



## **SEAC MEETING**

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

5:30 p.m. (face-to-face)

Catholic Education Centre

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair  
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (early departure  
6:45 p.m.)

Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative  
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Vice-Chair - Cochrane/Iroquois Falls  
Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee, Kirkland Lake  
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal - Special Education  
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Special Education  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Kevin Duke, Canadian Mental Health Association  
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition  
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative

### **1. Opening Prayer**

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer.

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

Add: 10.1 Special Education Budget (J. McCartney)

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held September 20, 2006 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Presentation by Dan Loreto - Strategies that Work**

Children who have profound learning disabilities have the opportunity to attend a provincial demonstration school which offers several programs. The Sagonaska School in Milton, Ontario also provides assessment training for school board staff. Dan Loreto elaborated on an amazing training opportunity which he and special education resource teachers (SERTs) will receive next week. These SERTs will then work with children in their own schools using the intervention model. The children will be video taped and the SERTs will take their data to Milton for a week-long intensive course in July 2007 as they will become certified trainers of our Board. A lot of children who do not have access to the Sagonaska School will benefit from this training. Kay Gaffney wished the trainers luck in this initiative.

**5. CODE Proposal 2006**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz announced that she was successful in completing the CODE proposal which is now entitled the DELTA Project (*Dedicated to Enhancing Learning, Teaching & Achievement*). The DELTA Project has three key areas of focus which are interconnected: Assistive Technology, Instructional Strategies, and School-Based Teams. Three schools have been identified as DELTA schools: Holy Family in Englehart, St. Joseph in South Porcupine, and St. Anne in Iroquois Falls. These schools will engage in various professional learning opportunities designed to enhance the teachers' and principals' understanding and use of effective instructional strategies, the integration of assistive technology in the classroom, and be provided with time to work collaboratively in school-based teams. The Board will get Ministry approval in November and the funding will come in two instalments. Tricia distributed a handout and will provide an update next month.

**6. Assistive Technology Update**

Problems with assistive technology have occurred in some schools but the technicians are working diligently to solve these issues. Two local schools will receive the Kurzweil training from Dan Loreto and Marc Hurtubise.

**7. The Tiered Approach to Early Identification and Intervention**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz spoke about the tiered approach to early identification and intervention which is a part of the DELTA Project. The goal of the tiered approach is to ensure that the children are receiving the needs they require which ties in with the goals of special education. Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Dan Loreto, and the special education resource teachers will be developing binders containing assessment tools for the teacher to use to monitor student progress, plan differentiated instructional strategies, and identify at-risk learners. The children may then be referred to tier 2 which involves more intensive instruction and support outside of language and mathematics. The third tier is for students who do not respond to instructional efforts in tiers 1 and 2. These students may need to be referred for more extensive psycho-educational assessment.

**8. Agency Reports**

Kay Gaffney mentioned that the Child Protection Transformation at Child and Family Services of Timmins is ongoing. She added that more information will be sent on school-based intervention preventive approaches. A report for schools to look at their needs regarding children at risk or at need of protection is forthcoming. The initial work with students in all four boards has been done. A meeting is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>.

On behalf of Joel McCartney, Dolores Butterworth, announced that Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last month. She added that the government has provided funding for the Passport Program which enables individuals with disabilities to participate in the activities of their choice.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

**10. Other Business**

**10.1 Special Education Budget**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz mentioned that the Special Education budget is forthcoming in November and will present it at the next meeting.

**11. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: N. Cole

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m.  
CARRIED.