

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 20, 2023

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Sabrina Gravel, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Glenn Sheculski, NCDSB Trustee (Chair)
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne School
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Debbie Chornobey, YMCA
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor
Sean Robertson, School Principal O'Gorman High School

1. Welcome, Prayer and Land Acknowledgment

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

2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Approved by Stan Skalecki

3. Elections – Chair and Vice Chair

Since the committee did not have quorum, the elections will take place at the October meeting.

4. Schedule of Meetings and School Year Calendars

The 2023-2024 meeting schedule and school year calendars were shared with the committee members. The dates have been confirmed from September to December. Dates for 2024 to be shared with the members once the dates are finalized.

5. Update on the Summer School/Transition Program

We had another successful summer offering programs to our most at-risk students. The Summer Learning program took place at St. Jerome School in Kirkland Lake, supporting 17 kids from FDK to Grade 3; Pope Francis also offered a program for the same age group for 20 students. We did see a decline in participation over the 3 weeks in the group of older kids at Pope Francis.

We also offered the August Transition program at most elementary schools the week before school started. Nearly 100 students participated in this half day program over 4 days. Most students who participated had special education needs, but we also provided an opportunity to some of our new FDK students who we felt would benefit from the program. Our behaviour support team continues to be responsible for the planning of this program, with the support of the consultants we use from Sudbury.

6. Speech & Language Services

Therapy Path (John Stark) has been retained again this year to provide SLP services across the district. He now employs 4 therapy assistants who are in our schools daily providing therapy to students who require it. His staff is also in the process of completing the annual screen down with year 2 FDK students.

7. Specialized Classrooms – Update for 2023-2024

We have the same number of specialized classrooms as we did last year. We will spend some time this year re-evaluating the use of the half time classrooms at both St. Patrick Schools. Depending on the needs of the students, they may better be served with a different model.

8. IPRCs and IEPs Fall 2023

Schools are just tying up the fall round of IPRCs. IEPs are due to go home on the 12th.

9. Agency Reports

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

The agency will be launching a virtual referral system with October as the estimated release time. The agency would also, like to offer a presentation to school staff members to show some of the services available through the CTRC.

Daphne advised she would support the presentation and offer it to Resources Teachers and Board Leads. The presentation would be well received by all those in attendance.

10. Date of Next Meeting – October 18, 2023 at 11:45am

11. Other Business – N/A

12. Adjournment

Moved By: S. Skalecki

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

CARRIED

