



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

*"Living our Catholic Faith to shape success for all our learners"*

## **SEAC Meeting** **(Special Education Advisory Committee)**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

**11:45 a.m.**

**Catholic Education Centre**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair  
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair  
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board  
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

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

MOVED BY: N. Parnell  
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: F. Salvador  
SECONDED BY: N. Parnell

THAT the minutes of January 14, 2014 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. JK Registration Update**

The Junior Kindergarten Registration was held on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. A total of 89 registrants confirmed, and only 2 students with special education needs. Billie Richer shared that she received a call from Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières regarding the enrolment of her daughter. She is concerned that this school board had so much personal information taken from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Application for Direction of School Support. She added that the information on the form should not be used for recruiting purposes.

**5. Draft School Year Calendar**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided an overview of the draft 2014-2015 school year calendar. The members had no issues with this draft calendar.

**6. Staffing and Program Update**

Two support staff members will be added to the special education staffing. A half-time child and youth worker was hired at St. Jerome as there was a growing need for behaviour transitions in that community. Also, a posting for a transition educational assistant is out to support the needs at our Timmins elementary schools. A high number of four and five year old students require intensive behaviour and speech and language support.

**7. Good News**

A teacher at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School has reached out to her Grade 7 Math students who have learning and behavioural difficulties. Elizabeth Mulholland, assisted by Dan Loreto, has created a pilot program for students who have difficulty in Math. The hands-on content is applied in and outside the classroom and it has been proven fairly successful in helping to meet the needs of these students. The problem we are facing is the amount of mental health issues at the school. Mark Lionello mentioned that we need to implement a mindfulness program. He explained how the Mindful Bottle initiative is a strategy used to help young children to distract themselves from unpleasant situations in their lives.

**8. IEP Audit**

Dan Loreto is working with resource teachers on internal Individual Education Plans. All exceptionalities are examined and changes to the IEP will be implemented. Classroom teachers and resource teachers are working together and updating their learning expectations.

**9. Update on Behaviour Support and Alternative Education Programs**

The Behaviour Support working group is working with principals and teachers on how to deal with children who have behaviours by using a tiered intervention adapted to behaviours. The Alternative Education Program working group is using a curriculum model from Rainbow District School Board who has met Ontario curriculum expectations. The model is being piloted at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School.

**10. Budget Public Participation**

NCDSB is seeking out opinions of all stakeholders regarding the budget estimates for 2014-2015. The members were asked to submit feedback to Judy Piché who will collate and forward to the Director.

**11. Agency Reports**

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children is holding a conference in May; however, Billie Richer will not be attending.

A full range of activities will take place during Mental Health Week from May 5-11, 2014. Tables and booths will be set up for various agencies. Dr. Umesh Jain will present on ADHD at no cost on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Kay Gaffney will bring information on mental health and on summer camps at the next meeting.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference. The April meeting was rescheduled to April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**13. Other Business - Nil**

**14. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:35 p.m.  
CARRIED.