



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

11:45 a.m.

MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee

1. Welcome and Prayer

Joel McCartney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Resignation of Member

Kay Gaffney informed the members that she is resigning from the committee and her replacement is Sharron Pountney, Supervisor of Children's Mental Health at North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services. Kay was honoured and recognized for her many years as a member and Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee. Joel McCartney welcomed Sharron to the committee.



3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: E. King
SECONDED BY: C. Landers

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: C. Landers
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the minutes of October 25, 2017 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

5. Historical Review of Special Education Data

Daphne Brumwell provided an historical review of the Special Education data compiled over the past 5 years. She mentioned that we have seen the greatest increase in the “learning disabilities” category. The 2017-2018 school year has seen the greatest number of staff supporting students with special needs in some time. CYW, EA and RT support has been added in many locations. Even though we have a greater percentage of students with special needs, the special education funding from the Ministry of Education has decreased. Nevertheless, we have managed to budget more for special education than we receive by using other pockets of money.

6. EQAO Presentation

A summary of the 2016-2017 EQAO results was shared with the members. Daphne Brumwell explained how the results impact identified students. Students with learning disabilities continue to be the largest proportion of special education students participating in EQAO assessments, however their achievement continues to be underrepresented at the provincial standard. Students with special education needs continue to struggle with the Ontario Secondary Student Literacy Test (OSSLT); few being successful even on the second attempt. Very few students with special education needs are working at a Level 4; however, this is true of students who are not identified with special education needs as well.

7. Early Years Update

An Early Years Update was provided by NCDSB Early Years Lead, Erica Raymond. She shared that the Ministry of Education selected DSSABs to be early years “Service System Managers” to lead the Early Years transformation planning process, to determine how services will be delivered, and by whom, and later assume system management functions. The DSSAB oversees licensed childcare in their districts. Ministry funds are flowed to the DSSABs to dispense to not-for-profit childcare centers and programs. The Timmins Family YMCA applied to be a provider and if selected, will offer services in 2 of our schools – Pope Francis Elementary School and St. Joseph School. Full implementation of the EarlyON centres and programs will occur in 2019.

8. Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Provincial Demonstration Schools Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Agency Reports

Bill Russell shared that every week, between 210 and 280 children and adults visit The Lord's Kitchen. The Knights of Columbus provided jackets, scarves and mittens to children. The Christmas dinner was moved to December 14th. Last week, 420 meals were served to 280 people.

Genevieve Lemieux mentioned that Mark Lionello is busy organizing the Living Space Warming Centre, a temporary measure for anyone who has nowhere to go.

Changes for 16 and 17 year old youth in child protection may affect schools directly. Sharron Pountney stated that as of January, if children are willing and want services, protection will get involved and assist. The Ministry's agenda is moving on mental health in Timmins and area. Services will be easier to access for youth and their families. Walk-in clinics are in secondary schools and the agency is trying to expand services for youth to access.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

12. Other Business - Nil

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: C. Landers
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:15 p.m.
CARRIED.