



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, October 17, 2012
11:45 a.m.
Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on September 19, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Introduction of New Member

Lisa Innes joined SEAC as the Aboriginal Liaison for NCDSB. Lisa has 12 years of teaching in Moose Factory and has a Special Education Specialist.

5. Special Education Collaborative Inquiry

Special Assignment Teacher, Erica Raymond, explained that a group of teachers have initiated a professional learning group to explore and address the needs of students in Grades 4 to 6 who struggle with literacy development. The Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) has proven to be successful with primary students and now are exploring next steps to ensure continued success. A handout detailing the Special Education Collaborative Inquiry was distributed to the members.

6. Program Review – Kirkland Lake

NCDSB has recently undertaken an accommodation review in the Kirkland Lake area. The Accommodation Review Committee examined a facility and services review of both local schools (Sacred Heart School and St. Jerome School). The recommendation from the committee is forthcoming to the Board of Trustees, suggesting that the school structures remain status quo. However, concerns have been made known regarding student services between the schools. Both schools currently run an Essential Skills classroom and there is misconception among parent groups about the services offered at each school. Tricia Stefanic Weltz stated that there is merit at looking at whether one school is better equipped as opposed to running two programs. After a lengthy discussion, the members agreed that Tricia make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to proceed with the program review in the Kirkland Lake area and make subsequent recommendations. There may also be a need to establish procedures in regards to programs and service reviews for future reference and use.

7. EQAO

The results of the Grade 3 and 6 provincial assessments held in the Spring of 2012 were shared. The special education students continue to show growth and it is attributed to assistive technology. Kay Gaffney congratulated the students and the staff of NCDSB.

8. Parent Communication Strategy

Parent communication newsletters from the Director will be sent to all of our families this year and posted on our website. This new initiative will ensure that parents receive information relating to programs and opportunities for students. The names of SEAC members will be inserted in one of the newsletters.

9. O'Gorman High School Program Update

Dan Loreto reported that the Snoezelen Room at O'Gorman High School is completed and will be in operation by the end of next week. Further, enhancements have been made to the life skills program at the school and is responding to the needs of several students with exceptionalities. SEAC members will have the opportunity to visit the room later this year.

10. Autism Spectrum Disorders Update

PPM 140, released in May 2007, dictates that school boards must offer students with Autism Spectrum Disorders special education programs and services, including, where appropriate, special education programs using ABA methods. Tricia Weltz advised the committee that strategic focus will be placed on effective transitions for student in accordance with the PPM to ensure that the required elements are considered and implemented for students.

11. Computer-Based Language Intervention

The FAST ForWord Program is designed to help students become better readers and recommended by psychologists. Students reacted positively to the interventions and the program has been maintained for seven (7) students.

12. M.A.C.S.E. Meeting Summary

The Meeting Summary of the Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education was shared with the members. Colleen Landers commented that the committee needs Northern representation and suggested that someone from the North sit on the committee. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

At the last meeting, Tricia Stefanic Weltz was asked to write a letter to the advisory group regarding a list of technologies for students. Clarification is still required to ensure that the content is reflective of the committee's intentions.

13. Agency Reports

The Children's Treatment Centre has recently hired Julie St. Pierre as its Occupational Therapist.

Joel McCartney mentioned that the Psychometrist vacancy in Kapuskasing has been filled by Lindsay Allard.

Canadian Mental Health Association has undertaken a fairly large review of services. The agency is looking at integrating services and there will be less agencies within eighteen months. Health resources directed to the hospital are now going to CMHA.

Bill Russell reported that The Lord's Kitchen served 721 meals to 263 people for Thanksgiving. He asked if schools are still involved in the nutritional program as leftovers have not been sent to the agency

this school year as they did in the past. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

The amalgamation of the North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services is causing concerns and challenges. The agency's Executive Director, Richard Lambert-Bélanger, has accepted a 5 year employment contract.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

15. Other Business

Letters from Near North District School Board and Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will be sent electronically to the members.

KidSport and YMCA will be offering a free introduction to the Gracie BullyProof Program in February. Children will play jiu-jitsu while learning self-defense techniques and developing character as well as confidence. Colleen Landers stated that parents are raving about the program. More information can be found by visiting the website <https://www.graciekids.com>.

16. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.
CARRIED.