



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 18, 2007
11:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart School, Timmins

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee - Timmins
Tricia Stefanic Wertz, Program Principal - Student Services
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
Denis Lincez, NCDSB Trustee - Kapuskasing
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education

GUEST: Norma Reid, Teacher, Sacred Heart School

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on March 21, 2007 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. SMART Board Presentation - Norma Reid

The use of the SMART Board was presented to the members by teacher Norma Reid and her students. Kay Gaffney thanked her for her presentation.

5. Saganoska Training

Dan Loreto gave an update on the Saganoska training. The application of the strategies learned at the training session this summer will be applied to the students in September.

6. CODE Project Update

Tricia Stefanic Weltz informed the members that the SMART Boards have all been mounted in the schools and the training is near completion. We are seeing continuous improvement in student achievement. DELTA days are taking place in schools every three weeks where teachers talk about the progress of their students and instructional methodology. The resources around guided reading and shared reading have been ordered for the schools. Kay Gaffney congratulated Tricia and her team for their excellent work on this project.

7. IEP Collaborative Review

The IEP Collaborative Review in Sudbury on April 3rd and 4th was attended by Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Dan Loreto and John D'Alessandri, principal of O'Gorman High School. The focus was on special education and developing an action plan to ensure the right type of professional development and training are necessary to build capacity with the development and implementation of IEPs. The document will need to be accountable to the provincial report card.

8. Autism Conference

Dan Loreto, Chantal Chaperon-Côté and Melanie Dixon-Fleury attended an autism conference on March 28th and 29th put on by the Geneva Centre for Autism. They were teamed up with other boards and reflected on current theory and practice. They were provided with intensive behavior intervention strategies which they will share at the next SERT meeting.

9. OPA Action Plan

Tricia Stefanic Weltz stated that psychologists, Trevor Sullivan and Mandy McMann, have begun assessing students and will be doing contact calls with the parents. Joel McCartney mentioned that if invited and with parental consent, the CTRC could also be involved with teacher consultation and IPRC meetings for CTRC clients within our school board.

10. Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for the student services department include the following: DELTA meetings, IPRCs, April 30th P.D. Day, ISNC meeting, OPA plan monitoring meeting, regional autism meeting in North Bay. Kay Gaffney stated that Tricia and Dan are doing a fantastic job with the kids.

11. Agency Reports

Joel McCartney was pleased to announce that the CTRC hired a psychometrist.

Kay Gaffney spoke about the child protection transformation changes at Child and Family Services. The way children are taken into care has been altered across the province allowing family members to act as foster parents. The process used focuses on strength-based assessments. She added that ISNC's main focus is to provide effective psychological services for rural communities. May 7th to 13th will be Children's Mental Health Week and everyone is welcome to attend the events, particularly the kick-off on the 7th at 9:00 a.m. featuring guest speaker, Dr. Dianne Mathes, along with dignitaries, Board President, staff and community. Dr. Mathes will also be holding a community forum on "Strength Focused Parenting for Healthy Kids" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 707 Ross Avenue East.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be combined with the June meeting and will be held on **Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. (face-to-face) at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board.** Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

13. Other Business

Tricia Stefanic Weltz mentioned that she will begin the budget process and welcomes any input from SEAC members. The budget and changes to the SEAC Board Plan will be shared at the next meeting.

14. Adjournment

MOVED BY: D. Loreto

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
CARRIED.