



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, January 17, 2007
11:45 a.m.
Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Chair of the Board
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee - Timmins
Tricia Stefanic Wertz, Program Principal - Student Services
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Denis Lincez, NCDSB Trustee - Kapuskasing
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone, wished them a belated Happy New Year and led the group in a prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: W. Russell
SECONDED BY: D. Butterworth

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held November 15, 2006 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Introduction of New Trustee Representatives**

Colleen Landers introduced Fred Salvador, newly-elected trustee for the Timmins area, and informed the members that Denis Lincez, Trustee for the Kapuskasing area, sent his regrets for being unable to attend his first SEAC meeting but will be joining us by video conference in the future. Kay welcomed the two new trustees to SEAC.

5. **OPA Student Assessment Project**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that the Board has received funding from the Ontario Psychological Association in the amount of \$25,000. The Board also has the opportunity to apply for additional funding up to a maximum of \$85,000. If the proposal is approved, the Board will recruit two new psychologists from Northern Ontario, Jennifer and Trevor Sullivan, who are interested in working with northern families. Their expertise will help reduce wait times for student assessments for JK to Grade 4 students, and will enhance teacher capacity. Joel McCartney reminded SEAC that CTCRC can be used to support assessments for students with suspected developmental delays. Tricia will provide the members with a copy of the Board plan. She is also hoping to obtain the STAR program for autistic students and for children with developmental disabilities.

6. **Psychological Assessments at the NCDSB**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz reported that Dr. Lawrence is the primary psychologist for NCDSB. He recently finished his visits to our southern schools, from Kirkland Lake to Cobalt, and will be returning to Timmins to continue with his assessments in early Spring.

7. **CODE Project Update**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz indicated that the DELTA Learning Institute is in its 2nd day, today being at St. Joseph School. The budget for the CODE Project 2006-2007 will be revisited with allocations redistributed to human resources. The Board will be hiring an educational assistant at each of its DELTA schools, specific to literacy and numeracy. The services for a half-time service clerk has been secured, and a special assignment teacher has been hired. The three schools will receive deep, intense professional learning resources to augment and enhance their professional growth. The goal of the schools is to engage in a pilot service delivery model where assessment tools will be implemented, and student achievement tracked. The model will be shared system-wide next year and the three schools will become lighthouse schools.

8. School Visits

Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Dan Loreto will soon visit all of the schools to discuss staffing, look at the special education budget for next year and the needs for children with special needs. They will review current educational assistant timetables and will start assigning personnel according to the schools' needs for the 2007-2008 school year. Colleen Landers informed the members that the special education funding was reduced last year and doesn't expect the government to increase the funding next year. She stressed the importance for parents to start thinking about communicating their concerns to the government and try to make them understand the needs of their children. It was suggested that SEAC send correspondence to other Special Education Advisory Committees and to the Minister expressing our concerns over the funding and a copy sent to the Deputy Minister and to our Member of Parliament. Colleen Landers advised the members that a recommendation from SEAC has to be forwarded to the Board members and they would discuss it and send it off on SEAC's behalf.

9. Agency Reports

Joel McCartney mentioned that the CTRC has hired an extra behaviour therapist who will provide support to individuals 18 years and older. This service which will materialize in a couple of months from the North Network of Specialized Care may be provided to area schools.

Bill Russell stated that 500 people are registered at St. Martin de Porres and that the Salvation Army has closed their food bank. Some people have been abusing their services and access to it is by special appointment. He added that a one-day session will be held for volunteers to go over existing programs.

Child and Family Services is developing a school-based program and Kay Gaffney will provide more information at the end of February or beginning of March. She also mentioned that ISNC (Integrated Services for Northern Children) is moving into a new direction with a realignment of professional resources. Kay is concerned that, although the services were revisited and changed, ISNC will always remain in rural communities.

10. Correspondence

Kay Gaffney shared the following correspondence with the members:

- a letter from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
- a letter from the Ontario Association of Education Advocates

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

The use of the SMART Boards will be demonstrated by children and teachers at Sacred Heart School at a future meeting.

12. **Other Business** - Nil

13. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: N. Cole

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

CARRIED.