



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:**
- Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair**
 - William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen / Vice-Chair**
 - Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind**
 - Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association**
 - Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee**
 - Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee**
 - Jamie Corston, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker**
 - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education**
 - Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services**
 - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder**
- EXCUSED:**
- Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee**
 - Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre**
- GUEST:**
- Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services**

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: F. Salvador

SECONDED BY: S. Malciw

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held May 20, 2009 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Meetings Schedule 2009-2010

The meetings schedule of the 2009-2010 school year provided was accepted by the members.

5. Elections - Chair and Vice-Chair

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

6. Bishop Belleau School - Moosonee

In June 2009, the Ministry of Education announced the amalgamation of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board and the Moosonee RCSS Board and that NCDSB would inherit Bishop Belleau School, located in Moosonee. It was also necessary to amalgamate both SEACs. An invitation to recruit members will be sent out in order to have representation from all corners of the district school board. Thirty (30) students considered special needs attend the school and are in special programs specific to native culture and oral language components in Cree. Tricia is confident that the Resource Teacher and the Special Education Coordinator will support these students' needs. Tricia and Erica will present at the October meeting a job description for the coordinator's position and other issues related to special education.

7. September P.D. Day

The September 25th Professional Development Day offered sessions in 6 different sites. School staffs chose the sessions they expressed an interest in which were tailor-made for the individual needs, i.e. IEP training, running records, autism, speech, differentiated instruction. Jamie recommended to add an aboriginal sensitivity session with the teachers at the January P.D. Day.

8. Provincial Schools at O'Gorman High School

Dan Loreto is delighted with the Trillium classroom's student test results done through the Hospital for Sick Children. NCDSB decided to expand the program to O'Gorman High School. A teacher and an educational assistant were trained over the summer. The classroom at OHS is set up with assistive technology for 8 students. Kay Gaffney wished Dan all the best on behalf of SEAC.

9. Special Education Enrolment and Staffing

An overview of the 2009-2010 Student Services staffing was provided. An increase in enrolment at some of our schools was the result of a rise in special needs students with a total of 355 identified students across the board.

10. Leveled Literacy Intervention

The leveled literacy intervention program, based on the Fountas and Pinnell reading system, is an intense and accelerated program designed to intervene with children who can't read at level 1 and 2. The progress is quick and lasting. The schools using this program are Aileen Wright, Sacred Heart (Timmins), St. Jerome, St. Joseph, St. Patrick (Cobalt), and St. Paul. Teachers look at back scores and assessments; students undergo assessments to determine where they start off. Positive results should be seen in 16 weeks.

11. Special Incident Portion Applications

A session on training board representatives on how to apply for Special Incident Portions (SIP) was attended by Erica Raymond and Dan Loreto. NCDSB has applied for funding in the amount of \$100,000 to be used to support children with very severe needs.

12. Agency Reports

The Lord's Kitchen is up and running again after the summer break, serving 473 plates last week to children and their families. Bill Russell mentioned that he is Chairman of the Temiskaming Community Legal Clinic and is looking at ways to help students interested in a career in law. Students from various schools can sit in and see how the legal system works. Funding can be arranged to students who want a law degree.

The Director of Operations at Canadian Mental Health Association has stepped into the CEO position, filling in for Elizabeth Ditullio.

Child and Family Services of Timmins will hold their first board meeting tonight. CFS ran an excellent day camp over the summer.

Jamie Corston stated that the Timmins Native Friendship Centre was invited to O'Gorman High School to promote programs, targeting youth 13 to 25 years old. The Centre brought in drummers and presented on the different programs they offer.

Students in the Essential Skills classroom at O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School are receiving aboriginal teachings. With the help of an educational assistant and assistive technology, 11 male students are involved with the Good Food Box Program where community members purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and the students help with the distribution. Congratulations should be extended to the principal of OICS, Ted Weltz, for his vision and the development of a specialized program, and to Shannon Kleinhuis, classroom teacher, who is doing an unbelievable job reaching these students. Dan Loreto was also instrumental in the development of this classroom.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

14. Other Business

Steve Malciw mentioned that Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the opening of a children's treatment centre in North Bay. One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre of Northeast Ontario has opened the doors to its permanent site. The centre provides rehabilitative services, including physiotherapy, and occupational and speech language therapy. Pediatricians, visiting specialists and residents and students from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine will work from the centre.

On behalf of SEAC, Kay Gaffney welcomed NCDSB's new director, Glenn Sheculski.

15. Adjournment

MOVED BY: M. Lionello

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