



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair
Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Supervisor - Student Services/Student Success
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:** Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee
Neil Iserhoff, Aboriginal Community
Marc Leroux, Easter Seal Society
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education
- GUESTS:** Liz Mulholland, NCDSB Supervisor of Student Achievement
Erica Raymond, NCDSB Special Assignment Teacher - Student Achievement

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: N. Cole

SECONDED BY: R. Brassard

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: N. Cole

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held February 20, 2008 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. CODE Update

4.1 Data Presentation

Liz Mulholland and Erica Raymond provided samples of student data obtained from the Binder of Assessment Tools (BAT). They explained that this data helps teachers to understand students' needs, address problems, and determine the next steps for program and intervention delivery. They explained how this using data will help to remediate immediate learning issues with the long term goal of reducing the number of students with learning disabilities in the future. Kay Gaffney thanked them for their presentation and wished them all the best.

4.2 Provincial Audit

This is the final year for CODE funding for special education projects. The Board Team, consisting of Tricia Weltz, Dan Loreto, and Erica Raymond had an exit meeting this week with the Provincial Team at St. Patrick School in Cobalt. This was a great opportunity to share and celebrate the successes we have experienced. The Provincial Team were very complimentary with the work that NCDSB has done with this project. Kay congratulated the Team.

5. Provincial Demonstration Schools Update

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that Dan Loreto had the privilege of presenting to the Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education in Toronto on April 15th. He shared the data and successes of the partnership with the Provincial Demonstration Schools and the pilot project at O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School in Timmins and at English Catholic Central School in New Liskeard. A media release is forthcoming in order to share the plans for the next school year. Kay congratulated Dan on behalf of SEAC.

6. Student Success Transitioning Plans 2008-2009

The transitioning plans for 2008-2009 were made available to all Grade 8 teachers and have been shared with the secondary school principal and guidance counsellors. Teachers will be afforded release time, through the Student Success Action Plan, to complete student profile sheets to enable a seamless transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Tricia Stefanic Weltz advised the members that the province is moving to a common transition plan.

7. **OPA Update**

Dr. Alan Lawrence has significantly reduced the wait list for psychological assessments. He has reviewed student files and given his professional guidance. Resource teachers will act as a Board Team to ensure plans for sustainability are in place.

8. **Special Education Board Plan - Section 3**

The last part of Section 3 of the Special Education Board Plan (pages 36-78) was reviewed by the members. Special Education forms will be revised and presented at the May meeting.

9. **Agency Reports**

Bill Russell informed the members that he is no longer a representative of the Poverty Action Coalition but will represent The Lord's Kitchen on SEAC.

Nancy Cole mentioned that there will be a display of technical aids in Ballroom A & B at the Days Inn on April 23rd and wished that a representative of the Board would go and take a look at what is available for people living with a vision loss.

The Child and Family Services of Timmins and District is launching the Children's Mental Health Week 2008 at the agency office on Monday, May 5th. The theme of this year's campaign is "Healthy Minds - Healthy Kids - Healthy Communities". Guest speaker is Nancy Pereira, Knowledge Transfer and Evaluation Lead for The New Mentality, a joint project of Children's Mental Health Ontario and The Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO. All are welcome to attend.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that the psychological process will developed in April or May with input from other stakeholders. Marie Rouleau of ISNC will present at the next meeting.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 2008 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call Judy Piché at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

11. **Other Business**

Boards have been asked by the Ministry of Education to dedicate a Professional Activity Day to Special Education for the 2008-2009 school year. The NCDSB has selected April 27, 2009 and SEAC members are invited to partake in the activities on that day.

12. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: N. Cole

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