



**Northeastern
Catholic District**
SCHOOL BOARD

A place where we all belong.

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

PRESENT: Tara Ruel, Timmins Learning Centre
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Jessica Rocheleau, Kuuwanimano Child and Family Services
Ken Ryan, The Lord's Kitchen Society
Stan Skalecki, Vice Chair & NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, Chair & NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Julia Spadetto-Forward, School Principal St Jerome School
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Michele Mahaffy, Executive Assistant/ Recorder

EXCUSED: Ashley Rains, Community Living Timmins
Shannon Costello, The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Melanie Hannah, Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
Paula Croteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

Summary:

Colleen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and it commenced with a territory acknowledgment and prayer.

Approval of the agenda: Moved by Ellen Renaud and **SECONDED** by Stan Skalecki
That the agenda be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

Approval of the minutes of February 19, 2025, meeting
Moved by Stan Skalecki and **SECONDED** by Tara Ruel
That the minutes be approved and presented. **CARRIED**

The committee members introduced themselves to Ken Ryan, representing The Lord's Kitchen Society Child who will be joining the committee.

Mental Health Update – Presented by Kim McEntee

A report on mental health in schools was presented to the committee members, offering an overview of the strategies used to support students' well-being. The presentation covered the guidance, resources, and assistance available to students within schools. She also highlighted various support systems, including counseling services and peer support programs, along with resources accessible to both students and staff. In February, the OHS Youth Health and Wellness Fair took place, drawing over 400 students and more than 15 community partners.

The full presentation can be found in the meeting minutes on pages 4-12.

October 31st Data – Presented by Daphne Brumwell

Daphne reviewed the Special Education data from October with the group. The RTs are currently in the process of updating this data for March 31st, as required.

Review of the Special Education Plan for 2025-2027

Special Education updates are required every two years, which is a new development. However, this year is the one where updates must be made and approved. The action item list will be shared with the committee at the April SEAC meeting, and Daphne requested that the committee review the items and provide feedback at the May meeting.

Agency Reports

The Timmins Learning Centre

The Timmins Learning Center is concluding term two and has decided to pause the Homework Hub for term three to reassess its services. During this time, they will evaluate the cost-effectiveness, scope, methods, staffing, and overall approach to determine future decisions.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

The agency is currently at full capacity with a waitlist of about a month for services. In the northern regions, staffing challenges and vacancies are causing some delays, though recruitment efforts are ongoing. There has also been noticeable turnover, with several staff members, including supervisor Karen Kirk, retiring. Many social workers are transitioning to private practice, contributing to the staffing challenges.

The mental health services in the south are doing well, though there is some waitlisting in specific areas. The agency is collaborating more with the school board and other community groups, with a mental health initiative launching in May. The agency is also excited about upcoming community events, including a contest for kids and updated activities for the community. There is an expected increase in service requests around mid-March, a trend the agency observed in previous years. Additionally, they are offering assist training for staff and maintaining consistent programs, including parenting support.

The Lord's Kirchen Society

The Lord's Kitchen provides meals every Thursday and Friday, distributing about 180 meals on Thursdays between 4:00 and 5:30 PM, and 120-130 hot breakfasts on Fridays between 8:00 and 9:30 AM. On average, they hand out around 300 meals per week. During COVID, they adapted by handing meals out instead of allowing people inside, and even though they reopened the hall after the pandemic, most clients prefer to receive meals at the door, especially during the colder months.

For fundraising, the Lord's Kitchen is participating in the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign from April 28th to May 3rd, with funds going through the Costello Care and Community Center. They also solicit donations from businesses in the fall. As non-profit, they rely on fundraising to buy food and sustain their operations.

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

The focus of the agency's youth programs is currently on helping youth transition to post-secondary education. Recently, they toured Northern College with a few youths, and there is an upcoming open house on April 5th for youth to meet program coordinators and explore educational opportunities. The agency is also planning visits to Northern College campuses in Kirkland Lake and Haileybury.

Additionally, throughout the summer, the agency will offer life skills-based sessions, such as a "How to File Taxes 101" workshop, to help youth navigate the transition into adulthood.

Other Business – The federal agency that manages Jordan's Principle funding announced Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is making changes to improve the processing of requests under Jordan's Principle, aiming for clearer and more consistent policies and communications regarding the services First Nations children can access. This includes updating procedures for approving products, services, and supports, ensuring they promote substantive equality for these children.

To address the increased volume of requests, ISC is streamlining decision-making by expanding regional office involvement, reducing duplication, and giving more decision-making power to regional staff. The focus remains on providing funding and services to First Nations children facing barriers to access, with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and the coordination of services. ISC is committed to reforming Jordan's Principle to address service gaps, delays, and denials while ensuring equal access to government services.

Date of the Next Meeting – April 16, 2025, at 11:45 a.m.

Adjournment - Moved By: E. Renaud That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m. CARRIED

Mentally Healthy Schools

Guidance, resources and
support in schools





Mental Health at NCDSB



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Mental Health
Ontario

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Mental Health Strategy Work - Updates

- leadership and guidance about best practices
- implementation support and coaching
- carefully chosen resources that align with our needs & goals
- mental health literacy for students
- training for school mental health professionals & CYWs
- mental health awareness for parents/caregivers and families
- a platform for student voice and leadership in school mental health
- investment in staffing



smho-smso.ca



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Carefully Chosen Resources Student Mental Health Literacy Mental Health Promotion & Support for Families



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MY CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



Plans are in the works for CYWs will work with their teachers and/or principals to:

Organize a circle of support learning session for your grade 6's.

Why grade 6?

As per Ministry, all grades 6's should have knowledge about what services are available to them (in and out of school) and how to access them.

Grade 6 students will be asked a question on the EQAO to gauge their understanding about having mental health resources available to them (what/how to access).



School
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Ontario

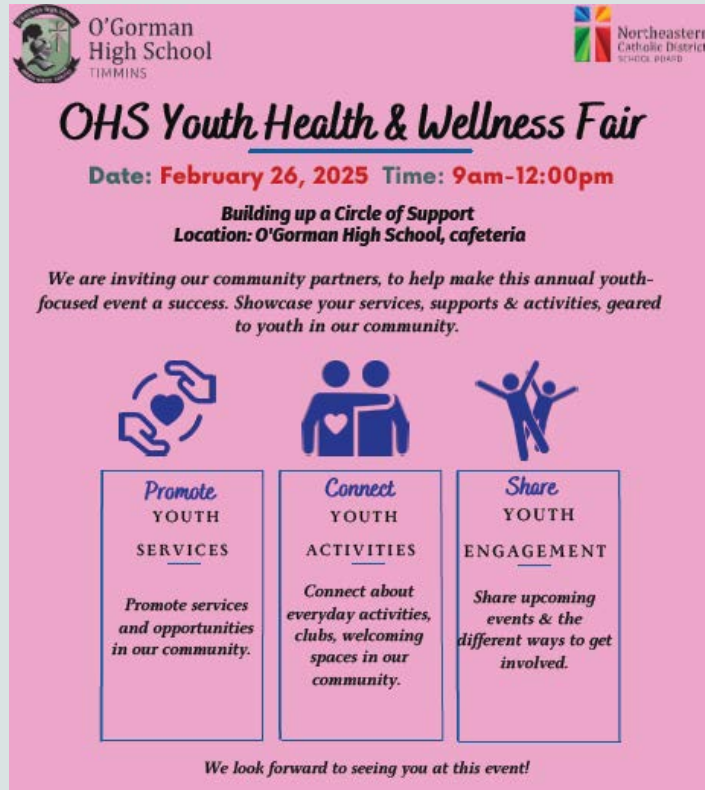
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Student Mental Health Literacy



400 + students

Over 15 community partners

Amazing feedback & learning opportunity for all!



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Mental Health Promotion & Support for Families

We had 190 parents enter and 50 kits available. Three winners were randomly drawn from your school's entries, with the rest of the winners drawn from all entries.

BISHOP BELLEAU, MOOSONEE- 3 WINNERS; ENGLISH CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL, NEW LISKEARD - 5 WINNERS

HOLY FAMILY, ENGLEHART - 7 WINNERS; O'GORMAN HIGH, TIMMINS - 3 WINNERS

O'GORMAN INTERMEDIATE, TIMMINS - 4 WINNERS; POPE FRANCE, TIMMINS - 2 WINNERS

SACRED HEART, KIRKLAND LAKE - 4 WINNERS; ST ANNE, IROQUOIS FALLS - 4 WINNERS

ST JEROME, KIRKLAND LAKE - 4 WINNERS; ST JOSEPH, SOUTH PORCUPINE - 3 WINNERS

ST PATRICK, COBALT - 7 WINNERS; ST PATRICK, KAPUSKASING - 4 WINNERS

WE APPRECIATE OUR FAMILIES!



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What parents are saying about their NCDSB school....

Supportive
environment

Very
welcoming
caring and
kind
atmosphere

Values holistic
& religious
growth of all
their students.

The teachers are
willing to work with
the children to
make sure they
are doing well in
school

How it's a
small school
and everyone
knows
everyone

The staff are great.
My children feel
safe, respected
and valued by their
teachers and enjoy
going to school
each day.

Small class
sizes



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Thank you

Kim McEntee

**Supervisor of Mental Health &
Wellness**

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