



## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

**11:45 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair  
Genevieve Lemieux, Canadian Mental Health Association / Alternate  
Marilyne Plamondon, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Alternate  
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee / Alternate  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre

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

Chair Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

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

MOVED BY: F. Salvador

SECONDED BY: B. Richer

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.



### 3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
SECONDED BY: B. Richer

THAT the minutes of February 22, 2017 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

### 4. **IEP Audit Summary**

Daphne Brumwell and Catherine Hoven engaged in IEP reviews at 7 schools in February. Daphne provided a handout and mentioned that they were pleased with their findings as there have been improvements since the last review. We are concerned about the lack of classroom-based assessment data that is documented in IEPs. This assessment data should always be the basis for the selection of expectations. This will be a focus of our work with staff in the 2017-2018 school year. Term 2 IEPs from the same schools will be reviewed in April or May and feedback will be provided to the school principals. Daphne and Catherine will meet with resource teachers to review selected IEPs from each school. A workshop will be created in the e-Hub for classroom teachers to support the creation of IEPs, and we are hoping teachers will complete the workshop at the September 2017 Professional Activity Day. They will also work with principals to review IEPs for their school before they go home for Term 1 of the 2017-2018 school year. The audit from the other 7 schools will be completed in November 2017.

### 5. **Enrolment Projections**

Initial enrolment projections were shared with the members. Daphne Brumwell stated that we are currently projecting a slight decline, although numbers in the Full-Day Kindergarten will climb. There has been a significant demand for children to move from DSBONE to O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School for Grades 5, 6 and 7.

### 6. **Historical Look at NCDSB Special Education Budget**

A copy of the *NCDSB Special Education Funding Historical Review of Funding* was distributed. Numbers showed funding received from the Ministry of Education and what was actually spent for the last 5 years. We have been working hard to bring our spending in line with the funding and have made cuts to teachers and educational assistants in all regions over the last few years. We are not expecting to cut much more staff as we need to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students. We will continue to explore other areas of the special education budget that might provide us with additional cost savings.

### 7. **iPad Project – Sharing of Some Student Work**

Special Assignment Teacher for Education Technology, Melissa Lavoie, visited classrooms and showed students with learning disabilities who have iPads how to use the application *Explain Everything*. With this app, students can create drawings, bring attention to details or areas by marking them with a highlighter, create videos, record interactive audio clues, and add music clips. The main goal is to support students in using this app to help show their math thinking as

they engage in problem solving activities. Students are able to record themselves or their group as they work through math tasks. Daphne Brumwell showed examples of videos created by some of these students.

**8. Agency Reports**

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Guelph. Billie Richer reported that the agency is doing well since disbanding all staff and going to volunteers.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that the Autism Awareness Month starts on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and each year NEOFACS promotes Autism Awareness throughout the month of April.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

**10. Other Business**

The members received letters from Bluewater District School Board and from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board expressing their concerns regarding overall reductions in the Special Education Funding formula and the current special education model. Colleen Landers requested that when we send letters to the Minister of Education to copy OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association).

**11. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 p.m.  
CARRIED.