

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

11:45 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Sharron Pountney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

GUEST: Erica Raymond, NCDSB Early Years Lead

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kim Bordignon welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: V. Toner

SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: V. Toner
SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the minutes of January 31, 2018 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Inclusive Childcare Resource Consultants

This presentation was deferred to the May 30th meeting.

5. Early Years Self-Regulation Pilot Project

An analysis of suspension rates in the NCDSB over the last three years highlighted an increase in the number of children being suspended from school in the early primary grades. Suspensions have resulted from problematic behaviours, i.e. aggression towards self, others or property. Erica Raymond provided the members with an overview of the Board's Early Years Project. The project seeks to provide concrete knowledge, skill building and practical support to school teams. We have structured the learning on building a common understanding about self-regulation, addressing function of behaviour, identifying skills to teach, with the goal that school teams implement effective school-based plans to reduce the number of children who are suspended in the early primary division.

NCDSB has partnered with Dr. Stephane Beaulne, a Psychology professor at Nipissing University in North Bay, whose background and experience includes program development, implementation and evaluation, as well as mental health, behavioural, and psycho-educational services in school-based, community, outpatient, rehabilitative and vocational settings. Dr. Beaulne has extensive experience in planning and providing training to individuals and groups on applied behaviour analysis, autism and self-regulation.

The professional learning for FDK and Grade 1 teachers in the pilot schools (Pope Francis, St. Joseph, St. Anne, St. Jerome, and Bishop Belleau) intends to support staff in developing a child-centered approach to self-regulation in an effort to further shift our thinking and actions about behaviour from a reactive, disciplinary stance to a more preventative, supportive stance. A training session was held on Friday, March 23rd where Dr. Beaulne observed children, provided staff and leaders with guidelines and a plan of action to determine how to further support the targeted schools. SEAC Members were invited to attend the same type of session which will take place on Friday, April 27th at the Board Office.

6. Individual Education Plan Audit

Daphne Brumwell mentioned that we will be conducting an Individual Education Plan (IEP) audit of the remaining 7 schools. IEPs from Bishop Belleau School, Pope Francis Elementary School, O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School, O'Gorman High School, St. Jerome School, English Catholic Central School and St. Patrick School in Cobalt will all be reviewed to determine the degree

to which we are meeting the Ministry and board expectations for IEPs. Results of this audit will be shared with SEAC in May, as well as included in the annual NCDSB Special Education Plan.

7. Special Equipment Amount - Technology

Last year, NCDSB decided to provide those students who had an iPad with the opportunity to also have a Chromebook. Daphne Brumwell explained that we were hearing from some teachers that with the rest of kids using Chromebooks, the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) students were feeling different given they had a different tool. Schools had the choice of either keeping both the iPad and Chromebook for SEA students, or turning in the iPad in exchange for a Chromebook. Though we had significant reservations about this as we knew that many of the applications available to students on the iPad were not available on the Chromebook, we chose to move forward with the request. We are monitoring the situation closely. Recently, it has come to our attention that some of the scanning we need to do so students can use Google Read has been more difficult with the Chromebooks. We are currently working through this with our ICT department. Those iPads that were purchased for students have remained in the schools and are available for use with resource teachers and classroom teachers.

8. Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant

Daphne led the group in a discussion regarding the possibility of applying for a regional Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant. PRO Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement, human rights and equity, and well-being. The members were asked to come up with a project idea and share it with everyone at the April meeting. Grant applications, for a maximum of \$30,000, are open until June 5, 2018.

A brief discussion was held regarding the special education funding. The Board's Manager of Finance, Erika Adam, will be invited to a future meeting to explain the funding.

9. Agency Reports

No agency reports were provided.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

11. Other Business

Letters from Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario and from Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord were shared with the members.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: E. King

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

CARRIED.