

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

11:45 p.m. Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kristine Arthur, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services
Paula Crotteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Tara Ruel, Timmins Learning Centre
Sabrina Belanger, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne School
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Paula Crotteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Shannon Costello, The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Melanie Hannah, Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
Ashley Rains, Community Living
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Mackenzie Carrier, YMCA
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Julia Spadetto-Forward, School Principal St. Jerome School
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor

1. Welcome, Prayer and Territorial Acknowledgment

Colleen welcomed everyone and led the group in the territorial acknowledgement.
Stan led the group in the prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Stan Skalecki
BY: Kristine Arthur SECONDED
THAT the agenda be approved as presented
CARRIED.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED BY: Sabrina Belanger
BY: Stan Skalecki SECONDED
THAT the minutes be approved as presented
CARRIED.

4. **Special Education Plan 2024-2025**

4.1 Review of Changes

Daphne completed the changes to the sections that required an update.

- Special Education Placements Provided by the Board
- Special Education Staff
- Specialized Equipment
- Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario
- The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Staff Development
- Accessibility (AODA)

We also provided an update on each action item. A full review and revision of the plan will be undertaken in the 2024-2025 school year. Please let us know if there are any items you would like to see addressed.

4.2 Motion of Approval

Colleen made a motion to the committee to accept the Special Education Plan for 2024-2025. All in attendance voted to accept and pass the motion.

A Motion of Approval was signed by Colleen Landers chair of the committee to have the Special Education Plan for 2024 2025 presented to the Board of Trustees at the June 12,2024 Board Meeting.

5. **August Transition Program**

We expect August Transition programs for new JKs and students with special needs who would benefit from this opportunity to take place the week of August 19th. The program will run from 9:30 to 11:30 August 20th to 23rd for students at all schools but BBS, Holy Family and St. Joseph. We use the funds received by the Ministry for Summer Programs for Students with Special Needs to offer this program.

Our July Summer Learning program will only be taking place at Aileen Wright in Cochrane.

6. **Update on Learning Recovery Tutors**

The Learning Recovery Tutor program has been highly successful this year. Every school except Aileen Wright, including BBS has been able to find at least one tutor to support our at-risk students in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Friday is their last day, but they have been in most schools since the beginning of May. A full summary of the impact of this work will be provided at an early fall SEAC meeting. This program was not funded by the Ministry of Education through any special program. The board chose to use some surplus funds to finance this program. We are very grateful for this opportunity and hope that it has served our students well.

7. **AimsWeb+ Assessment Update**

Yesterday was the last day the board team was in schools to help complete AimsWeb+ assessments. This is the 6th time that the team has supported each school in the completion of these important screens. Though we had hoped to see significant improvements, progress continues to be slow. We have more data than ever to help us identify at-risk students and to use the resources at our disposal to support these students with far greater specificity than ever before. Perhaps we need to be a bit more patient! Again, we will share a full summary of the results for the year with SEAC early in the fall. Though the Right to Read Inquiry report clearly outlines the need to screen every student from K-2 a

minimum of 2 times a year, with 3 times a year being highly recommended (this is what we do), the Ministry has chosen to have classroom teachers administer in the fall and only have those students identified as at-risk be done a second time at some point in the year by the literacy lead. We have seen countless times, students who are not at risk in September but who are in January or June. We feel this is a significant error and plan to continue to screen all students 3 times a year.

8. Agency Reports

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

Kristine advised that the agency is working on the Jordan's Principle applications across the district and there is currently up to a six-month delay in receiving a response from the Government agency that provides funding for these positions.

9. Date of Next Meeting: September 18, 2024, at 11:45 a.m.

10. Other Business: The SEAC Committee will be writing a letter to the Minister of Education to request that reading assessment/screening be completed twice a year on students to align with the Right to Read inquiry report. Currently the Ministry recommends that assessments be completed at the beginning of the school year and repeated for students who are at risk.

11. Adjournment

Moved By: Sabrina Belanger

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

CARRIED