



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014**

**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  
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre  
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board  
Darryl Sarrasin, Community Living Timmins / Alternate  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher

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

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

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

MOVED BY: B. Nowak

SECONDED BY: N. Parnell

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: F. Salvador  
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the minutes of March 19, 2014 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Special Education Funding**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz shared with the members that the Ministry of Education sent a notification at the end of March regarding changes to the special education funding. The correspondence provided a detailed overview of the components of the High Needs Amount (HNA) allocation. Also, the funding for Mental Health Leaders will be transferred from the Education Program Other (EPO) to the Learning Opportunities Grant (LOG). Different factors are incorporated to get funding. As the special education funding is very complex, Finance Manager Mary-Lou Pollon will be invited to walk us through the budget process.

**5. Transition Planning**

Following the release of PPM 156 that came out in the Spring of 2013, boards are required to ensure that transition plans are in place for all students who have Individual Education Plans. NCDSB will be compliant prior to September 2014. Principals and resource teachers will be providing support to classroom teachers to help them create transition plans. The process will allow for teachers this year to talk with next year teachers of students moving schools about progress made. This will be a very positive experience for both students and teachers.

**6. Essential Skills Room at St. Anne English Catholic School**

Former Resource Teacher at St. Anne English Catholic School in Iroquois Falls, Darlene White, felt it was important for some of her developmentally delayed students to learn life skills. With the help of Manager of Plant, Bob Landry, an Essential Skills Room was created. A kitchen was added to the classroom. The students from Grade 2 to Grade 8 have their own learning space on the main floor of the school and are now leaders of the breakfast program. The students are also learning mathematical and language skills. Pictures of the space were shared with the members.

**7. Update on IEP Audit**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz reported that IEP audits at two schools are outstanding. Recommendations for an effective roll-out of a better IEP are being submitted for consideration. NCDSB will be creating its own examples of IEPs.

## 8. Upcoming Special Education Conferences

Tricia Stefanic Weltz mentioned that Dan Loreto is away at a *MISA Learning in Collaboration Symposium* and is sharing the outcome of research at this special education based conference. Dan will also represent NCDSB at an upcoming *Learning for All K-12 Professional Learning Day* in Toronto. This one-day session will include updates from the Ministry of Education, IEPs, and transitions.

## 9. Good News

The IEP audit at St. Paul School is completed. It highlights the way the team has developed and implemented the IEP. It was a collaborative teamwork as staff has a good understanding of its special education services and programs.

## 10. Agency Reports

As part of the Mental Health Week, Dr. Umesh Jain will present on *Living with ADHD* on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm at the McIntyre Ballroom. The event is free of charge and members were encouraged to attend and register with Canadian Mental Health Association prior to the event.

Timmins Family Counselling Centre received a grant to hire an intern mental health worker. The applicants must possess at least a Masters in social work and who has a good sense of what it's like to practice social work with families and children.

Community Living Ontario might receive funding to significantly increase the availability of services for thousands of families and individuals in Ontario. The government revealed plans to eliminate, within four years, the wait lists for two critical programs – *Special Services at Home* and the *Passport Program*. Both programs provide direct funding for people and families coping with developmental disabilities.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services will provide a training opportunity in recognition of Children's Mental Health Week. A workshop for parents, facilitated by Dr. Ed Rawana, will describe the role of strengths in the psychological development of children and adolescents. The training will occur on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the agency office on Ross Street.

Billie Richer reported that a fundraising event will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at some schools to raise money for VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

**12. Other Business**

12.1 Letters from various district school boards were shared with the members.

**13. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

CARRIED.