



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**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  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

**GUEST:** Kim McEntee, Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness

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

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

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

**MOVED BY:** B. Nowak

**SECONDED BY:** J. McCartney

**THAT** the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
SECONDED BY: V. Toner

THAT the minutes of November 25, 2015 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Mental Health in Schools**

Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness, Kim McEntee, shared a powerpoint presentation on Mental Health and Education which included a video entitled *Promoting Mental Health: Finding a Shared Language*. This video explains how mental health is an important part of our overall well-being and how mental health and mental illness are two different things. It describes the relationship to one another and shows how to promote mental health. Kim also provided information about the Provincial Mental Health Initiative and explained that part of her mandate is dedicated to building mental health awareness and building capacity within the system. Training and resources will be provided to school staff so they can be more comfortable to talk about mental health, learn to identify signs, talk about classroom strategies, and work together with community agencies, when referrals are essential. Ontario's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Youth Services are committed to this initiative by funding a full-time Mental Health Leader in every school board of Ontario as well as Mental Health and Addictions Nurses to work with district school boards.

**5. Special Education Data – October 2015**

Daphne Brumwell provided an updated report outlining the number of identified students - numbers collected after October 31, 2015.

**6. Learning Together – Special Incidence Portion**

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding for staff support is additional funding used to ensure the health and safety of students who have extraordinary high needs related to their disabilities and/or exceptionalities. Where approved, the Ministry of Education will grant up to a maximum of \$27,000 per full-time student per year. A student in a modified half-day program is eligible for a maximum of \$13,500 in funding. For all SIP claims, the Ministry requires that the identified additional supports be in place to respond to the student's needs prior to submitting an application for additional funding for staff support. Catherine Hoven mentioned that the SIP claims will be submitted to the Ministry of Education's regional office for approval this year in February. Catherine also explained the eligibility criteria for SIP, the documents required to support a SIP claim, and identified the eligible board paid staff.

**7. Information Pamphlet for Parents on the Individual Education Plan**

A copy of The Individual Education Plan (IEP) Guide for Parents was distributed. Catherine Hoven stated that the pamphlet will be available to parents in March and will be posted on our board website. The members were asked to provide feedback to Daphne Brumwell.

**8. Full-Day Kindergarten Registration Update**

Full-Day Kindergarten registrations will take place on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to register their children born in 2012 for the program starting in September 2016. Postcards were produced and shared with all schools, daycare care providers, community agencies, and churches. SEAC members were asked to display the postcards at their agencies. There will also be an open house on February 24<sup>th</sup> for those who registered and for new registrants to visit the school, meet the staff, do a craft or read a story.

**9. Agency Reports**

Community Living is in the process of establishing a new committee targeting parents who have children with intellectual disabilities. The role is to advise of the needs to improve service delivery and talk about common problems in the community. Val Toner will provide more information and a brochure at the next meeting. Parents who might be interested can contact Val or Johanne Rondeau at the agency.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre has hired a psychometrist in Kirkland Lake. Joel McCartney mentioned that the position is to be registered with the College and the successful candidate might take on a supervisory role.

Beth Nowak stated that Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board would like to stabilize the system and is looking at efficiencies and better business practices.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

**11. Other Business**

**11.1 2016-2017 School Year Calendar:** NCDSB is asking the public for their opinion regarding the upcoming 2016-2017 school year calendar. SEAC members were asked to review the calendar on our website and provide feedback.

**12. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:06 p.m.  
CARRIED.