



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

"Catholic Education Makes the Difference"

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

Thursday, November 13, 2014

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher

GUEST: Erica Raymond, Vice-Principal – St. Paul School

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: F. Salvador

THAT the minutes of October 14, 2014 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Summer Literacy Program

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) provided NCDSB with funding in the amount of \$15,000 to offer a Summer Learning Program for students from Grades 1 to 4 during the month of July 2014. Vice-Principal of St. Paul School, Erica Raymond, stated that the program required boards to organize summer classes for student instruction in literacy and/or numeracy. Three occasional teachers and one tutor in the classroom were hired to run the program with the assistance of a principal, vice-principal, and superintendents. An invitation to participate was sent to parents in early May. Students from Sacred Heart School, St. Joseph School and St. Paul School rotated through reading, writing, visual art and physical education activities daily. Students were provided with nutritional snacks and participated in weekly educational excursions. At the end of the program, students were given a literacy camp yearbook and progress notes which were shared with the principals and incoming teachers in September. Parents were invited to a barbecue and were able to walk around the classroom with their children to look at the work accomplished. Participating students who require continued support will be referred to the resource teacher. The program will be offered again next year with the hope of selecting the candidates in late April or early May and meeting with the parents to explain the program.

5. 21st Century Learning and the Special Needs Student

Daphne Brumwell, Catherine Hoven and three resource teachers are working on a new project where they are investigating the possibility of special needs students working with touch technology instead of a laptop, a recommendation made by specialists. A trip to Sagonaska Demonstration School in Belleville will hopefully determine the benefits of our students working on mini iPads. Applications on iPads are free or cost a small amount of money. These teachers will work with staff at Sagonaska Demonstration School in December and then bring their learning back to their schools in the new year. Teachers will be working side-by-side with a couple of students in each of the 4 schools as they explore the applications suggested by Sagonaska. This project is funded by Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA). Students will be invited to share what they've learned with SEAC members.

6. Specialized Equipment Allocation

In the past, technology equipment for students with special needs who left our school board would follow the students if they were transferred to a school in a different board. DSBONE and the NCDSB have an agreement whereby all SEA technology equipment, with the exception of equipment for children who are blind, will remain with the purchasing board. This will allow boards to reissue their equipment to new students and to explore the possibility of renting equipment as a cost saving measure. This year, there is a heavy request for claim-based equipment for children

with high needs in Junior Kindergarten. Money has been allocated from FDK Special Education Deffered to help cover these additional costs this year.

7. Professional Learning Plan for Educational Assistants and Resource Teachers

Daphne Brumwell stated that she received requests from educational assistants and resource teachers for training to work with students with exceptionalities relating to learning disabilities and autism. Understanding and Managing Aggressive Behavior (UMAB) training will be provided to educational assistants at the April 13th Professional Activity Day. UMAB procedures are being revised and will be shared at a future meeting. Resource teachers will be invited to participate in projects funded by *Learning for All* and *First Nations, Métis & Inuit (FNMI)*. A PA Day Planner will be provided to all staff in the new year and shared with SEAC.

8. Agency Reports

The Lord's Kitchen served 300 meals last week to 160 guests. Bill Russell mentioned that the Porcupine River Stewardship Committee will receive a government grant in order to help clean up the river. Students interested in this project will have the opportunity to accumulate volunteer hours and be exposed to nature and all its elements.

Tammie Molenaar announced that she has been promoted to the position of Executive Director of Community Living Manitoulin. She is looking forward to the challenge and moving to the Island in December. Amanda Wessman will return to SEAC in January. Kay Gaffney congratulated Tammie on her new position.

Northern Tel and North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services formed a partnership across Northeastern Ontario that will help young people (ages 7 to 13 years) cope with anxiety in a fun and interactive way. The agency is presenting a new program, funded by Northern Tel, called Camp-Cope-A-Lot, a behavioural therapy program that offers fun and engaging activities that communicate skills for managing anxiety. The program also assists the user with learning how to problem solve, changing self-talk, and identifying somatic signs of anxiety. There are various videos in the program which include other children engaging in exposure tasks and coping strategies.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

10. Other Business

Letters received from district school boards were shared with the members.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Molenaar
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 p.m.
CARRIED.