



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, May 18, 2011
11:45 a.m.
Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
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:** Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
- GUEST:** Sylvie Guevremont, NCDSB Special Assignment Teacher

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 presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held April 20, 2011 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Literacy Project at St. Paul School

Special Assignment Teacher, Sylvie Guevremont, gave a presentation on the outcomes observed in a specialized Literacy Project for Grades 1 and 2 at St. Paul School. This project is aligned with the Board Improvement Plan and the St. Paul School Improvement Plan with a focus on oral language communication skills and development. Working in collaboration with Special Assignment Teacher, Cristina Corbett, Sylvie explained how the teachers worked collaboratively to examine instructional practices and ways to integrate this learning into the classroom environment. With regular networking and learning opportunities, the SATs supported the participating teachers in helping to build their capacity with high-yield communication strategies and maximizing every opportunity for students to engage in accountable talk activities as part of the learning process. As well, Sylvie shared the results of the pre and post assessments (using the Mondo Oral Language Tool). Initial test results showed an 11% increase in scores out of 15. Students who have been receiving assistance in Leveled Literacy Intervention or deemed possibly at risk showed an increase of 8.5%. Grade 1 students are showing more gains in achievement through their participation in the project. As this project has seen wonderful results, it is hoped that it permeates throughout the school and into other schools across the district. A handout was distributed. Kay Gaffney thanked Sylvie for her presentation.

5. SCAT Referrals

Dan Loreto mentioned that NCDSB currently has one student at Sacred Heart School involved in the SCAT Referral process. As part of this Timmins-based process, various agencies work together and each provide a snapshot of the child through their assessment findings in order to best serve the needs of the child (and family) in the school setting.

6. Oticon Personal FM Systems

Oticon is a company that makes FM systems, a sound field system device that amplifies a person's voice. Many children with hearing loss currently have a personal FM system interfaced directly to their ears. Dan Loreto met with an Oticon representative, an audiologist from Toronto, who recommended the Amigo Arc, a universal neckloop receiver that acts as a bridge between an FM transmitter and a child's hearing aid. Worn around the neck or inserted in a pocket, it comes in different colours, looks like a MP3 player and makes the sound quality much clearer. The cost is \$650 and resource teachers will distribute brochures at school.

7. Learning for All

The draft *Learning for All K-12* document was a focus of discussion at the April Resource Teachers' Meeting. Student portfolios will be created for students who are going through the tiered intervention system. Tri-fold folders will be purchased and will hold data, educational assessments, and artifacts which will make it easier for teachers and psychologists to use as part of the intervention cycle.

8. Special Education Board Plan

It is the Board's responsibility to submit to the Ministry of Education, by September 1, 2011, a checklist that identifies components of its Special Education Board Plan that include amended information in regards to the special education programs and services. Changes to the plan include special education staff, specialized equipment, early identification procedures and intervention strategies, parent guide, SEAC membership, and new information on PPM 149. The amendments to the plan were accepted by way of motion.

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the Northeastern Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee accept the amendments to the Special Education Board Plan 2005-2011, as revised throughout the 2010-2011 school year.
CARRIED.

9. Staffing 2011-2012

The staffing process for the 2011-2012 school year is ongoing. Students' needs are being identified and programs and services are put in place accordingly. We are reviewing the two special needs classrooms currently at St. Jerome School and St. Paul School where programs were implemented to meet the needs of the students.

10. Agency Reports

Kim Bordignon reported that Marie Rouleau will be the new Executive Director of the Children's Treatment Centre, effective June 21, 2011.

The Lord' Kitchen will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on September 23, 2011, with guest speaker, former priest Dan Bagley, who started the community strategy at Nativity Church. Bill Russell mentioned that 407 meals were served last week and close to 3/4 million meals were served since its inception 25 years ago, with only 13 people served at the beginning. The Knights of Columbus will be in charge of the dinner at a cost of \$25 per ticket and volunteers are needed. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will ensure that students at the high school be approached as the volunteer work can be counted towards the hours of community involvement required to earn their diploma. Bill added that the Lord's Kitchen will benefit from the proceeds of the Rib Fest, hosted by the Rotary Club on June 30th and July 1st. Please see Bill if you would like to volunteer.

A centralized referral system will be in place for Community Living Timmins, effective July 1, 2011. HANDS will coordinate the application process, provide information, and identify service and support needs. There are two assessors at the Timmins office.

Kay Gaffney reported that there was an excellent speaker during Mental Health Week, May 1-7, 2011, a psychologist from Laurentian University. The new board will take over in the Spring of 2012.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, scheduled on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, will be cancelled. The members will be meet at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

12. Other Business

10.1 Correspondence

A letter addressed to the Minister of Education, written by the SEAC Chair of District School Board Ontario North East, in regards to a special education survey for parents, caregivers and stakeholders was shared with the members.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

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