



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
William (Bill) Russell, the Lord's Kitchen
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
Tammy Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
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: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer. Amanda Wessman introduced Tammy Molenaar who will be replacing Amanda during her maternity leave.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney
SECONDED BY: N. Cole

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on January 18, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Overview of the FAST ForWord Pilot Program**

Dan Loreto highlighted some parts of the FAST ForWord Pilot Program, as described at the January meeting. A handout was also provided. He explained how this program will help students become better readers. The program, recommended by a psychologist, is sophisticated, time-sensitive and trains the mind to be more attentive. The cost of the license is \$280 per student. Eleven students from JK to Grade 12 across the district were chosen to participate in the program. Training will begin for coaches in February then students will be engaged in March. Parents have the opportunity to purchase the program in order to have access to it at home.

5. **Overview of the Web-Based Teaching Tool (WBTT)**

The Web-Based Teaching Tool is designed to assess students and provide intervention to students from JK to Grade 2. All school boards will be on board within the next 3 to 5 years. Assessments come with a bank of interventions. Training for teachers and principals will begin on February 21st.

6. **Student Support Leadership (SSL)**

A presentation of the Student Support Leadership – Northern Cluster, under the mandate of Colin Vickers, was given to agency personnel and to district school board staff. The main message was mental health and how it can be traced directly to the deficit of adults, based on studies of mental health agencies across the board.

7. **Exceptionalities Across the District**

A handout indicating the number of students with exceptionalities in our communities was provided. These numbers are used for staffing purposes for next school year.

8. **Enrolment Projections for Next School Year**

Enrolment projections will determine the human resources required for next school year. The numbers are pretty much the same as last year. Specialized programs may need to be offered in some of our communities. We are hopeful to resume some sort of partnership with Sick Kids.

9. **Special Education Policy**

The draft Special Education Policy was shared. Members will be invited to offer feedback online after the Board of Trustees approves its first reading.

10. **Learning for All**

School boards across the province have been given additional funds to support Learning for All for students from JK to Grade 12. Funds in the amount of \$10,000 must be spent by August 2013. A plan will be submitted to determine the professional learning with principals. Dan will be working with resource teachers in the Spring, and a Professional Activity Day next school year will be scheduled to continue the work with the greater teaching population.

11. **Public Participation in Budget Estimates**

SEAC members have the opportunity to provide input into the development of the board's budget priorities. Members were asked to send feedback which will be collated and submitted to the board's director.

12. **Agency Reports**

The Lord's Kitchen served 1,025 meals the first two weeks in February. Bill Russell also shared that parents will have the opportunity to take their kids fishing at Gillies Lakeon Family Day, an event sponsored by the Timmins Fur Council.

Kim Bordignon stated that the government sent a proposal to agencies across the province regarding the applied behavior analysis (ABA) for children with autism. Timmins Children's Treatment Centre teamed up with North Bay, the lead agency, and will offer parent services for children with autism.

Kay Gaffney announced that the merger of Child and Family Services of Timmins and District, Jeanne Sauvé Family Services and Timiskaming Child and Family Services will take over in April of May. The new Board of Directors will consist of members of the three agencies.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

14. **Other Business** - Nil

15. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:08 p.m.
CARRIED.