



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

11:30 a.m.

St. Paul School

MINUTES

PRESENT:

- Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair**
- William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen / Vice-Chair**
- Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee**
- Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre**
- Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee**
- Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee**
- Jamie Corston, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker**
- Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services**
- Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder**

EXCUSED:

- Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind**
- Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association**
- Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education**

1. Visit to the Essential Skills Classroom

SEAC members were greeted by St. Paul School Principal John D’Alessandri who then gave the members a tour of the school’s Essential Skills Classroom. Teacher Melissa Lavoie provided information on how the needs of her students are met in this classroom. Of particular interest in the visit was the teacher’s creative use of technology to support instruction in the classroom. The pair were congratulated and thanked by Kay Gaffney.

2. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney led the group in prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held April 15, 2009 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

5. Aboriginal Representative

Kay Gaffney welcomed Jamie Corston to SEAC. Jamie is the Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Aboriginal Liaison Worker.

6. Summary of SEA Expenses

Erica Raymond provided the members with a summary of the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) for the 2008-2009 school year. She stated that the Ministry is becoming more stringent on child provision. A procedure will be put in place for next year's claims.

7. Progress on Classroom in Kirkland Lake

A specialized program that helps with the programming requirements of high needs students at Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake was put in place after the March Break. Positive feedback from teachers and support from the school's child and youth worker were received. The students, who can't work in a regular classroom, are gaining confidence and feel safe in their space.

8. ABA and the Implementation of PPM 140

Erica Raymond and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Lead, Joel McCartney, have been visiting schools and meeting with staffs and their students with autism. Straight forward teaching techniques were incorporated in the classrooms. The book on ABA written by Kay Gaffney's daughter, Jennifer Krumins, is being used by resource teachers and by Dan Loreto in his Special Education course.

9. Special Education Board Plan

Amendments to the Special Education Board Plan were distributed. We are required to report to the Ministry only on the amendments for this academic school year. The summary of accessibility of school buildings will be emailed to the members.

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

That the Northeastern Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee accept the amendments to the Special Education Plan as revised throughout the 2008-2009 school year.

CARRIED.

10. April P.D. Day Update

The focus of the April 27th P.D. Day was on special education. School-based teams met in the morning where intense strategies, success stories, and challenges were discussed. Positive feedback was received from the school staffs. In the afternoon, teachers were able to attend breakout sessions, such as SMART Board training, Kurzweil, tiered interventions, deescalation strategies, strategies and ideas when children are in crisis, classroom management. The document *Education for All* will be presented on the September 2009 P.D. Day.

11. Agency Reports

Bill Russell stated that the number of kids going to the Lord's Kitchen hasn't slacked off. Meals were served by policemen last week and they were able to interact with everyone.

Child and Family Services will announce publicly their accreditation from both child protection and children's mental health at their annual general meeting on June 10th. CFS was involved in Autism Week, Mental Health Week, and Volunteer Week in April and May. Director of CFS, Rick Lambert-Bélanger, has been working on an agency for the native population. Kay Gaffney added that the Canadian Tenors will be in Timmins in October to support the foundation.

Joel McCartney recapped his activities since he assumed the role of ABA Lead. He expressed that there needs to be a better connection between home and school. The CFS can be a partner as they work towards transitioning strategies implemented into the school to the home.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, scheduled on June 17, 2009, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

13. Other Business - Promotion

Erica Raymond recommended that a media release on the provincial schools be created in order to publicize that NCDSB does provide quality education for all students. She also mentioned that we are still searching for SEAC members. Steve Malciw suggested that Northern College be contacted.

14. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. Corston

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED.