



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
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
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
Linda Reynolds-Lantz, Resource Teacher, Bishop Belleau School
Rache Hughes, Payukotayno James Bay Child and Family Services
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Lynne Gray, James Bay Association for Community Living
Alice Sackaney, Native Friendship Centre
Cecile Small, Northern College Day Care

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held January 20, 2010 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Alternate Assessments Session

Erica Raymond and Dan Loreto attended a session on alternate assessments hosted by the lead board, Rainbow District School Board. Board representatives had the opportunity to share best practices on assessment interventions, reporting to parents, and work adaptable to developmental programs. The Ministry will provide support for students with autism. Erica will update SEAC on the progress of alternate assessments.

5. CODE JK-1 Assessment and Intervention Project

The CODE JK-1 Assessment and Intervention Project piggybacks on the CODE Project held in the past. Funding from the Ministry will support the development and implementation of effective evidence-informed assessment and intervention strategies for all students in JK to Grade 1. The lead board is Sudbury Catholic District School Board. A meeting will take place in a few weeks to look at the different strategies.

6. Leveled Literacy Intervention Update

Erica Raymond mentioned that we continue to have strong results with the Leveled Literacy Intervention, a program designed for students who are not reading at grade level and accelerates leveled reading achievements. A select group of schools have piloted the program this year.

7. Visit to St. Raphael School, Sudbury

Erica Raymond, John D'Alessandri, and Glenn Sheculski visited St. Raphael School in Sudbury in February. The purpose of the visit was to see how other Catholic boards are meeting the needs for their students with developmental disabilities and students with extreme behavioural concerns. St. Raphael School has 4 specialized programs - one for 4 and 5 year olds, one for 6 to 9, one for 9 to 11, and one for students with behavioural concerns. The students are maintained in their classrooms but are integrated in physical education, art, and music. A therapist also comes in and works with these students. The behaviour program for the older students is linked to Child and Family Services in Sudbury and there is a process for admittance to the program. Child and Family Services own the program and have clinicians attached to the classroom and invite psychiatrists to work with the students.

8. In the Spotlight

Tricia Stefanic Weltz acknowledged the work of Shannon Kleinhuis, teacher at O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School. Shannon is a dedicated teacher delivering the Essential Skills classroom at OICS to 11 male students, each with very exceptional circumstance of primary behaviour. This classroom was designed by Principal Ted Weltz who believed his students needed something different as adolescent

learners. Their intellectual capacity required something other than the Ontario Curriculum. Students are provided with hands-on daily support of teacher, educational assistant and child and youth worker to meet their needs. They participate in regular field trips connecting them to the community, and differentiated instruction takes place in individualized scheduling, integration to gym and shops help build skills beneficial to them in the years ahead. Shannon brings experience and opportunity, and allows the boys to shine where they haven't necessarily shone before. Kay Gaffney congratulated Shannon, Ted, and the support staff at OICS.

9. Agency Reports

The Lord's Kitchen served a total of 445 plates last Thursday. School children are showing up without their parents.

Child and Family Services agencies throughout the province have money problems and the Commission is working on developing a strategy to overcome this financial burden. Kay Gaffney stated that other boards are sending us letters indicating their concerns for special education and our letter has also been sent out.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via videoconference.

11. Other Business - Nil

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
CARRIED.