

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

11:45 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Genevieve Lemieux, Canadian Mental Health Association
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins
Sharron Pountney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair

1. Welcome and Prayer

Joel McCartney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell

SECONDED BY: C. Landers

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: G. Lemieux
SECONDED BY: V. Toner

THAT the minutes of November 29, 2017 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot Update

The NCDSB has received a total of \$160,113 to participate in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot over the 2017-2018 school year. This funding includes training 15 educational assistants and/or child and youth workers through the Geneva Center. These staff members will be completing a 40-hour course designed to provide credentials as a Registered Behaviour Technician. Funding covers the release time needed for staff to complete the course, participate in 3 large group learning/collaboration sessions and for someone to coordinate all of this. The funding has also provided us with the opportunity to hire a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA). We are in the second round of postings and struggling to fill this position. Many other boards, even those in the south, are experiencing the same challenge. Katie Mundle, teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic School is the coordinator for the program. She has been heavily involved in numerous teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting with other boards in the province around this initiative. We are unsure as to whether or not this funding will continue into the next school year, perhaps with a focus on another group of professionals. Daphne Brumwell will be seeking permission from the Ministry to extend the BCBA position to December 31st, 2018 given that we have not yet been successful in hiring someone and the funding would have allowed for this person to be in place for a full school year.

5. Provincial Demonstration Schools Update

Catherine Hoven reported that Ontario has several schools provincially funded to support students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, deafblind or who have a severe learning disability. These schools offer the Ontario Curriculum at the elementary and secondary levels as well as specialized integrated programming. They give students the opportunity to fully participate in the total school experience including sports, music, recreational and leadership opportunities. Our school board is serviced through Sagonaska Provincial School in Belleville. We currently have one Grade 5 student from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Kirkland Lake attending this school. This student started in September and has already moved 5 reading levels. An application is currently in progress for another student of Sacred Heart Catholic School. Phase 1 of the application process includes collecting information on the student, such as consent forms, files in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR), report cards, IEPs, assessments. A team of consultants will travel to the student's home school to assess the student, meet with the family and the school team. Then admission interviews with the student and the family take place. Once accepted, the student is invited to tour the school prior to the start of the school year. This is a huge commitment for the family; the student flies to Belleville on Sunday and returns home Friday evening. All costs are covered by the Ontario government.

6. School Year Calendar Consultation

The draft School Year Calendar was shared with the committee. Members were encouraged to submit feedback through the board website <https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/calendarreview.php>.

7. Update on Psychological Services

15 students have been assessed to date: 6 in the South, 7 in Kirkland Lake and 2 in Timmins. Catherine Hoven will assess 30 to 35 students across the board including students of O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School in February, Pope Francis Elementary School and St. Joseph School in March, Aileen Wright English Catholic School and St. Anne English Catholic School in May, and then Bishop Belleau School in Moosonee. The Board’s contracted psychologist, Dr. Boniferro is considering retirement and has trained Catherine to assess the students. At the present time, he continues to work with her to review her assessment results, consult in the writing of the assessment reports and is the signing authority on each report. In using this process, we have reduced the cost of an assessment from \$1200 per assessment, plus travel expenses to \$300 per assessment plus Catherine’s local travel costs.

8. Early Years Update

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB), in partnership with Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB), recently received exciting news from the Ministry of Education that their 2017-2018 Early Years Capital Projects joint submission for a new Child Care Facility at St. Joseph School in South Porcupine was approved. The allotted funding, valued at \$2,268,787, will see the construction of a state of the art child care facility at St. Joseph School. This new child care center will offer infant, toddler and preschool programming for up to 49 children along with Before and After School services for school-aged children. The NCDSB is excited to expand their partnership with the Timmins and Family YMCA who will operate the childcare center at St. Joseph School in September 2019.

Junior Kindergarten registration also took place on January 30th at all of our Catholic elementary schools. As part of the Early Years Experiences Collection at Kindergarten Registration program, parents were invited to register using a new online registration system. Schools worked closely with our Information Technology department in order to ensure that this process went smoothly. We had about 60% of families use the online tool. We have 96 confirmed registrants as of this morning. Last year we had 100, so we are well in line with our historic numbers.

9. Agency Reports

The number of people walking into The Lord’s Kitchen for a hot meal has increased. Approximately 450 meals are served every Thursday. Bill Russell mentioned that the Board of Directors’ Vice-President, Phil Kelly, resigned and he has been replaced by Ken Ryan. He added that the parking area at the agency is restricted since the opening of the new condos next door.

Genevieve Lemieux reported that the renovations on the Living Space building, located in the old Hobo Motel at 27 Cedar Street North, are progressing. The launch of the drop-in will take place this weekend; the rest will take place in the Spring. Staff has been trained and policies and procedures created. Canadian Mental Health Association is hoping to move its crisis services into this building.

It has been a busy month for North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services. Sharron Pountney stated that there were many crisis situations from schools. An emotion coping parent group has been formed which allows parents to talk openly online with other parents and helps them to recognize children's emotions and validate their emotions. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – is one of the world's most effective parenting programs, developed by a doctor. Triple P is designed to give parents the skills they need to raise confident, healthy children and to handle any parenting situation. Sharron also mentioned that there hasn't been a big response received from the changes of the Child Welfare Act for 16 and 17 year olds who can access services.

Community Living Timmins is changing its focus on children services. Initially, there were one-on-one meetings or one-on-two meetings but the agency is moving away from that to a more consulting role. Two individuals, Kathy Courville and Lisa Lamarche, are working as consultants and are sharing their knowledge and strategies with early childhood educators. They have been in touch with child care centres and before and after school programs. They were well received up North, in Moosonee and in Hearst. Val Toner will provide more information in February or March.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre is advertising for a full-time contract psychometrist position. The agency needs to respond to a growing demand this year. There is also confirmation of a ministry investment in case management services. Joel McCartney reported that there is a backlog on responses and intakes as the list is rising. CTRC is also looking for 2.5 community support workers to provide a comprehensive delivery of Community Support Services throughout the District of Cochrane and Temiskaming.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

11. Other Business - Nil

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: V. Toner
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
CARRIED.