



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

5:30 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre (Face-to-Face)

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins, Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Steve Malciw, Trustee, Kirkland Lake
Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
Alana Loreto, Parent Representative
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
Paul Toffanello, Director of Education
Claire Lamarre-Goyer, Program Principal, Special Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant/Recorder
- EXCUSED:** Kevin Duke, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Brenda Hevenor, Trustee, Kirkland Lake
- GUEST:** Dan Loreto, Special Education Resource Teacher, O’Gorman High School

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer. She also welcomed Judy Piché as Committee Recorder.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: A. Loreto
SECONDED BY: D. Butterworth

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held September 21, 2005 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Guest Speaker - Dan Loreto, Special Education Resource Teacher, O’Gorman High School**

Dan Loreto, Special Education Resource Teacher at O’Gorman High School, mentioned that at the high school, it is important to meet the specific needs of their exceptional students and those who have learning disabilities. Teachers have developed a template for student profiles where they determine the students’ strengths, interests, and needs. Mr. Loreto stated that students who have difficulties are closely monitored and are assessed regularly to be able to see the progression. These students now have lower truancy rates and greater achievement. The school has been working with community agencies to help the students find work commensurate with their strengths and needs. The eager teachers at O’Gorman High School who apply sound teaching strategies are to be commended for the success of this initiative.

5. **SERT In-Servicing - September 29, 2005**
P.D. Day - September 30, 2005

Claire Lamarre-Goyer provided feedback of the SERT In-Servicing session held on September 29th and the September 30th P.D. Day. She mentioned that teachers received relevant information from the three experienced presenters and left with concrete tools to help them.

6. **Code Proposal**

Claire Lamarre-Goyer informed the members that the CODE proposal was developed and that the Board would receive an additional \$200,000 for the special project, if approved. The funds will cover the cost of hiring additional manpower to help in-service all of our special education staff. It will also focus on technology; new computers will be purchased for every classroom with the Kurzweil text-to-voice software recommended in the expert panels report. The SERTs who all have laptops will receive in-service on differentiate learning and universal design. Claire will advise the members of the proposal’s approval at the next meeting.

7. **EDI (Early Development Instrument) Results**

Results of the Early Development Instrument tested by the Child & Family Services through McMaster University show that JK students in seven of our schools are in average range; only one school had lower results. Claire Lamarre-Goyer stated that this very complex report will be shared with our principals. The same students who are in SK this year will be tested again in March to determine required programming. Paul Toffanello mentioned that the government is focussing on kids and programs such as Best Start and the MISA approach which will help enhance learning at an early stage.

8. Letter from Children's Treatment Home

A letter from the Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre informed the members that the Children's Treatment Home is closing its facility. Joel McCartney stated that the Home is costly and that resources were provided to only a few kids.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 11:45 a.m. via video conference**. Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance. The members agreed to combine the December and January meetings.

10. Other Business

Joel McCartney wondered about the costing and distribution of special education resources and staff in the Special Education Board Plan. Claire Lamarre-Goyer will provide this information to him at the next meeting.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: A. Loreto

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
CARRIED.