



**NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

www.ncdsb.on.ca

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SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

11:45 a.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
Alana Loreto, Parent Representative
Claire Lamarre-Goyer, Program Principal - Special Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Kevin Duke, Canadian Mental Health Association
Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
Elizabeth King, Trustee, Iroquois Falls/Cochrane
Steve Malciw, Trustee, Kirkland Lake
Paul Toffanello, Director of Education
Karen Rowe, Assistant to the Director
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Special Education

1. **Opening Prayer**

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: A. Loreto
SECONDED BY: M. Leroux
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: A. Loreto
SECONDED BY: M. Leroux
THAT the minutes be approved as amended (attendance).
CARRIED.

4. Guest Speaker - Catherine Hoven, SERT, St. Paul School - Soar to Success

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. IEP Review

Claire Lamarre-Goyer indicated that the Ministry hasn't contacted the school boards regarding the IEP and its funding. She added that she is visiting schools to ensure that the special education resource teachers are complying with the regulations of the new IEP engine.

6. Intensive Equipment Submission to Ministry

The Intensive Equipment submission date to the Ministry is April 30th for purchases made between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006. \$92,000 was claimed last year and the board has received \$72,000.

7. Special Education Board Plan Update

Claire Lamarre-Goyer stated that she spoke with a Ministry Education Officer and she feels that the focus is less on the Special Education Board Plan and more on accountability. She added that boards will have to prepare school and board improvement plans. The Ministry is looking at target setting with children with behavior and any changes will be minor. An audit on intensive equipment will be conducted in the Spring.

8. CODE Project Update

NCDSB teachers and EAs had the opportunity to attend an amazing two-day training session in March on assistive technologies hosted by the provincial schools. The board has purchased new computers and Kurzweil has been installed in all of our schools. Twelve students at O'Gorman High School were happy to use Kurzweil while writing their provincial literacy test. The software Inspiration - a mind mapping tool that helps children organize their thoughts - will be installed very soon. Two other software programs will be installed in the Fall: Speak Q - a voice-to-text software which allows students to speak into the software and it will write what they're saying - and Word Q - a prediction software which is useful for kids who have difficulty spelling words. The response to the in-servicing has been phenomenal and students are performing beyond expectations. Kay Gaffney congratulated the staff using these programs for their hard work. The provincials schools gave the board twenty-four (24) new computers and hope to continue ongoing collaboration with us. The board will be providing one more major workshop through CODE for principals and lead teachers on June 14th and 15th with the help of Barry Bennett, a professor at the Ontario Institute Studies in Education.

Claire Lamarre-Goyer mentioned that she will ask Ray Ginglo, Special Assignment Teacher for Information Technology, to present these softwares to the SEAC members in the Fall.

9. Agency Reports

Marc Leroux informed the group that the Easter Seal Society has received a grant of over \$400,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support an initiative which will include a feasibility study in conjunction with the Ontario March of Dimes. The agencies offer services for individuals with physical disabilities. He added that the provincial government is helping low-income families a lot more. The government is also requesting advice from the agency on better ways to allocate monies.

Kay Gaffney reported, on behalf of Child and Family Services of Timmins & District, that the agency is taking lead in a new initiative for kids with complex needs throughout the Northeast region. Sixty-six (66) kids have been identified and a personal centre plan will be developed with the families. She stated that there is a need for a respite program and other structure will be put in place. She added that a case management position will be required.

Child and Family Services of Timmins & District is pleased to recognize the week of May 7th, 2006 as Children's Mental Health Week. A copy of the program activities will be sent to all SEAC members and to all of our schools as well as posted on the NCDSB web site.

10. Parents for Children's Mental Health - Our Voice

A copy of the newsletter *Parents for Children's Mental Health - Our Voice* was provided.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting (a combination of the months of May and June) will be held on **Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. (face-to-face)**. Please call Judy Piché at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: A. Loreto
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 p.m.
CARRIED.