



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

"Catholic Education Makes the Difference"

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

Thursday, February 19, 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 / Vice-Chair
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:** Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
- GUESTS:** Angie DeMarco, Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Resource Teachers:
Anne Ranoszstay, Katie, Mundle, Michelle Menard, Susan Sharp,
Marc Hurtubise, Michelle Schaffner, Johnna D'Alessandri, Julianne Stewart,
Liz Mulholland, Cynthia Savard, Irene Peats, Tracy Lalande, Megan, Beyer,
Amanda O'Neil, Melanie Dixon-Fleury, Andrew Kirschnick, Shari Rusnak,
Jessica Bonhomme, Erin Albert

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: A. Wessman
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of January 13, 2015 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Public Participation – Budget Process

NCDSB is engaging in its annual budget process and the Board of Trustees is seeking input regarding budget priorities from community partners. SEAC members were encouraged to submit ideas.

5. SEAC Provincial Conference

The Ministry of Education invited a team from NCDSB SEAC to attend a SEAC Provincial Conference to be held in Toronto on Saturday, May 2, 2015. This conference is intended to provide a forum for open dialogue on opportunities for enhancing the capacity of SEACs across the province. Effective practices, resources and updates will be shared with participants. Members were encouraged to attend and asked to submit their names, if interested, to Judy Piché and Daphne Brumwell.

6. Food for Thought

Angie DeMarco, from the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury, presented *Food for Thought*, a presentation on different exceptionalities that cause learning difficulties to SEAC members and to resources teachers. She shared some facts, strategies, challenges, and supports provided to students, parents and educators. They spoke about different methods and/or equipment to help students with learning disabilities complete tasks with greater efficiency.

7. Agency Reports

Bill Russell stated that members of the Lord's Kitchen encouraged participation by parish council to attend the agency's suppers. Bishop Serge Poitras came and observed and he was astounded by the number of people and the problems and difficulties they shared with him. Over 100 people prepare the 350 to 400 meals a week served to the community.

Joel McCartney gave an update on the Ontario's Special Needs Strategy. All children's agencies in Cochrane and Temiskaming are gathering to respond to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services initiative. This will help children and youth get timely and effective services they need at home, at school, in the community, and as they transition to adulthood. This initiative requires planning, partnership and coordination across government and with communities. Additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

Billie Richer shared that she will prepare a presentation for the March meeting.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that everyone has been trained on the new program, Camp-Cope-A-Lot, a behavioural therapy program that offers fun and engaging activities that communicate skills for managing anxiety. No feedback has been received so far from children and parents involved in this program.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 25th at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

9. Other Business

Letters received from district school boards were shared with the members. A letter from Minister Liz Sandals inviting members to visit the Ministry of Education's SEAC website was also distributed.

10. Adjournment

MOVED BY: A. Wessman
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
CARRIED.