



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:**
- Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
 - Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
 - William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
 - Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
 - Elizabeth King, NCDSB Vice-Chair - Cochrane/Iroquois Falls
 - Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee - Kirkland Lake
 - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal - Special Education
 - Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Special Education
 - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:**
- Kevin Duke, Canadian Mental Health Association
 - Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
 - Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
 - Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education
- GUESTS:**
- Mike Buhler, NCDSB Pastoral Care Worker
 - Gina Malciw, NCDSB Manager of Financial Services

1. **Opening Prayer**

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: E. King
SECONDED BY: D. Loreto

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held October 18, 2006 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Guest: Mike Buhler, Pastoral Care Worker - Ambassador Program**

Mike Buhler, Pastoral Care Worker of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board, outlined various faith opportunities for our students, especially those with special needs. He also spoke about the Ambassador Program which he will kick-start this school year. Representatives from each school will get together and come up with plans and ideas to elevate faith and strengthen bonds amongst the triad (school, home, church). Kay Gaffney thanked him for his presentation and wished him luck.

5. **Special Education Budget**

Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Manager of Financial Services, Gina Malciw, provided the members with a comparison of the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Special Education Budget Estimates. Dolores Butterworth questioned the reduction in salaries and benefits and voiced the concern of parents who have contacted her regarding the lack of services. Gina stated that the total high needs population and the students leaving our system was taken into account when determining this year's budget. Kay Gaffney stressed the importance of directing all parent calls to Tricia Stefanic Weltz. Kay thanked Gina for her presentation.

6. **Assistive Technology**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that St. Joseph School is the only remaining school to be trained on assistive technologies.

7. **CODE Proposal**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz was pleased to advise the members of a substantial change to the CODE Proposal. Instead of piloting wireless Internet, SMART Boards will be utilized in the three schools involved in the project. SMART Boards are white interactive computer-based boards that can be touched and written on. These Boards are a cost effective measure, more practical and will benefit children specifically with special needs. Tricia will look into presenting the SMART Boards to the SEAC members at a future date.

8. **Special Education Transformation Initiatives**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz distributed a handout entitled '*Special Education Transformation - The Report of the Co-Chairs with the Recommendations of the Working Table on Special Education*'. She recommended to download the publication on the Ministry's website at <http://www.edu.gov.ca>. She added that she is looking forward to working with the Ministry and bringing this document to life in our schools.

9. Agency Reports

Bill Russell reported that the Poverty Action Coalition has piloted a cooking kitchen offering a cooking course to interested individuals who don't know how to make simple dishes. The meals are cooked and then taken home.

Joel McCartney mentioned that a free presentation of new supports and approaches for a special population to individuals with disabilities who come into contact with the law and addictions will be sponsored by the Human Services and Justice Coordination Committee on November 23rd at the Timmins and District Hospital.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The members agreed to combine the December and January meetings; therefore, the next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

11. Other Business

On behalf of SEAC, Kay Gaffney congratulated the new Board of Trustees and thanked those who ran in the elections.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:47 p.m.
CARRIED.