



## **SEAC MEETING**

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

11:45 a.m.

Via Video Conference

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins, Chair  
Kim Morris, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre  
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition  
Elizabeth King, Trustee, Iroquois Falls/Cochrane  
Steve Malciw, Trustee, Kirkland Lake  
Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative  
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative  
Alana Loreto, Parent Representative  
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative  
Karen Rowe, Assistant to the Director  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher, Special Education  
Claire Lamarre-Goyer, Program Principal, Special Education/Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Kevin Duke, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Paul Toffanello, Director of Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant

**GUEST:** Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal - Curriculum

### **1. Opening Prayer**

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer. Claire Lamarre-Goyer asked that the group keep Dan Loreto's family in their prayers. Claire also introduced Karen Rowe as the newly-appointed acting Superintendent of Education/Curriculum and Special Education.

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

MOVED BY: W. Russel  
SECONDED BY: N. Cole

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

### 3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: A. Loreto  
SECONDED BY: W. Russell

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held November 16, 2005 be approved as presented, following a clarification with respect to the Best Starts program establishing hubs in our schools in the southern part of our Board, and not across the Board.

CARRIED.

### 4. **Guest Speaker - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal, Numeracy**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal, Numeracy, gave the main highlights of a meeting she, Alana Loreto, parent representative, and Gary Dowe, Coordinator of the Infancy Program for CTRC, attended earlier in January on the new Ministry document Planning Entry To School, A Resource Guide. Although this document is not a policy, it is an excellent tool which contains best practices to ensure greater consistency across the province to ensure that entry to school for all children, and particularly students with special needs, is a smooth one. Claire Lamarre-Goyer was then given the opportunity to give two examples of smooth entry into our system for two students with special needs.

### 5. **CODE Project Update**

Claire Lamarre-Goyer informed the committee as to the status of this project, focusing on the excellent response on the part of schools to enter into worthwhile professional learning communities. She also explained the Provincial Schools involvement in upcoming workshops on assistive technologies. The long-term goal of this aspect of the project is to develop ongoing collaboration between our Board and the provincial schools to better serve the needs of students with learning disabilities.

### 6. **Public Consultation for Special Education**

Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher for Special Education, summarized the main points of the most recent public consultation paper from the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education:

- ▶ the new CDCP College Program for Autism and Behavioral Sciences;
- ▶ the \$40,000,000 cap on special education funding and the proposed criteria for the yet to be released funding model;
- ▶ transition to school programs through the Foundations Program;
- ▶ the data base on accommodations used for students with special needs to ensure greater success on EQAO testing, and a subsequent reduction of the 46% exemption rate;
- ▶ the high cost of psychological assessments; and, new teacher induction programs.

### 7. **Board Plan - Minor Revisions for 2005-2006**

Claire Lamarre-Goyer is expecting to receive the Ministry's recommendations for revisions to the 2005-2007 Special Education Board Plan. SEAC members will be consulted on these revisions.

## 8. Agency Reports

Joel McArtney informed the group that there was nothing new for him to report on behalf of the Cochrane Timiskaming Resource Center.

Bill Russell informed the members that the poverty Action Coalition is trying to recruit a lead agency in the creation of a main warehouse for food distribution. He commended the Northeastern Catholic District School for its commitment, through breakfast programs and other initiative, in their efforts to ensure no child goes hungry.

Kay Gaffney reported, on behalf of Child and Family Services of Timmins, that a recent court decision will ensure that children with autism over the age of six will continue to receive IBI training following reassessment. Currently, there are 14 children ages 0-6 on a waiting list for IBI training. The main reason is that there aren't enough therapists available to deliver the training.

Kay also reported that a Child Welfare Transformation which will focus on seven key priorities have been established. Kay suggested that Melissa Garneau, who is involved in this dossier, could be invited to speak to SEAC members at a future date to explain these seven priorities.

Claire Lamarre-Goyer will have copies made of the newsletter Our Voice to be attached to the next agenda. This document, which was brought in by Kay Gaffney, gives a website which people can access to obtain more information on mental health issues for children: [www.parentsforchildren'smentalhealth.org](http://www.parentsforchildren'smentalhealth.org).

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 11:45 a.m. via video conference**. Please call Judy Piché at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

## 10. Adjournment

MOVED BY: A. Loreto

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:50 p.m.  
CARRIED.