



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Friday, March 22, 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
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Lisa Innes, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher (replacing Dan Loreto)
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell

SECONDED BY: L. Innes

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on January 16, 2013 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Adult Education Program**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. **Transition Planning**

Last year, the Ministry provided funding to support the use of *Learning for All K-12*. The draft document that exists is still not in final print. Additional funding in the amount of \$21,032 was given to NCDSB to support program planning and the continuous improvement of the development and monitoring processes associated with IEPs for students with special education needs. Catherine Hoven is working with Geneviève Lemieux on a document to effectively transition students from classroom to classroom, and from school to school. By June 2013 a plan will be in effect and this strategy will be brought to fruition by September 2013.

6. **Behaviour Management**

Catherine Hoven is putting in place a school-consistent program for students struggling with behaviours with the use of functional assessment interventions. Resource teachers in Timmins have observed students and took note of their behaviours. A few weeks later, the group reconvened and worked together to plan next steps and develop plans to meet the needs of the observed students. Catherine will work with resource teachers in other regions later this fall, following this same type of approach. Strategies will be shared with classroom teachers as they are also responsible and need to be engaged and actively involved.

7. **Kirkland Lake Program Review Update**

A special education program review was conducted in Kirkland Lake. Tricia Stefanic Weltz met with parents of children who reside in the St. Jerome School program to provide them with a better understanding of the facilities at Sacred Heart School. Parents voiced their concerns about transitioning their children into another program. Tricia described the opportunities that exist at Sacred Heart School, such as the woodworking facilities and family studies room. She believes that the Board needs to promote these programs required to meet the needs of distinct age-related students in the community. The principal at Sacred Heart School will invite the children and parents to tour the school during Catholic Education Week. A recommendation will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

8. Staffing Update

Tricia Stefanic Weltz reported that Dan Loreto will be off for the remainder of the school year. Catherine Hoven will stay on as Special Assignment Teacher. She added that we are also currently reviewing staffing at individual schools to ensure that the necessary supports are in place for students at-risk or currently in crisis. Staffing for the 2013-2014 school year has begun and more detailed information is forthcoming.

9. Funding to Support Suicide Prevention

The Ministry of Education provided school boards with a one-time funding allocation to support professional learning on suicide prevention. School board professionals who have a responsibility for mental health and addictions will be trained. The funding will be used to provide training sessions for principals, teachers, child and youth workers, and educational assistants all across the board. Interviews for a permanent mental health leader will be conducted next week. It is anticipated that the Mental Health Leader will help oversee the planning of suicide prevention strategies, providing a successful candidate is selected.

10. Special Education Board Plan

The members were asked to review the Special Education Board Plan, posted on our website. Time will be designated at the April SEAC meeting to address questions and concerns. Revisions to the plan will be submitted to the Ministry.

11. Agency Reports

A new cook and chef have been hired at the Lord's Kitchen. Both are volunteers. The number of servings has dropped tremendously since they are given a full plate instead of a smaller plate. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served for the first time since the agency opened.

Tammie Molenaar mentioned that Amanda Wessman will be back at work on April 22nd and will also return to SEAC. Kay Gaffney thanked Tammie for her time on the committee.

There are new initiatives occurring at North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services. NEOFACS signed a service agreement with One Kids Place, the regional service provider for Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) services for children with a diagnosis of autism. Referrals are to be made by contacting One Kids Place in North Bay.

April is autism month. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

Children and youth in the NEOFACS area who experience acute mental health difficulties requiring hospitalization can now have this service closer to home. Two beds were opened at the Timmins District Hospital and two beds at the North Bay Hospital. NEOFACS has supported the treatment of children in hospital by providing the services of a CFI clinician and a child and youth worker.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

Please be advised that the date and time of the meeting was changed after adjournment of this meeting. The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 11:45.

13. **Other Business**

13.1 Discussion took place relating to various letters written to the Minister of Education.

14. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: T. Molenaar

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.
CARRIED.