



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Chair
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee - Timmins
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal - Student Services
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
Denis Lincez, NCDSB Trustee - Kapuskasing
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services

GUEST: Dr. Chris Loreto

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Defer 7. Saganoska Training Initiative Update

MOVED BY: N. Cole

SECONDED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: F. Salvador
SECONDED BY: C. Landers

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on February 21, 2007 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Guest: Dr. Chris Loreto

Dr. Chris Loreto, a well respected doctor at Timmins and District Hospital, shared his perspective of children with special needs who visit the Emergency Department at the hospital. Dr. Loreto stated that it is difficult for Emergency Room doctors to diagnose these children because most of them don't have family physicians and unfortunately, they don't have access to their family health history. Another problem encountered is a special needs medication such as Ritalin, "a poor man's heroin". Doctors don't prescribe it to young adults with ADHD because they have no access to medical charts. Dr. Loreto added that a partnership between doctors and school staff is possible, and young physicians would want to be a part of that, as long as the parent or guardian gives permission. Kay Gaffney thanked Dr. Loreto for his presentation.

5. CODE Project Update

An update on the CODE Project was given by Tricia Stefanic Weltz. The project is moving along very well and the process is ongoing. When the assistive technology is up and running, teachers involved in the project will be in-serviced. Tricia is pleased with the progress and with the support of the Curriculum Team.

6. Information from ISNC - Future Direction

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board is the broker board and she and Dan Loreto are actively participating in all ISNC Future Direction meetings. We will see a change in the format delivery and organization. Upcoming meetings are scheduled to deal with financial matters. Kay Gaffney mentioned that she is hearing good things about our Board's participation in ISNC.

7. Saganoska Training Initiative Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Upcoming Events in Student Services Department

There will be Special Education Resource Teachers meetings on March 26th and 27th. Day 1 is dedicated to ministry reporting as the very extensive March Board Report is due on March 31st. IEP training and professional development opportunities for school-based teams will follow through. Tricia is participating in the aboriginal framework, a new document released by the Ministry, with implications for the student services department. IPRCs will begin in April. Tricia, Dan and John D'Alessandri, Principal of O'Gorman High School, will be meeting with other boards across the province on April 4th regarding the IEP Review.

9. IEP Review

A parent session on the IEP Review will be provided by the Ministry on Tuesday, April 3rd at 12:30 p.m. in Sudbury. All costs will be reimbursed by the Ministry. Kay Gaffney stated that she would like Tricia and Dan to choose two parents to attend this session.

10. Agency Reports

Kay Gaffney reported that there is so much on the go with autism and ISNC. She also informed the members that May 7th to 13th will be Ontario Mental Health Week and more information will be provided later.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. in the library of Sacred Heart School.** The change of time and location will accommodate Norma Reid's presentation on the Smart Boards. Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

12. Other Business

The following correspondence was sent to the Chair:

- a memo from the Ministry re: Ministry of Education Response to the Report of the Reference Group on Autism Spectrum Disorders
- a letter from Toronto District School Board addressed to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne re: Changes in the Funding Formula
- a newsletter from Quilt of Honour Campaign - Parents for Children's Mental Health

Tricia informed the members that she received names of two parents interested in sitting on SEAC, one parent from Timmins and the other from the South. They will be contacted and invited to join SEAC.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: N. Cole

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m.
CARRIED.