### **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

# Wednesday, Sept 18, 2024 11:45 p.m. Northeastern Catholic District School Board

### **MINUTES**

PRESENT: Shannon Costello, The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board

Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association

Kristine Arthur, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

Paula Crotteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre

**Ashley Rains, Community Living Timmins** 

Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee

Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education

Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne School

Julia Spadetto-Forward, School Principal St Jerome School

Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker

Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

Sabrina Belanger, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

Mackenzie Carrier, YMCA

Melanie Hannah, Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre

**Tara Ruel, Timmins Learning Centre** 

Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher

Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor

#### 1. Welcome, Prayer and Land Acknowledgment

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

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Colleen Landers BY: Stan Skalecki SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented

CARRIED.

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes

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

#### 4. Elections – Chair and Vice Chair

#### **Elections - Chair**

Daphne Brumwell opened the nomination process. Stan nominated Colleen Landers as Chair of SEAC. Colleen accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed and Daphne Brumwell declared Colleen Landers, Chair of SEAC from September 2024 to June 2025.

#### Motion

MOVED BY: K. Arthur SECONDED BY: R. Reis

#### **Election of Vice-Chair**

Daphne opened the nomination process. Colleen nominated Stan Skalecki as Vice-Chair of SEAC. Stan accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed and Daphne Brumwell declared Stan Skalecki, Vice-Chair of SEAC from September 2024 to June 2025.

#### Motion

MOVED BY: R. Reis

SECONDED BY: K. Arthur

#### 5. Schedule of Meetings and School Year Calendars

The 2024-2025 meeting schedule and school year calendars were shared with the committee members. The dates have been confirmed from September to June.

#### 6. Update on the Summer School/Transition Program

Several programs took place between May and the end of August to support the transition to school and students who are at-risk in literacy and numeracy.

The Ready-Set-School program took place at Pope Francis, St. Anne & St. Jerome on 4 Saturdays in May/June. Students attended school for 2 hours each Saturday. This is an excellent opportunity for children starting FDK in the fall to experience what it is like to attend school. Our program includes a short field trip on a bus and a few activities to introduce school routines. It is also a great opportunity for staff to get to know some of the students coming in the fall. Approximately 40 students participated.

Aileen Wright was the only school this summer to run the Summer Learning program in July. This program focuses on at-risk students who could use additional support to improve literacy and numeracy skills. This program runs for 15 days and students are at school for 4 hours each day. Approximately 19 students participated.

We also hosted a transition to school program the last week of August at Aileen Wright, OICS, Pope Francis, St. Jerome, ECCS and St. Anne. This program is designed for students with special needs who

would benefit from an opportunity to experience support to make the transition to a new grade/school. Some schools choose to divide the group up between students new to FDK and students in other grades. This program runs for 2 hours a day for 4 days. Approximately 80 students participated.

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. 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. Speech & Language Services

We continue to work with Therapy Path to provide Speech & Language Services to our students across the district. The Northern Adjustment Category funding covers the cost of these services. Our board budgets approximately \$100,000 towards this each year. This is a significant increase over what we would have been able to do before this funding was available to us. In addition to assessments and therapy blocks, screening of year 2 FDK students also takes place in every school. This is an excellent way for us to determine which students might need additional assessment, leading to therapy.

#### 8. Specialized Classrooms – Update for 2024-2025

We have been working to reduce the number of specialized classes in our schools so that we are more in line with our desire to have students integrated with their peers. In some of our schools, we have been working hard to provide integration opportunities so that this change is not as difficult for students. Reductions have been made for the 2024-2025 school year in 3 schools. The half time programs that existed at St. Patrick School in Kap and St. Patrick School in Cobalt have been eliminated. The full-time program at St. Jerome has been reduced to half time to allow for a new half-time program to be created at Sacred Heart. We have 6 students who have transitioned to Sacred Heart in the last year who would benefit from some time in a special needs class. We continue to offer a full-time program at St. Joseph, however, there is a much stronger expectation for students in the program to access some programming within their age-appropriate classroom. We will monitor the impact of these decisions over the coming months and adjust as needed.

#### 9. IPRCs and IEPs Fall 2024

Fall IPRCs have begun in most schools. IPRCs are done over the phone unless a parent requests an inperson meeting. We have been doing them this way since the pandemic, and it seems to be much more successful in getting parents to attend. IPRC information is reviewed annually for every identified student; we do not dispense IPRCs.

IEPs are set to go home on Tuesday, October 15th (October 8th in Moosonee). We have provided time for new teachers to meet with the RT at their school to go through the IEP course that is on our virtual learning platform and to begin to look at IEP creation for their students. We continue to advocate for most students to have accommodations for math only, unless they have a developmental disability. There are a few exceptions to this, but this is in line with the expectation of the Ministry that students with learning disabilities do not have modified programs unless necessary.

#### 10. Agency Reports

#### **Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services**

The majority of the schools have received outstanding Jordan's Principle applications for Educational Assistants, speech, language services and academic needs. Indigenous Services Canada is working on clearing the backlog of applications. To support Inuit children there is access to funding like Jordan's Principle which ensures Inuit children have access to the essential government funded health, social and educational products, services and supports they need, when they need them. There is no fee for Inuit children to access the Inuit Child First Initiative. Regional focal points and service coordinators will help you with a request for free.

The agency has hired an Education Laison Jessica Rocheleau for the district with the focus on children who are in care. She will be attending the next SEAC meeting to better guide her in what her role will be in supporting students in schools.

The agency offers a family support and child youth worker program that has undergone some changes recently as internal staff try to navigate the need of families across the district and first nation communities. The focus has been on attendance and graduation outcomes. Trying to have the staff understand attendance is attached to much deeper issues and typically the general rhythms. They are looking for support from the school board to ensure conversations are being held with families first regarding attendance and if they are interested in receiving a prevention service? If there are then a referral that can be made to the agency not for attendance, but to support the family, and ultimately that help get the child to school so we can go into the home, we can help with creating routines. Kristine did reach out to NCDSB staff and provided the referral forms to support the process.

#### **Canadian Mental Health Association**

The association is working on staff recruitment is still on going and staff shortages are decreasing. Services, however, remain limited in the north due to lack of physicians, staff and beds. There are free online programs offered by the Government of Ontario to assist in filling gaps in less serious mental health concerns. They are easily accessible if an internet connection is available.

#### **Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre**

The Centre has shifted their approach to occupational services to be a fully tiered model of intervention in school-based rehabilitation services. Presentations have been delivered to all districts SERTs across the region as well as to different school boards regarding the tiered intervention model. The shift will allow for more individuals to be supported in classrooms. There has been no change in how referrals for physiotherapy and speech and language school-based rehab services are done.

School speech and language and preschool speech and language services no longer being offered right up to the age of five, but rather offered right up to school entry. Preschool speech and language occur right up to the day of school entry, and then from there it's either a switch to school board language services or school-based rehab speech services for us. We will be working with school boards across the district over the next school year to shift our speech and language and physiotherapy services to tiered based intervention as well as our community-based support.

#### The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board

In June, an announcement was made that the YMCA early on center was closed and now directly operates from Spruce Hill Lodge. It will open in October on a regular basis, and we be expanding the virtual programming with an upcoming workshop called connected Parenting and runs in partnership with Clarity Counseling.

Mobile services were expanded and offered across the district, targeting specific neighborhoods to improve parent engagement and literacy in the overseas skills with children. A project over the summer took place where staff traveled in some of the neighborhoods and there was great attendance. We also discovered there were a lot of 6- to 12-year-olds that were looking for ways to engage as well. The program came with activities that were very focused on fine and gross motor skills as well as numeracy and literacy and teaching parents how to engage in those activities with their children. The program will be carried out over the district since it was so well received and attended.

Different events focusing on indigenous culture this month with truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30 with one significant project for kindergarten and grade one classroom teachers to sign up for the activity box. The box included 5 lessons created to help the teacher educate their children on the indigenous culture and really focusing on kindness and community, there are also 3 books and Cree flash cards that support the lessons. It includes the hoop and ball activity which is a traditional game of the indigenous culture. The program was created by a qualified teacher and developed in conjunction with the Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre. A craft and lunch will also be taking place at the Timmins Museum on September 24 as well as a tour of the Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre for parents and children.

The post-partum support and caffeine and conservation groups will be resuming this month. The groups allow parents to go over topics that they may be struggling with. This allows for conversations about engagement with your child and reading with your child as well as everyday activities that can take place.

- 11. Date of Next Meeting October 16, 2024, at 11:45am
- 12. Other Business N/A

#### 13. Adjournment

Moved By: S. Skalecki That the meeting be adjourned at 12:52 p.m. CARRIED

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) 2024-2025

# NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC DISTRIST SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE TIMMINS BOARD OFFICE - 383 BIRCH ST NORTH

MEETING

MEETING	DATES	STARTING
#1	SEPTEMBER 18, 2024	11:45 am
#2	OCTOBER 16, 2024	11:45 am
#3	NOVEMBER 20, 2024	11:45 am
#4	DECEMBER 18, 2024	11:45 am
#5	JANUAURY 22, 2025	11:45 am

WEETING	DATES	STARTING
#6	FEBRUARY 19, 2025	11:45 am
#7	MARCH 19, 2025	11:45 am
#8	APRIL 16, 2025	11:45 am
#9	MAY 14, 2025	11:45 am
#10	JUNE 11, 2025	11:45 am

DATES

SMITGATS

SE	PTE	EMB	ER				00	СТС	BEI	7				N	OVE	MB	ER				DE	CEI	MBE	R				J۵	NU	ARY	′				FE	BRI	JAR	Υ			
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	<b>20</b>	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	<b>22</b>	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	
MA	٩RC	Н					AF	PRIL	-					M	٩Y						JL	JNE																			
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S														
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7														
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14														
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21														
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28														
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30																			



# 2024 – 2025 School Year Calendar BISHOP BELLEAU SCHOOL

Learning together.
Striving for excellence.

In service to God and each other.

AUGUST											
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri							
			1	2							
5	6	7	8	9							
12	13	14	15	16							
19	20	21	22	23							
26	27	28	29	30							

SEPTEMBER										
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri						
2	3	4	5	6						
9	10	11	12	13						
16	17	18	19	20						
23	24	25	26	27						
30										

OCTOBER										
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri						
	1	2	3	4						
7	8	9	10	11						
14	15	16	17	18						
21	22	23	24	25						
28	29	30	31							

	NOVEMBER									
Mo	n	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri					
					1					
4		5	6	7	8					
13	1	12	13	14	15					
18	3	19	20	21	22					
25	5	26	27	28	29					

	DECEMBER											
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri								
2	3	4	5	6								
9	10	11	12	13								
16	17	18	19	20								
23	24	25	26	27								
30	31											

	JANUARY											
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri								
		1	2	3								
6	7	8	9	10								
13	14	15	16	17								
20	21	22	23	24								
27	28	29	30	31								

	FEBRUARY										
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri							
3	4	5	6	7							
10	11	12	13	14							
17	18	19	20	21							
24	25	26	27	28							

	MARCH										
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri							
3	4	5	6	7							
10	11	12	13	14							
17	18	19	20	21							
24	25	26	27	28							
31											

APRIL											
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri							
	1	2	3	4							
7	8	9	10	11							
14	15	16	17	18							
21	22	23	24	25							
28	29	30									

MAY					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

JUNE				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

#### **CALENDAR LEGEND:**

First/Last Day of School Professional Activity Day Statutory School Holiday Board Holiday





# 2024 - 2025 School Year Calendar

(Except Bishop Belleau School, Moosonee)

# Learning together. Striving for excellence. In service to God and each other.

AUGUST					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

SEPTMEBER				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

	DECEMBER				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				

JANUARY				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

	MARCH				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

APRIL				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

MAY					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

JUNE				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

#### **CALENDAR LEGEND**

First Day of School
Professional Activity Day
Statutory School Holiday
Board Holiday
Scheduled Exams at OHS
Last Day of School

























