

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board
WebEx

MINUTES

PRESENT: Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Vice-Chair
Heather Demers, The Lord's Kitchen
Susan St. Denis, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Stephanie Fisher, Timmins Native Friendship Centre
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Ron MacInnis, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Mackenzie Carrier, Community Living Timmins
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher

1. Welcome and Prayer

Joel welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: S.Skalecki

BY: B.Richer SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: B.Richer

BY: S.Fisher SECONDED

THAT the minutes of March 24, 2021 be approved as presented. CARRIED.

4. Special Education Plan for 2021-2022

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN ACTIONS FOR 2021-2022

1. Continue to work on the creation of the documents that outline the various internal processes found in the special education department.
2. Explore the opportunity to use the new PowerSchool Student Information System to generate a variety of special education forms such as referrals.
3. In the event that a child's identification changes due to an updated assessment, we need to ensure that the new documentation is forwarded to the board office for filing in the student's Special Education file. An internal procedure will be created to ensure this happens.
4. Ensure that the placement option on the IPRC Statement of Decision is reflective of the actual placement. We have tended to use "Resource Assistance" as a catch-all when we should be more specific. This also means that when a placement changes mid-year, parents need to be contacted and provided with the opportunity to participate in a formal IPRC meeting or to have the documentation forwarded for signature after a conversation. An internal procedure will be created to capture what will need to happen in these circumstances.
5. Given the pandemic, our desire to include students in the IPRC and IEP process where appropriate (Grade 7 & up) was hampered. We would like to continue to have schools work towards this expectation and have them support students in developing a one page document highlighting their strengths, needs, key accommodations and unique learning profile. This document will be shared with those currently supporting the student, as well as those supporting the student the following year.
6. Continue to build capacity and competency of principals, teachers and support staff in the development, implementation and monitoring of effective IEPs for students requiring modifications to individual programs. Engage school teams in the IEP audit process in the late fall to build capacity within the school to complete this process independently.
Ensure all new teachers hired who have not previously done the NCDSB IEP e-Hub course, complete this by the end of September 2021.
7. Ensure parents are aware of our SEAC membership and dates for our monthly meetings through posting of information on the board website by September 30th, 2021. Minutes of SEAC meetings will also be posted on a monthly basis. We will continue to explore additional community representatives on SEAC. In particular, we are looking for representatives with connections to the ASD and LD communities.
8. Continue to monitor and support the use of the Brigance Screen III for Year 2 Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. Screening will take place in December 2021 with a follow up for students at risk in June 2022. Review the impact of data analysis of the Brigance to ensure it is providing us with the necessary information to better support our youngest learners. Provide training to teachers and ECEs in January 2022 so that they can implement appropriate interventions based on the results of the Brigance. Revise and implement the Early Identification Student Profile by June 2022.
9. Explore the use of the Empower Comprehension module for Gr. 2-5 at Sacred Heart School and Pope Francis Elementary School. We would like to include a group of indigenous students to see the impact of the program on our students who have significant language deficits.
10. Continue to monitor the modifications being made to math programs for students with learning disabilities. Provide greater support to RTs and Classroom Teachers to identify gaps in student learning and opportunities for intervention. Support the use of the York Region suggested accommodations by psychological process and the York Waterfall to help teachers meet the needs of LD students in math. Build capacity around math content knowledge and math pedagogy with resource teachers and principals to support their work in math intervention. This will be particularly important given the potential gaps created during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

11. Continue to support schools in implementing the School-Based Team model. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for school staff to discuss the needs of students by sharing ideas about how to better support the student, and collaborate to create an action plan to support the student moving forward. A follow up is required to ensure that actions have been taken and to discuss their effectiveness.
12. Continue to work with our contracted SLP provider to ensure the provision of additional and more consistent therapy for students required language support, including at Bishop Belleau in Moosonee. This funding will come from the Northern Support Initiative and is done in collaboration with our co-terminus English school board.
Explore the possibility of completing hearing and vision screens on all FDK students.
13. Connect with the consultants from the Provincial Demonstration Schools to explore the possibility of supporting students new to the board with vision or hearing loss through their Pre-School services.
14. Implement the use of the professional learning series at staff meetings or during other professional learning opportunities to help all teachers better understand the psychological processes and their impact on learning.
Continue to implement the LD Class Profiles that have been created. Build capacity with classroom teachers to better understand how to support students with an LD in the regular classroom.

A Motion of Approval was signed by Joel McCartney to have the Special Education Plan for 2021-2022 be presented to the Board of Trustees at the June 16, 2021 Board Meeting held via WebEx due to the Covid 19 pandemic. All in attendance passed the Motion.

5. March 31, 2021 Special Education Data

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

The data provided to the committee is an overview of the Special Education services among the NCDSB group of schools. The chart shows a comparison from the October 31st vs March 31st data.

The columns in green indicate an increase from October to March as it relates to having a formal identified IEP or a non identified IEP.

SCHOOL	MILD INTELLECTUAL	LEARNING DISABILITY	BEHAVIOUR	LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT	AUTISM/POD	MULTIPLE	BLIND/LOW VISION	SPEECH IMPAIRMENT	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY	PHYSICAL DISABILITY	GIFTED	DEAF/HARD OF HEARING	Total # IPRC	Non Identified with IEP	TOTAL # of Students March 31st 2021	Total Enrolment March 31st 2021	% of Students with Spec Ed Needs March 31, 2021	Total Number of Students Oct. 31st, 2020	% of Students with Spec Ed Needs Oct. 31, 2020	Increase/Decrease Since Oct. 31st, 2020
AILEEN WRIGHT CATHOLIC SCHOOL	0	11	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	19	17	36	95	37.9	32	33	4
BISHOP BELLEAU SCHOOL	0	5	2	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	15	6	21	69	30.4	20	30	1
ENGLISH CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL	2	18	3	1	0	13	0	2	2	1	0	1	43	22	65	216	30.1	55	26	10
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL	0	7	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	13	27	97	27.8	24	26	3
O'GORMAN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	4	27	1	0	0	11	1	0	0	1	0	0	45	18	63	226	27.9	62	28	1
POPE FRANCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2	12	2	7	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	31	15	46	284	16.2	42	15	4
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL - KIRKLAND LAKE	2	21	2	0	1	13	0	0	1	1	0	1	42	13	55	133	41.4	56	41	-1
ST. ANNE ENGLISH CATHOLIC SCHOOL	2	8	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	17	14	31	160	19.4	31	20	0
ST. JEROME SCHOOL	0	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	11	14	25	181	13.8	16	9	9
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL	4	6	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	20	3	23	111	20.7	20	19	3
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL - COBALT	4	9	2	3	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	27	28	55	128	43.0	45	36	10
ST. PATRICK SCHOOL - KAPUSKASING	2	10	3	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	22	47	156	30.1	43	27	4
O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL	12	55	0	2	3	7	0	0	2	1	1	1	84	17	101	355	28.5	108	28	-7
TOTAL	34	189	18	24	26	70	1	2	10	13	2	4	393	202	595	2211	26.9	554	26	41
Total in Oct. 2020	31	186	18	21	30	57	1	2	8	12	2	4	372	182	554	2213	25.0			

6. August Transition Program

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

The program will be offered to students from August 23-27, 2021 and is designed to assist students in transitioning slowly back to school. The program will take place in all NCDSB schools where students have registered. Hiring is currently taking place to staff Teachers, Child & Youth Workers and Education Assistants at each location to support the students. Five of the schools will be offering a special program to those students who are on the Autism spectrum and being supported utilizing the FRIENDS program.

7. Transition to PowerSchool

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

The transition from Maplewood to PowerSchool is currently taking place and will be operational for the September 2021 school year start. PowerSchool will include Finance, Human Resources and all student data in one system. PowerSchool includes modules specifically related to Special Education services. Catherine and Katie have been working closely with PowerSchool to have the modules accessible by the start of the school year. IEP & IPRC will be accessible through the new system. The integrated system will allow staff to draw the information directly into the templates, which will alleviate additional data entry requirements.

8. Specialized Programs for 2021-2022

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

NCDSB is very committed to being an inclusive board where the majority of our students have access to programs included in the regular classroom. However, we have recognized there are students who have needs that extend beyond what is available in a regular classroom. We have been working to address the needs of those students.

St. Joseph offers a multi-disciplinary program, 12 students are expected to be enrolled for the September 2021 class. The students in that program have a variety of needs.

St. Jerome offers a class for students who are on the Autism spectrum. There are young students who are just starting school with significant communication issues therefore the class size will not exceed 6 for enrolment.

St. Patrick Cobalt will also be offering an Essential Skills class for 0.6 of the day. For the 2020-2021 school year, the class was offered at a 0.5 for the day.

New for the 2021-2022 school year is a new 0.5 a day program St. Patrick Kapuskasing for students on the Autism spectrum. The programs focus will be on Literacy and Numeracy.

Students taking part in one of the specialized programs will be integrated into the regular classroom for a portion of their school day. The goal of the program is to have the students return to the regular classroom during their school career.

9. Agency Reports

Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre

The Centre is currently adjusting their Austim Program to make the changes that the Ministry has implemented to the Ontario Austim Program Guidelines. Once the changes have been finalized, the projected implementation date is January 2022. To address the children currently on a waitlist the Centre is working to streamline services. It will ensure that children are receiving a consultation and tools to work on while waiting to obtain additional services.

The Lords Kitchen

Due to the high level of Covid cases with the Porcupine Health Unit The Lords Kitchen decided to close for a 3 week period. The Salvation Army has been provided meals during the closure. The reopening date will be June 24, 2021. Food service is continuing as a takeout style due to the Pandemic. Services are provided every Thursday evening for dinner and every Friday morning for breakfast.

Timmins Native Friendship Centre

Due to the high level of Covid cases with the Porcupine Health Unit the Centre has limited the client face-to-face services and opted for over the phone consultations. This approach still allows for working closely with the clients and their worker. A weekly hot lunch is offered on Tuesday and snack bags on Wednesday to help address the needs of the community. Services and programs are being offered virtually until the cases in the area decrease.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

In order for clients to receive services an appointment is made through the agency as the office remains closed due to the Pandemic. Changes have been made to the intake process and two senior clinicians are assisting in making assessments on how to better address the needs of the individual(s). Roughly, a year ago a new process was introduced for those who utilize Mental Health Counseling. The process is designed for the clients to see a counselor within 10 days for a single session. During the single session an assessment is made and if the client needs to be referred to another agency NEOFACS will assist the client in completing the referral.

Funding was receiving from the Ministry to invest in Children's Mental Health programs. The agency is working on hiring a new team consisting of two intake workers and crisis services within the agency. It will reduce the workload on the existing clinicians and allow for a focused approach on long term complex cases. Waitlists within catchment area vary depending on location. Currently within the Timmins area, the waitlist is 5-6 months due to staffing constraints.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

In person assessments have resumed with the Temiskaming Health Unit region, as Covid cases are low within the area. Safety measures continue to be adhered to while completing the assessments. The clients with the Timmins area are currently in the process for receiving their second dose of the Covid vaccine.

10. Date of Next Meeting – TBD once the 2021-2022 dates are confirmed

11. Other Business – N/A

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: S.Skalecki

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

CARRIED