



**SEAC MEETING**  
**(Special Education Advisory Committee)**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**  
**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**
  - Kim Bordignon, Children’s Treatment Centre**
  - Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association**
  - William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen**
  - Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins**
  - Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee**
  - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education**
  - Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher**
  - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder**
- EXCUSED:**
- Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind**
  - Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee**

**1. Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED BY:** B. Russell  
**SECONDED BY:** J. McCartney

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: A. Wessman  
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held January 19, 2011 be approved as amended.  
CARRIED.

4. **Learning for All**

The draft *Learning for All K-12 (L4A)* document builds on the guiding principles in *Education for All: The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students with Special Education Needs, Kindergarten to Grade 6*. NCDSB has received funds to work with other northern boards to gather information that will inform the finalization of the document, and lead the sharing of effective practices that promote approaches and planning tools in elementary and secondary panels presented in the resource guide. The L4A document will help to create student profiles based on the data of assessment tools. The Binder of Assessment Tools (BAT) kit is an excellent tool created for early struggling learners. The learning profiles will follow the students as they are referred to the Tier 2 intervention.

5. **Tier 2 Intervention**

A professional development opportunity on the tiered approach will be offered to SEAC members at the next meeting.

6. **Assessment Strategy**

The progress NCDSB has had with the assessment strategy was shared with the members. Different students were assessed throughout the year by our current contracted psychologist, Dr. Thomas Boniferno. There is a better tracking system in place; more students are going through identification and exceptionality. Students are screened more effectively with the tiered intervention. There is a checklist for each exceptionality. Resource teachers identify students, and then present profiles to Tricia and Dan. The psychological reports are very helpful; they are sent centrally and then shared with principals and teachers. A child who doesn't meet criteria will be turned down. NCDSB has allocated funds for these services with the support of the ISNC divestment money. NCDSB received \$25,000 from ISNC to pay for psychological assessments. Half of the funds has been spent to date. Assessments cost \$1,200 each not including the costs of the psychologist's travel expenses. It was suggested look into videoconferencing to cut costs.

7. **Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) Divestment Dollars**

NCDSB continues to be the banker board for English schools. The total allocation is \$203,323; a portion goes to office and administration costs of banker board. NCDSB's allocation for services is \$51,732 and DSBONE gets the rest. The Ministry flowed \$25,000 to NCDSB to help offset the costs for Bishop Belleau School where 50 out of 78 students are considered multiple complex.

**8. Review of Special Education Course Guidelines**

The Ontario College of Teachers is commencing a review of Special Education Part I, II and Specialist Additional Qualification (AQ) course guidelines, courses taught by Dan Loreto at NCDSB. SEAC was invited to share insights and recommendations regarding the review of these courses. Members were asked to go through the documents distributed at the meeting and provide feedback at the next meeting.

**9. Student Support Leadership**

Teachers, educational assistants, and child and youth workers attended the Student Support Leadership workshops in February, a joint initiative developed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Participants were made aware of students dealing with issues of mental health and participated in round table discussions about best practices. We need to understand what these students are going through and take the lead on promoting and supporting the positive behaviour, well-being and mental health of all children and youth in our communities in order to maximize their full potential. Classroom teachers should take the course Special Education Part I in order to help them to deal with students with mental health issues. Tricia received resources that will help teachers understand health issues and will share them with the members at a future meeting.

**10. Agency Reports**

Construction at the Lord's Kitchen is almost completed. A new stove has been installed which meets new specs to keep food at a certain temperature.

Community Living Timmins is grieving the loss of one of their residents, Marjolaine Blanchette. Ms. Blanchette passed away on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 54 years old. Amanda Wessman mentioned that the agency is currently working with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, interviewing all transitional youth on children and adult services.

Canadian Mental Health Association had the opportunity to present to high school students on the effects of drugs for people who have mental illness or mental health issues. The agency is seeing a rise in mental issues across the board; younger people with depression and doctors prescribing medications have risen. It was recommended to send a letter to the Ministry, copied to OCSTA, to draw attention to the increasing number of mental health issues.

Kay Gaffney announced that Timmins & District Child and Family Services now has a transitional board with members from Jeanne Sauvé Family Services in Cochrane and Timiskaming Child and Family Services. The official new board has a new director, Richard Lambert-Bélanger. The new board will take over by April or May 2012.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via videoconference.

**12. Other Business - Nil**

13. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: C. Landers

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.  
CARRIED.

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