



## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

**11:45 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair  
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Joel McCartney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.



### **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the minutes of September 27, 2017 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

### **4. Summary of Parent Survey Results**

Catherine Hoven reported that 730 postcards were sent home to parents whose children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are receiving special education services. 92 parents completed the survey created in survey monkey. Catherine provided a brief overview of the results. Most parents are satisfied with the type of educational support that their children receive at school.

### **5. Special Equipment Amount Update**

The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) allocation is made up of two components: SEA per-pupil amount and a SEA claims-based amount. The allocation received for the per-pupil amount (Technology) was \$85,370. The claims-based amount is accessed through a claims-based process and supports the purchase of non-computer based equipment to be utilized by students with special education needs, including sensory, hearing, vision, personal care and physical assist equipment. 12 individual claims were made last year through the non-technology process and 87 students received a piece of technology or materials related to the technology they already have. 11 Students had technology provided to them through a reassignment.

### **6. Special Incidence Portion Update**

Each year, school boards have the opportunity to apply for Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding to ensure the health and safety needs of students who have extraordinarily high needs related to their disabilities and/or exceptionalities and who have the staff needed to support them. Based on last year's application process, the NCDSB received \$8,655 to support these students. There are very few students who qualify for this sort of funding. We are only anticipating one student will meet the criteria for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications for this year are due December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **7. Technology Plan**

Given that our entire board has adopted the Google Suite applications, we decided in the Spring to see which students might prefer to work with a Chromebook over their iPad or the Dell Laptop that they had received. We felt that there was some concern that our Spec Ed students were being seen as different as their device was different. In the end, we had 148 students trade in their iPad for a Chromebook. We are now in the process of deciding how best to use the iPads that we have at our disposal. We want to ensure they continue to support the work in Special Education, but also make sure that they are being used. In addition to providing a new Chromebook to these students, we have also decided to ensure that the app Explain Everything is available on all Chromebooks – whether the student is identified or not. We believe that this

application is an excellent tool to help students make their thinking more visible. This continues to be an area of focus for our board.

#### **8. Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot**

In the Spring we were asked if we would be interested in an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Pilot that the Ministry of Education was going to be undertaking in the 2017-2018 school year. In the beginning, this pilot involved training Educational Assistants in a 40 hour Geneva Center course on ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis). We are still waiting to see the Transfer Payment Agreement so that we can confirm the number of spaces we have for this training. We are anticipating at least 15 spots. Funds will be provided to the board to release the EAs to engage in this training, as well as to provide 3 days of additional learning directed by the group and led by the ASD Coordinator. In addition to the training component, we are also being provided with funds to hire an ASD Coordinator to oversee this pilot. Finally, we have recently been notified that we have been given an additional \$90,000 to hire a Behaviour Analyst, or the equivalent. Though we are excited about this opportunity and can see a need, we are not convinced we will be able to find someone qualified to do this job. Further conversation needs to be had before we post this position.

#### **9. New Students**

Catherine Hoven shared that we have 38 newly identified students this school year. Their identifications range from learning disabilities, speech and language impairment, behaviour, physical, blind low vision, and multiple complex needs. We are in the process of gathering data around significant behaviours of a large number of Full-Day Kindergarten students (Year 1 and 2). Special Education staff are looking into different ways to address the issues and find ways to help these students. A chart indicating the total number of identified students in comparison with the previous 5 years will be shared with the members at the next meeting.

#### **10. Engagement on Governance Supports**

The Ministry of Education is engaging with education partners on several governance topics. Some topics include the trustee honoraria formula and electronic meeting participation rules. A copy of a discussion guide was provided and members were asked to provide feedback on effective practices to the Ministry of Education by November 13, 2017.

#### **11. Agency Reports**

Bill Russell reported that the number of meals served at The Lord's Kitchen is increasing. 568 servings were given to over 200 people last week. The Food Bank is also serving meals every week to new families. He added that 7 people participated in a course to help deal with the drug problem in Timmins and they are now trained to use a kit that would potentially save lives. The government will supply a kit to friends and relatives of drug users.

A free seminar, facilitated by Dr. Jean Clinton of McMaster University, a renowned expert to advise the Ontario government on bold reforms to the province's publicly funded education system, will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup> at the O'Gorman High School auditorium from 7:00 to

8:30 p.m. Her expertise is in the development of young minds and she is recognized internationally as an advocate for children's issues. Val Toner encouraged the members to contact Cathy Courville to register for the seminar. It was later confirmed that the presentation is being postponed to after Christmas due to low enrolment and Halloween. The rescheduled date will be shared once determined.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired will hold a conference in Toronto on May 4-5, 2018. Billie Richer mentioned that expenses could be covered by parent engagement funds.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

**13. Other Business - Nil**

**14. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.  
CARRIED.