, the enrolment in these classrooms has increased. We now have 7 part time students in the Communication class at St. Jerome, 9 students in Essential Skills at St. Joseph and 5 students participating in the half time program at St. Pat's in Cobalt.

12. Special Education Plan 2020-2021

A copy of The Special Education Plan was provided to all committee members. The plan has also submitted to the Ministry of Education. The plan will be updated on the NCDSB website.

13. Agency Reports

Community Living

The Agency is working closely with childcare center; the number of children in the centers is currently lower than normal due to the schools only being open for 3 weeks. As the children attend school, more diagnoses are common. Strict guidelines are in place when visiting a center.

NEOFACS

NEOFACS staff are continuing to work virtually from home during the Covid19 pandemic. Staff have been able to reach out to clients via email and are offering sessions through ZOOM or over the phone.

Child Protective Service workers have been completing home visits and completing access visits. The Mental Health Services dept. is working virtually and discussions have taken place to determine when face-to-face visits can resume. Clients has adapted well to virtual visits thus far. Scheduling appointments during school hours has been a struggle so far this year. Some school boards have set up virtual rooms for school hours visits with children. The clinicians have been able to schedule their days to arrange for after school hours visits. There has been an increase in Crisis services resources being accessed since school has begun. Many children now have access to an individual to discuss their thoughts and feelings.

NEOFACS is currently offering a Free Family Transition Triple P Group in Timmins Starting on October 14

NEOFACS is pleased to offer a FREE virtual group for parents who are divorced or separated (with children or teenagers) across North Eastern Ontario! Family Transitions gives you new ways to help protect your child – and yourself – from the fallout of a family split. Enjoy the interactivity and peer support of a Triple P Parenting Group.

WHAT IS IT?

Family Transitions Triple P is a cognitive-behavioral family intervention designed to be delivered to parents who are experiencing personal distress from separation or divorce, which is impacting on, or complicating, the task of parenting.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Parents who benefit from this program are those who have been or are going through separation and divorce where there are unresolved conflicts and difficulties communicating effectively with former partners. Parents may be concerned that the separation or divorce is upsetting their children or they may want to learn ways to talk to their children about it and teach them ways to cope. Parents who do this course usually have concurrent concerns about their child's behaviour.

REGISTRATION

For more information or to register before October 7, 2020

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

CTRC staff are continuing to work virtually from home. Staff can continue to connect with teachers in schools via telephone or by making an appointment. Eligibility assessments have just begun to take place face-to-face using Plexiglas and PPE safety protocols. Each case will be assessed to ensure safety measures can be maintained. If not maintainable, the assessment may need to be delayed to a later date. Behavioral Intervention services have continued through a virtual means. A slight drop in activity level has been noted, 75% since the pandemic began.

Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre

The center remains closed to the public, however there are two pediatricians who are now working out of the center. Specific groups are being held for children who may have equipment needs that must be addressed, orthotics and neo natal. The center is currently working with school boards in phases. Phase 1 and 2 are for children who require therapy immediately due to pain or equipment needs. Phase 3 will soon be implemented to allow therapists to provide direct therapy visits in schools. Virtual sessions always remain an option to provide client services. Safety protocols have been put in place for both staff and families.

The Lord's Kitchen

The Lord's Kitchen has continued to serve the needs of clients during the pandemic. On average 125 clients are being served on Thursdays between 4:00pm-5:30pm. A prepacked meal is provided to each individual, while maintaining safety protocols.

The breakfast program will resume beginning on October 2, 2020 from 7:00am-8:30am every Friday.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

October 21, 2020 via WebEx Invite 11:45 am.

15. Other Business

None

16. Adjournment

MOVED BY: S. Skalecki

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.
CARRIED.