



## **SEAC MEETING**

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

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  
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: C. Landers

SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: C. Landers  
SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on September 18, 2013 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

4. Introduction of New Members

The following new members representing agencies were introduced to the group:

- Beth Nowak of Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
- Natalie Parnell of Timmins Family Counselling Centre
- Billie Richie of VOICE for Impaired Children

5. Mental Health Leader

Judy Mord gave a brief overview of her role as NCDSB's Mental Health Leader. Judy is visiting schools across the district in order to address student mental health and addictions needs in schools as part of her system mapping responsibilities in her role. She provides training in mental health to school staffs, helps them to look for signs, and guides them to different resources. Judy will work with community service providers and will participate in regional and provincial meetings.

6. Ministry Initiatives – Action Plans 2013-2014

***Learning for All K-12:*** NCDSB has received funding in the amount of \$10,000 to continue to build system-wide capacity and ensure alignment of planning processes to improve student achievement and well-being. The document *Learning for All, K-12 (Draft 2011)* is designed to share information with educators about educational approaches that have proven to be effective in Kindergarten to Grade 12 including assessment for learning, universal design for learning, differentiated instruction, and the tiered approach.

A new document ***Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools*** is designed to help students achieve their personal goals for work and life, make successful transitions throughout life, and become competent, successful, and contributing members of society. In addition, the focused approach to planning will support students in selecting the courses and programs they need to complete secondary school in four years and move on to their initial postsecondary destination.

The ***Alternative Program*** refers to the programming boards offer to those students who do not follow the Ontario Curriculum. Dan Loreto will be attending a consultation session next week and will provide an overview of the program at a future meeting.

7. **EQAO**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz gave a summary of the results of the Primary and Junior Assessments, with specific focus on the achievement of our students with special education needs. As part of their ongoing work, the NCDSB will identify key strategies to consider and implement to support an increase in achievement results as measured on the provincial assessment and within the Board Improvement Plan.

8. **Special Education Plan – Action Items**

Updates of the Action Items included in the Special Education Plan will be shared at the next meeting.

9. **Agency Reports**

Nicole Nadeau has been hired as the new Speech and Language Therapist at the Children's Treatment Centre.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre hired Alexandra Freeman as their new Psychometrist. Joel McCartney also reported that the agency signed a transition-age protocol a few weeks ago.

Canadian Mental Health Association is in the process of transferring the community-based program from the hospital. The out-patient program is moving forward. CMHA is also looking to hire a senior mental health position to manage the current resource programs and also to implement the new programs.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that the Purple Ribbon Campaign held during the month of October was successful.

Beth Nowak offered the impact of her agency being represented on SEAC. Given the shift towards shared ministry responsibilities and partnerships, she will be able to bring the perspective of services and supports to programs that are available to help children transition into Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 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 12:42 p.m.  
CARRIED.