



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

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 / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher (replacing Dan Loreto)
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:** Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Lisa Innes, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
- GUEST:** Darren Berthier, Principal, O'Gorman High School

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on March 22, 2013 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Adult Education Program**

Principal of O’Gorman High School, Darren Berthier, gave a brief overview of the Alternative & Continuing Catholic Education Support Services (ACCESS) program. ACCESS provides opportunities for students to complete secondary school courses outside of the traditional school environment. The program works on a continuous intake model and welcomes eligible students throughout the Northeastern region, including remote areas. Students benefiting from ACCESS include students who have left school before graduation and are returning to complete their diploma requirements; students who have experienced difficulty in the traditional school environment; students who have fallen behind in their credit accumulation and are seeking to maximize credit earning opportunities; and students who have been recommended to the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Program. The program is new to NCDSB and is experiencing growing pains but we are very optimistic of the long-term outcomes. Students are required to register by contacting the high school. Chair Kay Gaffney, congratulated Mr. Berthier and thanked him for his presentation.

5. **MACSE – Call for Applications**

The Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education provides valuable advice to the Minister of Education on matters concerning special education policy and programs. The Council consists of members appointed by the Minister. Tricia Stefanic Weltz encouraged the members willing to represent their specific community of interest to apply to the Council. The application was shared with the members.

6. **System Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) Team/Special Education**

The System Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) Team consists of nine (9) members representing NCDSB and is responsible for supporting and addressing part of the elements of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA). Critical thinking continues to be the priority area for our shared work. Resources were created to help implement strategies for teachers to use in their classrooms. The team is eager to implement new technology to help capture samples of student thinking and to use this evidence to initiate professional dialogue and action planning for future success. The team will continue to engage in this system/regional work into the next school year.

7. **Special Education Board Plan**

The amendments to the Special Education Board Plan must be submitted to the Ministry by July 31, 2013. The checklist provided by the Ministry will be shared with the members at the May meeting and a motion to accept the amendments will be presented. Discussion ensued relating to the links between the Special Education Board Plan and the BIPSA. Kim Bordignon suggested that parents might be able

to provide valuable input into the process if a survey or other form of strategy were implemented, seeking their feedback on special education programs, services, and opportunities. Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Catherine Hoven will pursue action with this idea.

8. Agency Reports

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre shared that the use of the Ombudsman continues in response to issues arising across the province (services for adults with developmental disabilities). Joel McCartney will keep SEAC informed of any progress or changes as information becomes available.

Kay Gaffney invited the members to a BBQ sponsored by North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services taking place from 12 pm to 1 pm on May 10th at NEOFCS. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Proceeds will go towards bursaries for post-secondary students. A Mental Health Week notification will be coming out this week.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

10. Other Business

10.1 Discussion took place relating to various letters written to the Minister of Education.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

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