



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Lisa Innes, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher

GUESTS: Mary-Lou Pollon, Manager of Financial Services

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: C. Landers

SECONDED BY: M. Lionello

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: E. King
SECONDED BY: K. Gaffney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on November 21, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Revised Special Education Budget**

Manager of Financial Services, Mary-Lou Pollon, presented the revised special education budget to the members. A handout was distributed.

5. **Special Education Staffing Update**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz shared with the members the developments with special education staffing. Dan Loreto is recovering from a cornea transplant and we are pleased to welcome resource teacher, Catherine Hoven, as his replacement beginning on Monday, January 21st. The position of a social service worker at Bishop Belleau School has been reposted. We have been unsuccessful securing a mental health leader and are hoping that the Ministry of Education will help us with the recruitment. A former graduate of O’Gorman High School, Sean Robertson, has been hired to replace Claire Penna, resource teacher at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School. We are currently looking at the services of an educational assistant at O’Gorman High School for the second semester as there is an increase in students with exceptionalities on coop placements. The EA would remain with the students during the period of the placement while the students try to build independent skills. The program is part of the alternative education program at the former Queen Elizabeth School. Ron St. Louis, Superintendent of Student Success, will be invited to discuss this program with the members at the February meeting.

6. **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Applications**

NCDSB has met the deadline for the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) applications and we will know later this Spring if the funding in the amount of \$96,613 will be approved by the Ministry. The money will help offset the cost for staff support to ensure the health and safety needs, both of students who have extraordinarily high needs related to their disabilities and/or exceptionalities and of others at school across the school board.

7. **JK Registration**

NCDSB hosted the Junior Kindergarten registration on Monday, January 14th. There is an increase from last year with a total of 108 students confirmed. We know of one very high needs student in Iroquois Falls.

8. **Mental Health Update**

The recruitment of the mental health leader has been unsuccessful. The main issue is the posting states that it is a contractual position; however, the Ministry of Education has reassured us that the funds are available for a permanent position. It was suggested that we partner with other mental health agencies in

order to get proper applicants. Tricia Stefanic Weltz mentioned that she is hoping that the mental health nurse hired for NCDSB, Wanda Sear, will soon take office at the Birch Street location.

9. Agency Reports

The Canadian Mental Health Association will go through more transformation in the next twelve months. The local health integration arm of the Ministry of Health has suggested different ways to spend the money for services provided while pushing for integration. Amalgamation of programs and services will take place.

The North Eastern Ontario Children's Foundation is hosting a fundraising concert featuring the talents of recording artist Fernando Varela. This concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 16th at the Charles Fournier Auditorium at École secondaire catholique Thériault. Tickets can be purchased online at admissiondepot.com, at the Timmins Public Library or at the Timmins Square.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

11. Other Business

11.1 Letters addressed to the Minister of Education from Niagara Catholic District School Board, Upper Canada District School Board, and Wellington Catholic District School Board were distributed to the members.

11.2 KidSport and the Timmins Family YMCA have teamed up with a local martial arts studio to help children gain confidence they need to deal with bullying. The free Bully Proof Program is being offered on a first come – first served basis through the Timmins Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy. Registration forms can be obtained online. Colleen Landers stated that they are hoping to offer the program quarterly. Parents will need to sign a release form.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

CARRIED.