



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 20, 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
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
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:** William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
- GUEST:** Jennifer Dunkley, NCDSB Special Assignment Teacher

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held March 24, 2011 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Mental Health**

The members viewed a video created by educators, for educators, on the topic of school mental health and substance abuse provided by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA). The video entitled '*Open Up*' was produced by members of the School Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse (SBMHSA) Consortium, the Mental Health Commission of Canada Youth Council, and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. It will be shared with all schools and used as part of awareness building and professional development workshops related to student mental health during the 2011-2012 school year. It is intended that this area will be explored in greater detail next year, with a focus on helping school personnel acquire the skills and understanding to recognize the symptoms, information on how to intervene and address concerns with students, parents, and first responders. Trustee Colleen Landers extended the opportunity to all SEAC members to consider becoming a northern representative on the above noted consortium to ensure that our region is represented at the table. Interested members are asked to contact Judy Piché.

Mark Lionello mentioned that staff members at CMHA are trained to assist and are looking to provide support to the public as well. Dan Loreto also shared that the Student Support Leadership (SSL) program, overseen by Colin Vickers, provides teachers with the opportunity to engage in a "101 training module" designed to help participants understand the elements of mental health: so that they have an idea of what to look for and how to respond accordingly. The SSL program offers bursaries, through school boards, to employees who are interested in taking a course on how to recognize and deal with mental health issues. Two NCDSB employees have an opportunity to participate in a training module at Northern College. Furthermore, as a continuation of *Understanding and Managing Aggressive Behaviour* (UMAB), school staff who work directly with students will receive training related to mental health issues through the *Understanding and Managing Mental Health Issues* (UMMHI).

5. **Connections Transition Team Protocol**

A communication protocol for children who are finished with the Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) program and have to transition back to school is now up and running. As part of her system responsibilities, Genevieve Lemieux is expected to work with students and their families in this regard. A handout describing the process and timelines was distributed.

6. **Web-Based Teaching Tool Conference**

Special Assignment Teachers, Jennifer Dunkley and Dan Loreto, attended a Web-Based Teaching Tool (WBTT) Conference in Toronto. The WBTT program is used by primary teachers for early screening and intervention. The program helps identify children who may be at-risk for future school failure. It is used

to determine which students are struggling, what areas they are struggling with, and how these areas of need can be addressed in the classroom using effective intervention strategies. As well, this program allows for effective tracking of student achievements from year to year, and further allows principals and system leaders the opportunity to have immediate access to data collection and tracking. The Ministry is supportive of this tool and will provide funding for the next three years. More information will be provided in the future.

7. Speech and Language Pathology Services

The speech and language pathology services have increased and are being covered by the ISNC Education Divestment money. John Stark and/or his associate have spent more time in Kapuskasing and in the New Liskeard region attending to new referrals. This strategy is helping to address the many deficits observed in oral communication. As follow up to his services, site-based support is being offered in many instances by the Resource Teacher and/or Educational Assistant.

8. Agency Reports

Mark Lionello reported that the staff responsible for youth justice at CMHA has resigned.

CNIB is moving to 60 Wilson Avenue in Timmins at the end of May. The telephone number remains the same.

The new act, *Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 (Bill 77)*, includes a centralized referral system for youth 17 years of age and older looking for developmental services and supports. Parents must now contact the new regional contact point, HANDS in North Bay, then they are referred to CTRC. HANDS are interviewing for two positions to perform assessments. Dan Loreto was asked to look into correspondence sent to secondary partners.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

10. Other Business

10.1 Budget Announcement for 2011-2012

Through the 2011-12 Grants for Student Needs (GSN), the province will provide school boards with special education funding. NCDSB is working on a staffing model and will try to maintain the services and supports within the allocation received.

10.2 OICS PHAST Paces Classroom

Dan Loreto was pleased to report that parents of students who have attended the O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School classroom for children with disabilities and have transferred to the program at DSBONE are happy with the supports they received from NCDSB. Congratulations for a fantastic job provided by the staff at OICS and at O’Gorman High School.

11. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m.
CARRIED.