

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

11:45 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair
Mackenzie Carrier, Community Living Timmins
Ron MacInnis, NCDSB Trustee
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Heather Demers, The Lord's Kitchen
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee

1. Welcome and Prayer

Joel McCartney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.
Joel McCartney chaired the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: E. Renaud

SECONDED BY: B. Richer

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: B. Richer

SECONDED BY: E. Renaud

THAT the minutes of May 20, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Special Education Plan for 2020-2021

Presented by Daphne Brumwell

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN ACTIONS FOR 2020-2021

1. Continue to work on the creation of the documents that outline the various internal processes found in the special education department.
2. Explore an online Referral Process that will allow both the Special Education and Mental Health departments to streamline this fairly intensive paper process. Explore the opportunity to use the new PowerSchool Student Information System to generate such referrals.
3. Encourage schools to include students in the IPRC and IEP process where appropriate (Grade 7 & up)
4. 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. Complete another audit of IEPs in November 2020 and share results with school principals and RTs in December 2020. Follow up with another review in March 2021 of the same IEPs that were audited in the fall to determine the degree to which recommendations have been implemented. Ensure all new teachers hired who have not previously done the NCDSB IEP e-Hub course, complete this by the end of September 2020.
5. Ensure parents are aware of our SEAC membership and dates for our monthly meetings through posting of information on the board website by September 30, 2020. Minutes of SEAC meetings will also be posted on a monthly basis. We will continue to explore additional community representatives on SEAC, particularly ensuring that we have a rep from one of our Indigenous partners.
6. 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 2020 with a follow up for students at risk in June 2021. 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 2021 so that they can implement appropriate interventions based on the results of the Brigance. Revise and implement the Early Identification Student Profile by June 2021.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. In addition to the usual 35-40 assessment completed each year, provide up to 4 psychological assessments annually for students we suspect are ASD. This will be done through our contracted psychologist. Diagnosis of ASD is becoming very challenging for families in the north. Wait-lists are long and services are scarce.
11. Continue to work with our contracted SLP provider to ensure the provision of additional and more consistent therapy for students requiring language support. This funding will come from the Northern Support Initiative and is done in collaboration with our co-terminus English school board.
12. 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 2020-2021 be presented to the Board of Trustees at the June 24, 2020 Board Meeting held via WebEx due to the Covid 19 pandemic. All in attendance passed the Motion.

Ron MacInnis Board of Trustees accepted the Special Education Plan for 2020-2021 and signed a Motion of Approval.

5. Special Education Funding Update 2020-2021

Funding for the upcoming school year was received from the Ministry of Education and is in the process of being reviewed by Daphne and the Superintendent of Business Keld Scott. The Educational Assistant and Child and Youth Worker allocations are almost finalized and will be shared with the schools shortly. The goal is to meet the needs of each school as effectively as possible. There has been a slight increase over the previous years funding, allowing the staff in place currently to be maintained. Confirmation of staffing will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

6. Agency Reports

NEOFACS - North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

NEOFACS staff are continuing to work virtually from home during the Covid19 pandemic. Staff have been able to reach out to clients via email and are offering sessions through ZOOM or over the phone.

The Transition program would benefit the youth clients; some concerns have been about transitioning back to school and the threat of contracting Covid 19.

7. Date of Next Meeting To be determined once the 2020-2021 schedule is finalized

8. Other Business

Transition Program for Students with Special Needs

The Ministry of Education has provided funding to implement a program focusing on students with special education needs or mental health needs. The program will run from August 17 to 28, 2020 and will take place in the schools pending the Covid 19 pandemic outcome. The criteria guidelines for the students to participate in the program was any identified student, any student not identified but has an IEP or behaviour support plan in place. Students who access a Child and Youth Worker for mental health support and any additional students who may benefit in the program.

353 Students have been identified who would benefit from the program and the school principals will be managing the program within their school. The program will take place for 2 hours per day, with the focus being on Gap Closing, Self-Regulation, and Stress Management. The students will be able to see the location of their locker and classroom for the upcoming school year. Social distancing and personal protective equipment would also be addressed during the transition.

Joel McCartney read a letter for The Halton Catholic District School Board sent to The Honorable Stephen Lecce

- See Attached Letter

9. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 pm.

CARRIED.

