Northeastern Catholic District School Board

A place where we all belong.

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes Wednesday, October 21, 2026

PRESENT: Lisa Malette-Lilko, Hands Autism Services
Jeremy Hall, Timmins Learning Centre
Sabrina Belanger, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Shannon Costello, Cochrane District Services Board
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Kristine Arthur, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services
Melissa Landry, Inspire Centre
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Erica Raymond, Superintendent of Education
Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne English Catholic School
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Lisa Lamarche, Autism & Behavior & Worker
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Ken Ryan, The Lord's Kitchen Society
Derek Mundle, School Principal Sacred Heart Catholic School
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor

Summary:
Colleen welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer, followed by Ryley, who led the Land Acknowledgement.

Colleen also welcomed Melissa Landry, the new committee member representing the Inspire Centre. Committee members then introduced themselves to Melissa.

Approval of the agenda: Moved by Lisa Malette-Liko and SECONDED by Sabrina Belanger
That the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED

Approval of the minutes of September 23, 2026, meeting
Moved by Shannon Costello and SECONDED by Stan Skalecki
That the minutes be approved and presented. CARRIED

Agency Reports
Agency reports provided by community agency representatives will now be the first item on the agenda to respect members' time and accommodate those who may have other commitments.

Community agency representatives are invited to share any updates, upcoming events, programs, or information from their respective agencies that may be relevant to the committee before the next monthly meeting.

If you do not have any new updates to share, that is perfectly fine. Reports are only needed when there is something relevant to share.

Timmins Learning Centre

The Timmins Learning Centre is seeking to hire a communications intern through Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation funding to help promote its programs and increase community awareness. Upcoming initiatives include Winter Fun Day on December 5, in collaboration with the library, and a Games Night on December 17 with the library and potentially the Youth Hub. These events aim to engage local youth, encourage community participation, and increase awareness of the centre's services.

Inspire Centre

A resource package on the Occupational Therapy School-Based Rehabilitation Program was developed and shared with Principals, teachers, and CERTs to address questions raised in an end-of-year survey and provide guidance on program pathways. This year, the team will also pilot having therapy assistants provide additional Tier 1 support directly in classrooms.

Hands Autism Services

A sensory-friendly Halloween event for families will be held at the Timmins office on Wilson Street from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A flyer can be shared by email with interested members.
Lisa emailed the flyer to Jean, who then distributed it to all committee members for their review and consideration for sharing with their respective agencies.

Cochrane District Social Services Board

Child Care Worker and RECE Appreciation Day was acknowledged, recognizing over 400 childcare workers across the district. The EarlyON Program is preparing its annual Christmas Literacy Kits, with 200 kits planned to provide families with December activities focused on literacy and fine motor skills. Plans are also underway to provide turkey dinners to approximately 100 families in need with children under six. Kindergarten Information night preparations have also begun, with Tricia involved in the related communications.

Additionally, parent workshops and workshops for children and youth are being developed on social media safety and the potential dangers of online algorithms. The initiative, titled Love Over Algorithms is intended to be offered across the district, with support from the school boards. The workshops will also include a focus on children with additional needs and help parents understand how digital devices and algorithms can influence children's online experiences.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

Most parenting courses are currently underway and will resume in January. Families can contact the program to register. A new initiative, DBT Skills, is also being reintroduced for youth at higher risk of self-harming behaviours. The program was previously offered before COVID-19 but was paused when in-person group sessions were no longer possible. Preparations are underway to relaunch the initiative in connection with Children's Mental Health Week.

Youth engagement groups are also active. One group focuses on mental health awareness through fun activities that promote positive mental health within the community and is open to youth regardless of whether they receive agency services. The second is a paid Youth Committee for current or former agency clients, providing opportunities to develop leadership and meeting facilitation skills and present recommendations directly to the agency's Board.

The Lords' Kitchen Society

The Lord's Kitchen is collecting winter clothing donations, including coats, hats, mittens, and warm boots in both children's and adult sizes. These donations help support individuals and families in need during the winter months. The organization typically distributes over $5,000 worth of clothing each winter, and last year had to spend an additional $5,000 of its own funds to purchase clothing due to a shortage of donations.
Donations can be dropped off at the Lord's Kitchen on Thursdays between 12:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., with someone available downstairs to receive them.

EQAO Data

The EQAO presentation reviewed the NCDSB's 2025–2026 results for students in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10, with a focus on special education.

Grade 3: Board results were below provincial results in reading, writing and mathematics. Reading was the strongest area at 60.1%, while writing was the lowest at 46.9%. The presentation identified 48 students with an IEP.
Grade 6: Results were also below provincial levels in all three areas. Mathematics was the biggest area of concern, with 26.5% at the board level compared with 51.9% provincially. Reading was the strongest area at 70.6%. The presentation identified 60 students with an IEP.

Grade 9 Mathematics and Grade 10 OSSLT: The presentation reported 25 students and a result of 27.2% for Grade 9 Mathematics, and 18 students and a result of 30.5% for the Grade 10 OSSLT. The slides do not clarify exactly what these percentages represent.

Overall: The results show that there is room for improvement across the assessed areas, particularly in mathematics. The information provides an opportunity to look at where students may need additional support and how the Board can continue working to improve student achievement.

Special Education Priorities

The focus is on providing support earlier by shifting the Resource Teacher model to work more closely with younger students and provide targeted interventions for those with complex needs. It was emphasized that all students, regardless of their needs, deserve the opportunity to learn to read and develop important skills. Other priorities include improving transition planning, ensuring staff have the proper training to support students with different exceptionalities, and continuing to strengthen partnerships with community agencies.

Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday November 18, 2026, at 11:45 a.m.

Other Business – N/A

Adjournment - Moved By: Stan Skalecki, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:38 p.m. CARRIED