



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Neil Iserhoff, Aboriginal Community
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Supervisor - Student Services
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Marc Leroux, Easter Seal Society
Denis Lincez, NCDSB Trustee
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: W. Russell
SECONDED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: J. McCartney
SECONDED BY: M. Lionello

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held November 21, 2007 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Orientation Powerpoint

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. NCDSB & DSBONE Presentation - January 26, 2008

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board, in conjunction with District School Board Ontario North East and Community Living of Kirkland Lake, will make a presentation to parents on the development of the Individual Education Plan (IEP), IPRC Process, and elements of effective special education program planning. The session is scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 26, 2008 in Kirkland Lake. Tricia Stefanic Weltz mentioned that this information session will give parents a better understanding of critical elements within special education, and the work in this area is aligned with the goals established by SEAC at the last meeting. Tricia will inform the members of the session in January and determine how the same presentation might be replicated in the Timmins area.

7. Provincial Demonstration School Partnership

Representatives of the Provincial Demonstration School were in the southern region in November and in Timmins in December training teachers, educational assistants, and students on Assistive Technology for two days. On Day 3 the PDS members engaged in job-embedded learning with the participants in their respective classrooms. Phase 2 of the partnership will occur in February. The long range plan is to have the programs up and running in all schools. SEAC members will be invited to visit a school in the near future where evidence of this partnership can be found in the participating classrooms. Kay Gaffney thanked Tricia and Dan for their work on this regard.

8. IEP Engine Revisions

The NCDSB IEP engine has been streamlined to reflect the Ministry's expectations. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will present parts of the Special Education Board Plan to SEAC members starting in January and hopes to tackle it monthly with them.

9. Agency Reports

Bill Russell indicated that some people still need help and the Poverty Action Coalition is available to them.

The Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre is currently in the process of hiring a psychometrist.

O’Gorman High School, in conjunction with Canadian Mental Health, will continue to provide support and counseling to secondary students in need. An agency representative will be at the school one day a week to provide these services.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that the Child & Family Services of Timmins’ Board Meeting will take place tonight and no committee meetings were held this month.

Neil Iserhoff, Education Director of Taykwa Tagamou Nation, stated that parents require a better understanding of the programs offered by Student Services. He would like to see an increase of collaboration with community members and teaching staff.

10. Other Business

Bill Russell believes that the strength of SEAC could be made stronger by sharing a report with other SEACs across the province. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will obtain a list of Northeastern Ontario SEAC Chairs and will share our progress and seek out information from them.

An article on Safe Schools was shared with the members. This item will be on the February agenda as revised legislation takes place on February 1, 2008.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
CARRIED.