



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

Wednesday, March 23, 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
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: N. Parnell

SECONDED BY: F. Salvador

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the minutes of February 17, 2016 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Leveled Literacy Intervention Expansion and Recent Training

NCDSB is committed to using the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program to support struggling readers. As the publishers increase the level for which kits are available, we do our best to find the funds to extend these kits out to the schools who are demonstrating consistent use and student progress. Kits were recently purchased that cover the levels up to W for 5 schools as part of a pilot project from the publishers. This pilot has allowed us to purchase the kits at a discounted rate of 30%, plus has allowed us to receive specialized training to support the use of LLI. In late February, a trainer spent 2 days with many of our resource teachers to review how to use the diagnostic assessment information we receive from the Benchmark Assessment Kit to plan instruction. She was also able to provide a more intense look at supporting reading comprehension with older struggling readers. The original intent of these days had been for the trainer to work only with 5 pilot schools, however, we were able to extend the invitation out to the resource teachers who were newer to their role, and/or for whom we felt the training might be helpful. Most resource teachers took us up on this offer and these two days were very well received by all participants.

5. Accommodation Review Committee

An Accommodation Review is taking place in Timmins. We are currently in the process of determining how we might best go about consolidating some of our buildings to save operational costs, but also improve our ability to offer programs to our students and their families. At the present time, we are about half way through the process. The working group continues to explore the following options:

Option A

- ▶ New Dual Track school built on 383 Birch North property housing approximately 400 English and French Immersion Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 6 students

Option B

- ▶ Move Grades 7 and 8 to O’Gorman High School (requires addition) creating a 7 to 12 school
- ▶ Move Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 6 French Immersion to O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School
- ▶ Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 6 English remains at St. Paul School

Option C

- ▶ Move Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 8 French Immersion to O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School
- ▶ Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 8 English at St. Paul School

Option D

- ▶ Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 6 English and French Immersion at St. Paul School

Option E

- ▶ Create a Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 4 Dual Track school at St. Paul School
- ▶ Create a Grade 5 to 8 Dual Track school at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School
(This is the Preferred Option)

Option F (added)

- ▶ Create a Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 6 Dual Track school at Sacred Heart School

The next public meeting is scheduled for O’Gorman High School on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 pm.

6. Enrolment Projections

Daphne Brumwell mentioned that the staffing process for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. Staffing is largely impacted by enrolment projections. At the present time, we are projecting approximately 1,713 elementary students and 355 secondary students. Our enrolment on January 31st, 2016 was 1,765 elementary students and 394 secondary students.

7. Budget Considerations

The funding we have received for Special Education based on our enrolment and high needs amount was \$4,458,256 for 2015-2016. Daphne Brumwell stated that, given that we spend approximately \$4,300,000 on staff alone, this does not leave us with much to work with to support programs. Additional costs not included in special education staff are related to psychological and speech services, professional development, resource purchases, SEA claims-based and technology purchases, funds to cover short term and long term leaves (sick & other), as well as the vacation pay-out to educational assistants. These additional costs usually come to about \$400,000 annually. The budget process will begin very shortly. Members were asked to provide feedback regarding special education spending for the 2016-2017 school year.

8. School Year Calendar

Daphne Brumwell shared with the members the 2016-2017 draft school year calendars, created after significant consultation with the community. The Board is grateful to the many stakeholders who completed the online survey. The Board awaits approval from the Ministry of Education.

9. Agency Reports

Natalie Parnell informed the members that Timmins Family Counselling Centre had applied for extra funding through the United Way for a youth counselling program. Unfortunately, the agency did not receive it but they are still hoping for extra funding as the demands are climbing.

Bill Russell mentioned that The Lord’s Kitchen served 429 meals to 200 people. He expects a lot of people to show up at Easter.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children’s Services promotes Autism Awareness throughout the month of April. Kay Gaffney invited everyone to celebrate the Autism Awareness campaign beginning with a flag raising ceremony at NEOFACS at 10:30 am on April 1st.

Kay also reported that mental health funding was provided to agencies across Ontario which allowed NEOFACS to hire an additional clinician.

The Purple Elk's Club in North Bay will be making a donation to VOICE on May 21st at their annual meeting. Billie Richer will be doing a presentation regarding VOICE and the support it offers children with hearing loss and their families.

A fundraiser is being held to generate financial support for the Parent Support Circle, a group of parents of children with special needs who meet to share their feelings, exchange experiences, share ideas and learn about other services in the community. Joel McCartney mentioned that the prize is a trip for 4 people to a Blue Jays game against the Houston Astros in August, \$500 spending money, hotel accommodation in Toronto, and tickets to Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto. Tickets are being sold at \$2 each or 3 for \$5 at CTRC and NEOFACS. The draw will take place in May. Proceeds go towards the parent group's needs and a barbecue at the end of the year.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

11. Other Business - Nil

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
CARRIED.