



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

"Catholic Education Makes the Difference"

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

Tuesday, January 13, 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
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: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: F. Salvador

THAT the minutes of November 13, 2014 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education

The Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education advises the Minister of Education on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for students with special needs, including the identification and provision of early intervention programs. MACSE has established working groups for 2014-2015 and is seeking feedback from district school boards regarding Early Years (FDK – Full Day Kindergarten) & Early Identifications as it relates to special education needs, and the review of special education exceptionalities, guidelines, and interventions of behavior, MID/DD and giftedness. Members were asked to provide input to Daphne Brumwell and she will complete the survey and submit it to MACSE.

5. Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAaC) on SEAC

Members were encouraged to read the *PAaC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* posted on their website <http://www.paac-seac.ca/> – a tool to help SEAC members understand their role and enhance effectiveness of SEAC.

6. Update on the 21st Century Technology and Special Education Project

A team consisting of two teachers, three resource teachers and Catherine Hoven travelled to Belleville in December to visit the Sagonaska Demonstration School. Students with learning disabilities at the residential school are using iPads to help communicate their thoughts and ideas. The students walked them through the application of the iPad technology. Catherine mentioned that they were impressed with the phenomenal growth of these students and their competence when they presented. The applications are engaging, challenging and very discreet, and students are able to use them on their own. NCDSB has decided to purchase iPads and some applications to pilot with students at English Catholic Central School in New Liskeard, St. Jerome School in Kirkland Lake, St. Patrick School in Cobalt and O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School in Timmins. Four iPads will also be provided to all Full-Day Kindergarten classrooms and students will learn how to use them as well. A Special Assignment Teacher was recently hired and her role will be to help teachers bring technology to the point of learning in a more efficient way. A report will be shared with the Board of Trustees once we have more to share.

7. Update on Psychological Assessments

Catherine Hoven shared that the board's psychologist, Dr. Bonifero, has completed twelve (12) assessments and they all came up with exceptionalities. Twelve (12) more are scheduled for Timmins, Moosonee and Kapuskasing over the next few months.

8. Reporting to Parents

A new standard template has been provided to all resource teachers and interventionist for reporting to parents. All schools will be using this template as of this term. We feel strongly that we must be accountable for the time children spend in outside of their home classroom with the resource teacher or anyone else who might be supporting them and that parents need to be informed about subjects they are missing and such. This new reporting template will be sent home with the Ontario Report Card and stored in the Ontario Student Record (OSR). We are also in the process of reviewing the reports sent home to parents by the child and youth worker. More information will be shared as we work through this process with this group of professionals.

9. February's Special Guest

Daphne Brumwell mentioned that a representative from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario from the Sudbury Chapter, Angie DeMarco, will present at the February meeting on emotions and/or impact on learning. Resource teachers will be invited to attend the meeting and then meet with Ms. DeMarco after SEAC.

10. Agency Reports

Joel McCartney announced that Pamela Stager is now the new Manager of the Development Program at Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre.

Colleen O'Hagan is the new physiotherapist with the Children's Treatment Centre. She works in Timmins and also in her assigned outreach area of Kirkland Lake.

Billie Richer stated that Voice for Hearing Impaired Children received funding. More information will be shared at a future meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 19th at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

12. Other Business

A letter received from Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario was shared with the members.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
CARRIED.