



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, the Lord's Kitchen
Tammy Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon

SECONDED BY: N. Cole

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on February 15, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Passport Mentoring Program**

The Passport Mentoring Program helps students between the ages of 14 and 21, who have an intellectual or developmental disability, and is intended to help individuals prepare for their future upon graduation. Furthermore, the program helps participants to create various connections in the community. Tammie Molenaar explained that the program gives these students the opportunity to learn and acquire information from an adult mentor who is actively engaged in the students' development and interests. Cristy Webb of Community Living Ontario is the coordinator of the program and works with all school boards in this district.

5. **Mental Health and Addiction Update**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Dan Loreto attended a teleconference relating to the Mental Health and Addiction nurses in district school boards program. It is currently anticipated that the program will be implemented in September 2012. This strategy will see the hiring of thirteen nurse leads across the province through Community Care Access Centres. Also, registered nurses will then be put in place to provide services and supports for students. The purpose of the strategy will include referrals to community mental health and addictions agencies and offer advice to school staff on medication, potential side effects, and management of medications. There are general concerns being voiced throughout northeastern Ontario relating to the possibility of the nurses not having sufficient experience in dealing with mental health issues, as well as the efficacy of this human resource in publicly funded schools. It was suggested that the NCDSB SEAC write a letter to the Minister voicing our concerns and recommending a reexamination of the strategy.

6. **Student Support Leadership and OPHEA Partnership**

The Student Support Leadership have partnered with Ontario Physical Health Education Association (OPHEA) and are touring the North hosting workshops aimed at combining physical education with sound mental health interventions. Teachers, school support staff, administrators, supervisors, and agency and community colleagues from the North East are invited to attend a one-day workshop. Dates and locations of the workshops were shared with the members.

7. **Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)**

Minutes of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education of February 8 & 9, 2012 were circulated.

8. **Professional Activity Day – April 16, 2012**

Educational Assistants across the district had the opportunity to work collaboratively on April 16th on issues relating to their roles and responsibilities. They participated in sessions relating to de-escalation techniques, pre-crisis antecedents, helping to manage behavioural issues, autism spectrum disorder. A planner will be created to align professional activity days for Educational Assistants which will be shared with employees and SEAC members in the Fall.

9. **Agency Reports**

The Lord's Kitchen served 2,005 meals in three weeks. Bill Russell indicated the importance of the agency and its counterparts, St. Martin de Porres and St. Vincent de Paul.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind has moved its Timmins office to 206 Fifth Avenue. In an effort to increase the number of qualified Vision and Deafblind teachers in the province, VIEWS will once again consider covering the cost of tuition for Blind and Deafblind Parts 1, 2 and Specialist courses being offered through Nipissing in Brantford in July 2012. Summer camps will be offered at CNIB Lake Joe to people who are blind or partially sighted where they can develop new skills, make friends, learn new activities, and be themselves in a safe, friendly environment. A Music Camp for Braille Users will be held from July 8th to 14th in Brantford. VIEWS Camp Freedom will take place from July 15th and 20th also in Brantford. More detailed information on these camps will be shared with all NCDSB schools.

Canadian Mental Health Association received funding and the green light to offer court support services to young offenders between 12 and 17 years old. During the annual Mental Health Awareness Week, CMHA will be hosting activities which include a community blitz on May 7th with staff and volunteers out delivering mental health tool kits to remind people to take care of their mental health. A free open swim at the Archie Dillon Sportsplex will be held on May 9th. On May 12th, CMHA will welcome the host of TSN's "Off The Record", Michael Landsberg. Mr. Landsberg will talk about his own dealings with depression. Tickets are sold at \$10 each and the event will be held at Timmins High and Vocational School. Mark Lionello encouraged everyone to attend and spread the word.

Kay Gaffney attended the last board meeting of Child and Family Services of Timmins and District. She will remain a board member of the newly amalgamated North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFCS) and will be part of the foundation board as of September 2012.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 22, 2012** at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

11. **Other Business**

Chair Kay Gaffney read a letter sent to the Minister of Education written by Niagara Catholic District School Board recommending that new teachers complete Special Education Part I as a mandatory qualification course prior to obtaining their Certificate of Qualification and Registration.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: M. Lionello

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
CARRIED.