



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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

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

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer. A special welcome was extended to our newest member, Fred Salvador, who is replacing Colleen Landers.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: N. Parnell

SECONDED BY: B. Nowak

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of December 18, 2013 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. JK Registration

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that JK Registration will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. The number of students with special education needs will be shared at the next meeting. She added that all schools will have a full-day junior kindergarten program starting in September 2014. Kay Gaffney asked why St. Joseph School in South Porcupine does not have a French Immersion program. Tricia reminded the members that a review done a number of years ago concluded that it was not feasible. However, she will seek input from Senior Administration.

5. Good News

Dan Loreto reported that significant behaviour issues in a Grade 5 classroom at Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake have diminished considerably due to the teacher's differentiated instruction and student engagement. Teacher Crystal Kmet will be congratulated on behalf of SEAC.

6. Behaviour Support Working Group

A team of 13 staff members of the board, lead by Dan Loreto, met on January 13th to discuss salient behaviour issues. The group offered valuable insight into the process of ameliorating inappropriate behaviours. A list of symptoms and mitigating factors was determined and applied to the tiered intervention program across the board.

A working group has been established and will meet on January 15th in order to explore the alternative education program for those students who do not follow the Ontario Curriculum. The group will navigate through another board's curriculum and develop a reporting tool.

7. Mental Health Strategy Update

Mental Health Leader Judy Mord has developed a board steering committee comprised of representatives at all board levels. To better respond to the needs of students, committee members will work diligently in order to educate all stakeholders, implement monthly themes specific to depression and anxiety, and define the roles and responsibilities of child and youth workers.

8. UMAB Training and Action Plan

The Understanding and Managing Aggressive Behaviour (UMAB) program assists front line staff in responding to individuals who may be experiencing a crisis. Boards are required to have specific trainers to participate in a 5-day orientation session and be recertified twice annually. The new core UMAB training team, comprised of Dan Loreto, Genevieve Lemieux, Melanie Hannah, and Sue Cyr, are developing an action plan so that each school community has a UMAB team to respond to crisis situations.

9. Special Education Plan – Action Items

The Special Education Plan needs to be updated. We are currently looking at plans from different school boards across the province to help revitalize the plan.

10. Agency Reports

Tammie Molenaar mentioned that Community Living Timmins is looking at deficits and cutting costs.

CDSSAB is working on its 2014 capital plans. Options to use capital funding for full-day junior kindergarten are being discussed with NCDSB.

Natalie Parnell stated that surplus funds are reserved for Timmins Family Counselling Centre's domestic violence prevention high risk program for women age 16 and up. The agency is looking at younger children and trying to push down the age to 14.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

12. Other Business

A discussion took place relating to a letter sent to us by London District Catholic school Board.

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: B. Nowak
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:35 p.m.
CARRIED.