



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee
Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair
Steve Malciw, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Wetz, Supervisor - Student Services/Student Success
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED:

Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Neil Iserhoff, Aboriginal Community
Marc Leroux, Easter Seal Society
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: D. Butterworth

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney
SECONDED BY: D. Butterworth

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held September 17, 2008 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

4. **Guest: Brenda Lee Lavoie, Timmins Transition Committee**

SEAC welcomed Brenda Lee Lavoie from the Timmins Transition Committee as our guest presenter. The presentation provided an overview of the Timmins Transition Committee project. Essentially, this committee is comprised of various agency representatives and school board partners working collaboratively to design appropriate transition frameworks for people with special needs from age 0 to 27.

5. **School Snapshot**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided the members with data which included student enrolment and the number of personnel in Student Services in each school of the NCDSB. To ensure that the needs of the schools were met, staffing was done in consultation with the principals. Rick Brassard stated that the Board of Trustees want feedback on how to spend the money wisely and how services are affected.

6. **Special Education Budget 2008-2009**

Discussion ensued regarding the Special Education Budget 2008-2009. A copy of last year's budget was provided. Tricia will clarify the baseline salary with Mary-Lou Pollon.

7. **Ministry Release of the IEP Samples**

A copy of a Ministry memo on the release of the IEP samples was shared with SEAC members as well as the school principals and resource teachers. The resource teachers will be using this information as a source of professional development at their next meeting. They will continue to work on the development of effective and meaningful IEPs. A resource which incorporates the work of Jennifer Krumins was purchased by the Board and will be shared with the resource teachers. Kay Gaffney thanked Tricia for sharing this book with the staff.

8. **Dedicated PD Day for Special Education**

April 27, 2009 was confirmed as the Professional Development Day for Special Education that the Ministry had asked to dedicate. An application to support the costs associated with the P.D. Day has been submitted. To ensure a meaningful day, it is hopeful that Trustees and SEAC members join the school staffs on that day. The release of *Education for All* will be a topic of discussion.

9. Student Services Update

Changes in Student Services stemmed from the departure of Superintendent of Education, Karen Rowe, who has accepted a position with the Ministry of Education Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat. Tricia Stefanic Weltz will assume the role of Superintendent of Education and will be reassigning duties of Student Services to another member of the Curriculum Team. Tricia will continue to oversee Student Services and sit on SEAC. As Dan Loreto is very busy with the Provincial Schools, he has been removed from SEAC and will be replaced with the new person. Dan will share his work across the Board as a regular guest. The new person will be introduced at the next SEAC meeting in November.

10. Special Education Board Plan

The Special Education Board Plan will be revisited during the 2008-2009 school year and changes will be highlighted. Kay Gaffney mentioned that SEAC members will visit the Trillium classroom at O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School in the near future.

11. Agency Reports

The Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre has hired Claire Côté-Curik as the Senior Community Support Coordinator, a position which has been vacant since April 2008.

The Child and Family Services of Timmins and District launched its month-long Purple Ribbon Campaign with the hope of bringing awareness to the issues of prevention of child abuse and neglect.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 11:45 a.m.

13. Other Business - Nil

14. Adjournment

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

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