



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

"Living our Catholic Faith to shape success for all of our learners"

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

Thursday, April 16, 2015
11:45 a.m.
Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair

GUESTS: Bradley-Jack Marsh, Student – O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School
Tracy Lalande, Resource Teacher – St. Jerome School

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: N. Parnell

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: B. Richer
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the minutes of March 25, 2015 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Touch Technology Project

Bradley-Jack Marsh, a Grade 8 student at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School, is one of the students who are participating in the board’s Touch Technology Project. He demonstrated the different applications he works with on his iPad at school. Bradley-Jack mentioned that his iPad helps him to express himself. He needs little support and it has given him a lot of independence and confidence. Daphne Brumwell stated that the board is in the process of migrating to a Google environment. As of September 2015, all teachers, support staff and students will be on a new academic community domain allowing all to have access to what they’ve created at school anytime there is an internet connection. Bradley-Jack was asked to return to SEAC near the end of Grade 9 to talk to the members about his transition into secondary school.

Tracy Lalande, a resource teacher at St. Jerome School, spoke about her son who is in his first year at Sagonaska Provincial School. She said that they realized that the iPad changed his life within the first month. Tracy’s son was withdrawn and quiet and had great difficulty with reading and writing. He didn’t take risks and did not participate in school life. Now at Sagonaska, he is able to communicate, has more self-confidence and is on Student Council. Tracy showed different ways of using the iPad and examples of student creations at St. Jerome School. Students using the iPads at the school are now using them all on their own and taking initiative. Daphne Brumwell mentioned that iPads are now in full-day kindergarten classrooms. We are looking at applications that will enable students to make their thinking more visible. It was suggested to have a presentation on applications during a parent night.

5. Completion of PPM 140 Survey for ABA Strategies

As part of an annual monitoring process, school boards are requested to complete a survey on how they implement the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) methods used for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The PPM 140 survey was completed and submitted last week. The survey reveals that our schools demonstrate some strength in the area of IEP goal setting, identifying strength and needs, and modifying or accommodating programming to meet the students’ needs, with the use of ABA methods. There is a lack of knowledge and/or application in the area of data collection, functional behavioural assessment as well as the use of positive reinforcement. More training will be given to principals, teachers and support staff next school year.

6. Overview of Identified Students

Daphne Brumwell provided a list of exceptionality breakdown by school. A breakdown of the multiple exceptionality will be sent to the members by email.

7. Revision of Early Identification and Intervention Process

Daphne Brumwell informed the members that the Special Education Plan will be reviewed. She will look at the results of the Oral Language Project and how it fits into the revision of the early identification and intervention process. Changes are to be made and resource teachers are looking forward to getting a clear direction. Some guidelines will be given that will allow teachers to use more specific math tools or screening tools. She encouraged members to provide ideas about what might be included in this revised process.

8. Update on Transition Planning

NCDSB is in its third year of moving into a transition plan for our students. First year identified students with ASD at O’Gorman High School and their parents should have received an update twice already. We are looking at things necessary to making sure that students transition better into schools. Identified students will have their transition plan attached to their IEP. We are also hoping to do the same with students who head out into work within their community.

9. Highlights of MACSE Meeting

The Meeting Summary of the Meeting of the Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education of February 4th and 5th, 2015 were shared with the members.

10. Agency Reports

Joel McCartney informed the members of a movement happening locally. A Community Mobilization Committee, created in Saskatchewan and spreading into Ontario, will be comprised of government, human services agencies, police and community organizations, with the objective of trying to get services earlier for individuals showing high risks to self and to others. The committee will meet on a frequent basis to put forth names that particular agencies believe are high risks and who meet the criteria. A sub-group will be formed to put together a plan or next steps. The basic step is to knock on people’s doors and ask if they need help. Research shows that 9 of 10 knocks, the person will be more open to discussion and be willing to get help. Joel added that the committee will include school board representatives. Students who are truant and who cause greater grief in schools because there is something going on at school or at home will be targeted. Timmins is looking at ideas from northern communities and hoping to build a similar model.

Bill Russell stated that between 1600 and 1700 meals are served at the Lord’s Kitchen from meeting to meeting. The focus of the agency is to help young parents who are unprepared. Daphne Brumwell mentioned that there is a home economics class in Grades 7 and 8 where students plan simple meals with few ingredients.

Mental Health Week is held the week of May 3rd. Kay Gaffney informed the members that the kick-off is at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 4th at the North Eastern Ontario Family and Children’s Services and a barbecue will be held on May 6th.

Billie Richer stated that VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children will host a conference in Guelph on May 2nd. She added that May is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

12. Other Business

12.1 Letters from Upper Grand District School Board and from Thames Valley District School Board were distributed.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.
CARRIED.