

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee / Vice Chair
Sabrina Gravel, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Deborah Chornobey, YMCA
Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Specialist
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor
Amber Smith-Come, Principal St. Anne School
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Sean Robertson, Principal St. Joseph School
Karla Gagnon, Autism Ontario / Chair
Joeann Gervais, The Lord's Kitchen
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association

1. Welcome, Prayer and Land Acknowledgment

Colleen welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer and land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: S. Skalecki

BY: S. Gravel SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: S. Skalecki

BY: S. Gravel SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Special Education Plan 2023-2024

It is that time of year when we begin to review the Spec Ed plan for 2023-2024. Daphne, Catherine and Katie will present an update to the committee in May. In the meantime, if you could review the plan and make note of any suggestions you have for goals for next year, which would be great. We will need to finalize the changes at our June meeting as it needs to go the trustees that night.

5. Professional Learning Sessions

We have been hosting a series of professional learning sessions with staff regarding the new literacy programs we have been using this year. Teachers and ECEs had the opportunity to discuss their successes and challenges with the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program, the Wilson Foundations program and the implementation of Morning Routine. We are getting very positive feedback about the programs. Challenges/barriers that are emerging related largely to time and attendance. So far we have met with all the staff using the Foundations program and will be meeting with staff using the Synthetic Phonics toolkits (mainly grade 3-6 teachers) next week to discuss phonics instruction as a support with spelling.

6. EQAO

Our grade 3 and 6 students will be completing the EQAO assessment between May 23rd and June 9th this year. The assessment has 8 sections that need to be completed. Four in literacy and 4 in math. We are recommending that schools plan to have students' complete 2 sections per day over 4 days. There have been significant changes to the assessment recently. It is now a fully digital assessment for students in grade 6. For grade 3, you have the option to complete it on paper and upload the paper version into a computer for sending to EQAO. Most schools have chosen to have grade 3 students complete the digital version as well. All students now have access to a text reader for the reading portion of the assessment. A scribe can still be used for students who would benefit and for whom a scribe is used regularly in the classroom. Training was provided to Grade 3 & 6 teachers last week and we expect to work with scribes before the assessment takes place.

7. Ignite Program

Catherine and Katie presented to 4 members of the Ignite group on Monday April 17, 2023 on the topic of Understanding the IPRC Process, the formal process that identifies exceptional students that require special education programs and services.

The session covered:

- Regulations from the Education Act
- Categories of Exceptionalities
- The Process of Referring a Student to the IPRC
- The Difference between an Initial and Review IPRC
- The Rights of a Parent/Guardian
- Placement Options
- Statement of Decision
- Disagreement with the IPRC Decision
- Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

8. Tutoring Supports

OFIP Tutors have been hired in all schools but BBS, Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Pat's Cobalt. These tutors are required to be OCT certified and will work to help prepare Grade 3 & 6 students for EQAO.

Our Learning Recovery Tutors are in the process of being hired. Every school will have the option of hiring at least 2 tutors, with the possibility of more given need and size of school. These are post-secondary students who will work with individual or small groups of students on specific skills identified by our Aimsweb+, Lexia, BAT and IXL data. Supports will be provided to both English and FI students as needed. We are hoping that all schools will be able to find at least one student to support this program. Kits are being made for the tutors and training will also be provided.

9. Agency Reports

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

NEOFACS in collaboration with the four school boards, local agencies and health units offered a free online webinar with Dr. Adele Lafrance to support Mental Health Week.

We invite you to join us for an online presentation by Dr. Adele Lafrance titled **"It's Not What Happens, It's What Happens Next: Promoting Connection for Better Relationships"** on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Learn practical tips and techniques, on how using an emotion-focused approach can lead to stronger relationships – with your children, your partner or even yourself – to help you keep moving forward.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Adele Lafrance is a clinical psychologist, research scientist, author and co-creator of Family Emotion Focused Therapy. Learn more at dradelelafrance.com.

Tie-Dye Workshops are also being offered in the Englehart & Hearst area
Join us for free interactive workshops for children and youth in celebration of Mental Health Week happening May 1-7, 2023!

All dyeing materials will be provided. All you need to bring is a white shirt (or another white/light-coloured article of clothing like socks, scarf, bandana, hair scrunchy, etc.).

1. Englehart:

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, from 4 to 6 pm

Open to all ages! Spots are limited.

Register with Tera Blackburn at 705-544-5437 ext. 4441 or tera.blackburn@neofacs.org

2. Hearst:

Wednesday, May 3, from 4 to 6 pm

Open to youth in grades 5 to 9! Spots are limited.

Register online with the Town of Hearst – La Limite Activities.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

Sabrina shared with the committee that during the referral process the agency has noticed that the parental consent forms are missing from the documents. The consent form is needed in order for the agency to accept the referral. Please come that in mind when completing referrals.

VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

The agency will be holding a get together for families on June 9-11, 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls.

10. Date of Next Meeting – May 24, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.

11. Other Business – N/A

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: S.Skalecki

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

CARRIED