



## **SEAC MEETING**

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair  
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair  
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee  
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair  
Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Supervisor - Student Services/Student Success  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:**

Neil Iserhoff, Aboriginal Community  
Marc Leroux, Easter Seal Society  
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health  
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education

### **1. Opening Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

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

MOVED BY: N. Cole  
SECONDED BY: D. Butterworth

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: B. Russell  
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held May 28, 2008 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Introduction of Members**

The SEAC membership remains the same as the 2007-2008 school year.

**5. Meetings Schedule 2008-2009**

The Meetings Schedule 2008-2009 provided was amended by the members. The October meeting was changed to Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

**6. Elections**

To ensure alignment with SEAC regulations, an election of the Chair and Vice-Chair was conducted. It was indicated that Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Judy Piché had volunteered to be Scrutineers should the need arise.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz opened the nomination process.

**1<sup>st</sup> Call for Nominations**

Dolores Butterworth nominated Kay Gaffney as Chair of SEAC. Nancy Cole seconded the nomination.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations** - Nil

**3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Nominations** - Nil

Tricia Stefanic Weltz declared the nominations closed and declared Kay Gaffney, Chair of SEAC for the 2008-2009 school year.

**Motion**

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth  
SECONDED BY: N. Cole

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Kay Gaffney as Chair of SEAC for the 2008-2009 school year.

**CARRIED**

## **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Kay Gaffney, Chair of SEAC, opened the nomination process.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Call for Nominations**

Dolores Butterworth nominated Bill Russell as Vice-Chair of SEAC. Joel McCartney seconded the nomination.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Nominations** - Nil

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Nominations** - Nil

Kay Gaffney declared the nominations closed and declared Bill Russell, Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2008-2009 school year.

### **Motion**

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Bill Russell as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2008-2009 school year.

**CARRIED**

## **7. Goals for Student Services 2008-2009**

A Resource Teachers meeting was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> where the goals for Student Services were shared.

## **8. Parent Guide for IPRC**

The Parent Guide for Identification, Placement & Review Committee has been revised and will be distributed to parents whose children have been identified. A copy of the guide and the forms will also be posted on our website.

## **9. Student Services Professional Learning**

Dan Loreto and Tricia Stefanic Weltz continue to be involved with local and provincial agencies. They plan on attending the OPA Summit scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>. On November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, they will have an opportunity to highlight our board's projects at the final CODE Summit. The pair are working extensively with Integrated Services for Children (ISC - formerly ISNC), with the Transition Committee, and with the Provincial Schools. Tricia informed the members that NCDSB, in partnership with DSBONE, are developing a divestment plan to meet both our needs. Kay Gaffney commended them for all the work they have accomplished.

**10. Trillium North**

Dan Loreto has been seconded to the Ministry and commented on his extensive partnership with the Provincial Schools. In the Spring, the Director of the Provincial Schools decided to service students with learning disabilities in a more direct way by having two intermediate classrooms in the North to service NCDSB and DSBONE. A teacher and an educational assistant from each board have also been seconded and have received intensive training of the new reading intervention program from Toronto Sick Kids. Dan is overseeing both sites - one at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School and the other at New Liskeard Public School. The teachers have immediate access to video conference, media link, assistive technology and support with the Provincial Schools. Tricia and Dan have been invited to the Summit in Toronto to profile the Trillium Schools in bigger ways provincially. Kay Gaffney congratulated the board for hiring Tricia and Dan, two people who have the capabilities of making things happen. Tricia will arrange a visit of the Trillium classroom at OICS for the members of SEAC.

**11. Agency Reports**

Bill Russell indicated that the number of people going to the Lord’s Kitchen has increased.

The Ontario government has revised Bill 77, an Act to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities. Joel McCartney stated that the Act, which hasn’t been revised in 27 years, brings forefront to the standard practice and support of developmental disabilities in Ontario. The Act has been published and is now available.

Dolores Butterworth mentioned that the *Parents as Partners* group, who is associated with the Timmins Transition Committee, is hosting workshops to help parents of young children with special needs who will be starting school in September 2008, to develop effective partnerships with schools. The workshops are offered at no cost to families. Principals will be posting the ad in their schools and advertising in their newsletters.

Nancy Cole brought two copies of a DVD entitled *The F.A.T. (Frustration/Anxiety/Tension) City Workshop, Understanding Learning Disabilities*. Director of Eagle Hill School Outreach Program in Connecticut, Richard Lavoie, shows what it feels like to have learning disabilities. Nancy suggested that everybody watch the DVD.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 11:45 a.m.

**13. Other Business**

Bill Russell requested an update on the storage of specialized equipment. Tricia mentioned that a centralized storage space is much needed in order to control and reallocate the equipment to other kids in the system. She added that a board policy should be implemented for discarding materials. Rick Brassard will bring this item forward to the Board of Trustees.

An updated Special Education budget will be sent to the members by the end of the week. Mary-Lou Pollon will be invited to attend the October meeting to discuss the budget.

14. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:38 p.m.  
CARRIED.