



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

Wednesday, December 18, 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
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
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: N. Parnell
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the minutes of October 23, 2013 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. School Highlight

Progress is being made in the area of behavior support plans at St. Anne English Catholic School in Iroquois Falls – a small school with a very high proportion of behavior issues. The management and tracking of these plans are quite exceptional. Tool and graphing techniques are used by school staff when children’s behaviors are at their worst. The information collected is used to determine, trends, patterns and timing. Chair Kay Gaffney congratulated the staff and particularly Resource Teacher Darlene White, who has retired from NCDSB effective November 30, 2013.

5. Speech and Language Pathology Strategy

Speech and language pathology is a major issue across the province. High incidents of speech and language needs are seen in our schools. With the assistance of Speech and Language Pathologist John Stark, educational assistants and resource teachers are being trained to help deliver some interventions in classrooms and outside the classrooms. Kim Bordignon suggested writing a letter to children’s treatment centres seeking interest in collaborating with our board. Dan Loreto will bring more information at the next meeting.

6. Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Process

The 2013-2014 Special Incidence Portion (SIP) application was submitted to the Ministry. A noticeable decrease in submissions this year as NCDSB lost students with complex needs.

7. Special Education Plan - Action Items

SEAC members have the responsibility to review and update the Board’s Special Education Plan. Part of this process includes discussing the goals for the 2013-2014 school year. One goal is to examine speech and language services and develop an action plan in order to meet the growing needs of students. Another goal is to continue in our pursuit of excellence for all students (to close gaps and increase achievement). NCDSB’s focus this year is looking at specialized staffing for the second term to better meet the needs of teachers and students. Money is accessible in the Student Success budget to help meet these goals.

8. Agency Reports

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services is pleased to expand its services in making children's mental health more accessible by opening a walk-in counseling service for children, youth under 18, parents, and families. Kay Gaffney reported that the clinic is open every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Ross Avenue site.

Kay also congratulated, on behalf of SEAC, O'Gorman High School for receiving the *Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement* in November. O'Gorman High School was recognized for its efforts over many years at improving student achievement and for its use of EQAO results to improve student learning.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

10. Other Business

A discussion took place relating to letters sent to us by district school boards.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 p.m.
CARRIED.