



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, March 24, 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
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: C. Landers
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held February 16, 2011 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Tier 2 Intervention**

The “tiered” approach is a systematic, sequential approach to providing high quality, evidence-based instruction and appropriate interventions that respond to students’ individual needs. It is based on frequent monitoring of student progress and the use of assessment data, focusing on learning rate and level, to identify students who are having difficulty and to plan specific instructional interventions of increasing intensity to address their needs effectively. It can be used to address both academic and behavioural needs. The Binder of Assessment Tools (BAT) is used to monitor student progress, plan differentiated instructional strategies, and identify at-risk learners. Students in Tier 1 will get support within the classroom from resource teachers, educational assistants, literacy support teachers, tutors, and volunteers. The children may then be referred to Tier 2 which involves more intensive instruction and support outside of language and mathematics. The Tier 3 is for students who do not respond to instructional efforts in Tiers 1 and 2. These students may need to be referred for more extensive psycho-educational assessment. Dan Loreto and Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided a handout detailing the tiered intervention.

5. **Parent Engagement Strategy**

The NCDSB has partnered with Dr. Joyce Epstein from Johns Hopkins University, the Director of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships and the National Network of Partnership Schools. SEAC members are invited to attend a workshop facilitated by Dr. Epstein who will share her expertise in the area of building effective family and community involvement in schools. The workshop will be held on April 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Timmins Inn and Suites. Please advise Judy Piché of your intention to participate.

6. **Damian Cooper Professional Activity Day**

The NCDSB welcomed Damian Cooper at its February 28th Professional Activity Day. Mr. Cooper is a very dynamic independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assessment skills. He facilitated an outstanding session with our educators on assessment and evaluation which was hosted from the O’Gorman High School theater and fed through video conference to outlying schools. He also spoke about how special education programs need to be reflective to the needs of our students. He is entertaining the idea of a partnership with NCDSB.

7. April 11th Professional Activity Day

The morning of the April 11th Professional Activity Day will be based on teachers' annual learning plans. An annual learning plan (ALP) is designed to provide experienced teachers the opportunity to design, implement, and monitor their own professional growth. Teachers are required to review and update their ALP on an annual basis. Teacher-directed activities will take place for the remaining of the day.

8. Review of Special Education Course Guidelines

At the February SEAC meeting, members were invited to review the Special Education Course Guidelines and provide feedback. Members agreed that the Special Education Part 1 should be a requirement for new teachers in order to prepare them for their role in the IPRC and IEP process. Also, a component on children's mental health and behavioural issues should be added to the guidelines. The information collected will be submitted to the Ontario College of Teachers on behalf of SEAC.

9. Parent Guide

A copy of the Parent's Guide to Special Education was distributed. It has been shared with principals and with parents undergoing the initial IPRC for the first time. The guide will also be posted on our website.

10. Agency Reports

In partnership, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, March of Dimes of Canada and The Canadian Hearing Society are offering an Accessible Customer Service E-Learning course that provides businesses and organizations in Ontario the information they need to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Customer Service Standard. It provides specific advice on interacting with persons with disabilities, including physical, hearing, speech, vision, intellectual, mental health and learning disabilities. The course also offers full learning management services, including downloadable reports in Excel.

The renovations at The Lord's Kitchen are finally finished. With the installation of a new stove and a new warming oven, the kitchen has been extended by 25% and can accommodate up to 16 people to put out meals. The contractor who bought the elevator will use it in his own building.

Committee members of Child and Family Services are working on the transition board. Kay Gaffney shared that there will be no money for Section 14.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

12. Other Business

12.1 Letter to the Minister

A letter to the Minister of Education stating our concerns regarding the rise of mental health issues and the lack of resources supporting these issues was drafted by Tricia Stefanic Weltz and shared with the members. The letter will also be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

12.2 Donation from Bill Russel

Dan Loreto thanked Bill Russell for his donation of mining rock samples which will be shared with the students of our Board.

12.3 MACSE Update

The MACSE Update of February 2011 will be sent electronically to SEAC members.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: N. Cole

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:42 p.m.
CARRIED.
