



## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

**11:45 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair  
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair  
Sharron Pountney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Joel McCartney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
SECONDED BY: B. Richer

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.



### **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the minutes of March 28, 2018 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

### **4. March 31<sup>st</sup> Special Education Data**

Daphne Brumwell shared the March 31<sup>st</sup> Special Education data by school. The chart provides information about the number of identified students in each school by category of exceptionality. It also provides information about the number of students who also receive special education services, but who are not formally identified, as well as the number of students with a non-identified IEP. It was suggested to look at other boards' data and compare it with ours. Daphne mentioned that a column identifying the student enrolment of each school will be added to the next report.

### **5. Parents Reaching Out Grant – Sharing of Project Ideas**

The members were asked at the March meeting to come prepared to share some ideas about what the committee might wish to focus on in a Parents Reaching Out grant application. Daphne Brumwell went through past projects posted on the Ministry of Education's website and provided the members with a list of project ideas. A discussion ensued and the members provided the following suggestions:

- Set up a kiosk in the mall and provide information on learning intervention strategies;
- Meet and greet for the parents at the beginning of the school year with a barbecue, provide child care, hold workshops for parents and students;
- Establish a partnership with the churches, Catholic Women's League, daycare partners, outside communities;
- Topics to focus on: self-regulation, student resilience; oral language; social skills (reducing screen time); equity; indigenous education (Jordan's Law);
- Provide a package to help parents who struggle with their children in the school system;
- Send out a monkey survey to parents asking what information they would want.

Daphne Brumwell and Catherine Hoven will work on a proposal and share it with the members prior to the May meeting. The applications are open until June 5, 2018.

### **6. Special Education Plan**

This year, the Ministry of Education is using the same process for school boards to develop and submit a Special Education Plan and report on the provision of their special education programs and services. The members were asked to look at the board's Plan, identify potential revisions and bring forward recommendations at the May meeting. A student satisfaction survey will be sent out this Spring in order to know how well they feel they are being serviced.

## **7. Agency Reports**

Billie Richer reported that the Northern Ontario Audiology Services is hosting a party for hearing impaired children and their families on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm to 4 pm at Science Timmins. This is an opportunity for parents to network, for siblings and children with hearing loss to come together in a fun and engaging environment, and to meet other children who share similar experiences and hopefully forge friendships.

Sharron Pountney mentioned that an Emotion Coaching Parenting video series, piloted by Dr. Adele Lafrance, a clinical psychologist in British Columbia, will teach parents practical skills and techniques to improve their relationship with their child/ren as well as to support them through day-to-day challenges, life transitions or mental health issues. The webinar was presented to the staff at NEOFACS and then recorded and shared with the parents. The invitation to participate in the webinar was posted on the agency's Facebook page.

Joel McCartney informed the members that Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre received an investment in case management. There will be a greater case management role in the coastal communities. Representatives visited schools in the communities in March to get the message out; there will be a stronger connection up there. New positions have been created and filled, however, there is one vacancy. There used to have a social worker doing case management services in Cochrane but there hasn't been one in the past 10 years. There is now a permanent presence in Cochrane. The idea of having an actual position in Moosonee is being considered. They are planning four trips per year to Moosonee and to Attawapiskat.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

## **9. Other Business - Nil**

## **10. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: B. Richer  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m.  
CARRIED.