



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

**Wednesday, November 25, 2015**

**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  
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher

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

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer. A special welcome was extended to Val Toner, representing Community Living Timmins and replacing Amanda Wessman on the committee.

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

MOVED BY: B. Russell  
SECONDED BY: F. Salvador

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of October 21, 2015 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness**

Daphne Brumwell introduced the board's newly-hired Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness, Kim McEntee. Kim brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She worked in the mental health field for 17 years servicing individuals with mental health concerns in varying capacities at Canadian Mental Health Association. Her mandate is to lead this important initiative and to enhance the mental health and wellness agenda for students and staff across the board.

**5. Learning Together: The Role of the Resource Teacher**

An overview of the role of the resource teacher was provided by Daphne Brumwell and she also shared a handout with the members. She mentioned that a resource teacher spends 95% of the day actually teaching students. The rest of the day is spent keeping up with organizational items, conducting assessments and supporting staff. A resource teacher is an advocate for all students that are at risk, struggling, or identified within a school.

**6. Initiative Update**

NCDSB was recently approved by the Northeastern MISA PNC group to move forward with our work from last year on technology and the LD learner. This year we will be supporting resource teachers as they learn more about how to use iPads to help our exceptional students make their thinking more visible. We will also be using the funds for release time to work together to deepen our understanding of the Learning Disabled student and how the psychological processes impact academic learning. Our first meeting is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>, with subsequent meetings to take place in February and April.

**7. New Support Materials: Role of SEAC**

A brochure informing parents on the role of the Special Education Advisory Committee was distributed. Discussion was held on how to engage parents in a more interactive way. The members were asked to review the information in the brochure and provide feedback on the pamphlet for distribution at a future meeting.

**8. Agency Reports**

Bill Russell reported that more families are going to the Lord's Kitchen for a meal; however, numbers were down last week. Some children show up alone because parents are not available.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre began interviewing for all vacant positions and doing background checks on potential candidates. Joel McCartney mentioned that CTRC, in collaboration with Ontario Early Years Centre, has formed a support program for any parent with a child or an adult child who has developmental disabilities. Parents exchange experiences, share stories and learn about other services in the community. Parents who are interested in participating in this program can contact Lisa Larabie at CTRC.

Mark Lionello reported that a number of locales have or will be opening their doors to folks who are homeless or at risk of being homeless; and who are needing support. CMHA was doing street outreach Tuesday evenings, but will be opening their doors Thursday evenings from 7 to 11 pm in place of the Tuesday evening. The agency has been providing information and supplies - toothbrushes, deodorant, and food/coffee cards. The following is a list of the locales pitching in:

**Speak-Easy Warming Station: Sundays and Mondays from 6 pm to 11 pm**

**Timmins Native Friendship Centre: Tuesdays from 6 pm to 10:30 pm**

**Salvation Army: Wednesdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm**

**Lord's Kitchen: Thursdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm**

**First Baptist Church: Fridays from 12 pm to 1 pm (also has Foodbank from 1 pm to 2:30 pm)**

**Yo-Mobile @ City Hall: Fridays and Saturdays from 7 pm to 10 pm**

**Yo-Mobile @ Fire Hall parking lot: Fridays and Saturdays from 10 pm to 12 am**

Mark Lionello and Joel McCartney spoke about the Timmins Mobilization Committee, a collection of community-based agencies who meet regularly to outreach to hard-to-serve clients and those in risk/multi-agency users. The committee is based on a coordinated response from whichever agency/hospital may prove helpful to that individual. School board links would be involved on an as-needed basis. A workshop will be held in April or May to help gain a better understanding of how the hub works and to develop and implement a community model that makes sense for our community.

Kay Gaffney informed the members that November is Adoption Month. The need and importance for adoptive families have been reported in the media. The 2015 Annual Holiday Toy Drive in support of NEOFACS will take place on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 6 pm at WalMart. People are encouraged to contribute a new, unwrapped toy or game for a child or youth 0-18.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

**10. Other Business**

A letter from Ottawa-Carleton District School Board was shared with the members.

**11. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: M. Lionello  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:41 p.m.  
CARRIED.