



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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
 - Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
 - Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
 - William (Bill) Russell, the Lord's Kitchen
 - Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
 - Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
 - Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
 - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
 - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:**
- Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
 - 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: B. Russell

SECONDED BY: N. Cole

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on November 25, 2011 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

4. **Mental Health and Addictions**

Mark Lionello provided the members with statistics dealing with mental health and addictions. He explained that the number of people who are experiencing mental illness, addiction to alcohol and drug dependence is increasing. Canadian Mental Health Association offers an early intervention program for people showing the early signs and symptoms of a mental health problem. The agency is looking at ways to allocate resources to help individuals get better more quickly.

Mark will be presenting to the principals in February to better educate them on these issues with plans to engage our teachers in this learning as well. Tricia Stefanic Weltz stated that the Ministry of Education is very aware of mental health issues and is flowing money to school boards through child and family agencies. Kay Gaffney explained that registered nurses are now also being hired to assist school boards.

5. **FAST ForWord Pilot Program**

The FAST ForWord Program is a reading intervention program designed for at-risk literacy students, usually identified with a learning disability. The program is being implemented with select Grade 3 to 8 students across the Board in a pilot project format. Led by Dan Loreto, teachers (the coaches) will be trained to use this computer-based tool to support students with exceptionalities. The outcome of this program will be shared with the members by the end of this school year.

6. **Web Based Teaching Tool (WBTT)**

The Web Based Teaching Tool (WBTT) is an online program which primary teachers (JK to Grade 2) use for early screening and intervention. WBTT is supported by the Ministry of Education and is available free of charge to all school boards across Ontario. WBTT offers educators a system to differentiate between those students with long-term learning difficulties and those who require extra support in order to achieve at grade level. This valuable assessment tool is being piloted in three schools and may eventually replace the Binder of Assessment Tools (BAT) depending on pilot outcomes and feedback received by the participating staff. The expectation is to have the piloting teachers trained by February, deliver WBTT in classrooms immediately afterwards and access interventions accordingly. The next assessment period would be in May/June of this school year.

7. **Update on Special Incidence Portion (SIP)**

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) application is complete and NCDSB has applied for \$73,600 to cover additional support to students with safety and/or health related needs in accordance with the application requirements.

8. Categories of Exceptionalities

A Ministry memo explaining the broad categories of exceptionalities was distributed to the members.

9. Agency Reports

The Lord's Kitchen serve between 500 and 600 meals every Thursday. Bill Russell mentioned that he also works with the Food Bank where 90 families used the Food Bank that Wednesday.

Canadian Mental Health Association provides programs to support people with criminal offense and people with mental health issues. The agency is now providing support to youth 12 years old and up.

At their December meeting, Child and Family Services of Timmins and District invited children in care to a delightful concert. Some children helped with the organization and the dinner. Kay Gaffney reported that it was good to see the children happy and well fed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

11. Other Business

Special Education Additional Qualification: The Ontario College of Teachers is revising the Special Education Additional Qualification course guidelines and has asked for input from teachers, parents and the public. The draft Special Education course guidelines will be available for review and feedback at www.oct.ca. An article on this topic will be sent to the members by email.

Inclusive Education: An article on Inclusive Education, shared by Joel McCartney, will also be emailed to all members.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: B. Russell

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