



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair
Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED:

Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee
Neil Iserhoff, Aboriginal Community
Marc Leroux, Easter Seal Society

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: S. Malciw

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held October 14, 2008 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Introduction of Erica Raymond

Special Assignment Teacher, Erica Raymond, has joined SEAC. Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that Erica has been recently assigned to Student Services and brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and fine instructional practices. Kay Gaffney welcomed Erica and an introduction of the members followed.

5. The CODE Summit

The CODE Summit, held in Toronto on November 17th and 18th was attended by Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Erica Raymond, and Dan Loreto from NCDSB and was well represented by all of the 72 school boards and school authorities across the province. At the Summit, reports were presented on the DELTA Project funded through CODE. The Binder of Assessment Tools (BAT), created by the Curriculum Team three years ago, was well received and NCDSB will be highlighted in the CODE Chronicles, an electronic journal put on by CODE. Erica Raymond provided the members with a handout that the Board produced with help from Community Relations Officer, Lynn Fecteau. Kay Gaffney commended the team for an exceptional job and obtaining recognition by bigger boards.

6. Autism Supports and Training

The Board has received funding in the amount of \$5,724 from the Ministry to support Autism Spectrum Disorders work in each of our schools. Funds are to be used to provide professional learning opportunities for principals, teachers, educational assistants, and support staff to work in conjunction with community agencies serving children and youth with ASD through the school work program.

7. Agency Reports

A new website, Blindness 411, was created to give blind and visually impaired high school students a place to meet other teens with vision loss and to give them a chance to learn about resources that can help them in school, at home and in their communities.

The Lord's Kitchen served 419 plates last week. The number of children between the ages of 10 and 16 coming in alone for a meal is increasing and all are welcome.

The Canadian Mental Health Association is working on an early intervention psychosis program where staff reaches out to youth between 16 and 25 years old diagnosed with mental illness. Mark Lionello indicated that the CMHA would like to approach our schools in order to educate the staff about the disorder. A presentation to our board will be scheduled by Tricia.

CTRC sent clinicians to the National Conference for Dual Diagnosis hosted by an organization based out of the United States that provides education, training, and information on mental health issues relating to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Child and Family Services of Timmins has been working for over a year on accreditation from both child protection and children's mental health. The Purple Ribbon Campaign was a success, as usual.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The December and January meetings will be combined and held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 11:45 a.m.

9. Other Business

SEAC would like to congratulate Tricia Stefanic Weltz for her appointment to the position of Superintendent of Education and thank Karen Rowe for her involvement in SEAC and wish her well.

A list of physical renovations and accommodations will be revised in the Special Education Board Plan and will be shared with the members over the school year.

Tricia Stefanic Weltz will provide the members with the actual enrolment of students in our schools and a document that compares the enrolment of the past three years.

The storage of specialized equipment process has begun. Board policy must be followed and the storage issues will be resolved.

Rick Brassard informed the members that trustees appointed to SEAC will be announced in January. Kay Gaffney thanked Rick and Steve Malciw for being a part of the group this school year.

10. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 p.m.
CARRIED.