



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
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**
 - Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind**
 - Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association**
 - William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen**
 - Rick Brassard, NCDSB Chair**
 - Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee**
 - Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee**
 - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education**
 - Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services**
 - Linda Reynolds-Lantz, Resource Teacher, Bishop Belleau School**
 - Alice Sackaney, Native Friendship Centre**
 - Rache Hughes, Payukotayno James Bay Child and Family Services**
 - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder**
- EXCUSED:**
- Dolores Butterworth, Timmins Transition Committee**
 - Lynne Gray, James Bay Association for Community Living**
 - Cecile Small, Northern College Day Care**
- GUESTS:**
- Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services**

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: B. Russell

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held November 18, 2009 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Trustee Membership

Kay Gaffney welcomed the new trustees on SEAC - Colleen Landers and Elizabeth King. She also thanked Fred Salvador and Steve Malciw for their support on this committee.

5. Classroom at O’Gorman High School

A significant review of programs and services to secondary school students was held since the November meeting. With the help of principal Darren Berthier, Erica Raymond and Dan Loreto, the board approved the hire of a new 1.0 special needs teacher to address the needs of students with autism and developmental disabilities. The teacher, Mitchell Reid, will assume responsibility starting February 1, 2010 helping students to meet their needs with life skills. A projection of eleven students with developmental disabilities will transition to O’Gorman High School in September 2010.

6. EP Engine

The Ministry developed a web-based IEP engine template which is used across the province. NCDSB is looking at moving over to the Ministry’s template in September which will be compatible with our student data server, Maplewood, and with Trillium. Bishop Belleau School uses the Ministry’s template and the staff has demonstrated flexibility through the amalgamation transition.

7. JK Registration

The JK Registration, held on January 18th, was not as high as expected with 10 students higher than last year. Many Special Education students in the southern schools have extreme needs - down syndrome, autism, blindness, medical conditions, not toilet trained. Tricia Stefanic Weltz shared that St. Paul School was designated as the Early Learning Program school, and more information will be shared with SEAC as we move forward with this new initiative.

8. ISNC/ISC

The ISNC divestment money is a shared allocation with English boards and NCDSB is the broker Board. The allocation is based on rural and remote community with a total of \$171,396. A large portion of our Board’s allocation will go to Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake this year as this school lacks services to better the needs of their children. Bishop Belleau School is in a similar circumstance and it was noted that there is a lack of qualified competent professionals in that rural community.

9. Autism Spectrum Disorders - Survey

Autism Ontario surveyed the Boards of Education in the Spring of 2008 to evaluate their implementation of *PPM 140 - Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)*. They also felt it would be important for parents of students with ASD to also be given an opportunity to provide their views on the implementation of PPM 140. Joel McCartney has provided teachers in our schools with an assessment tool designed specifically for school setting, carrying out a very meticulous and thoughtful process of challenging behaviours. They have looked at all angles of what is contributing to student behaviours and have a selection of ready-made recommendations and interventions, aligned with PPM 140.

10. h the Spotlight

Tricia Stefanic Weltz felt that the SEAC members should be aware of awesome things going on in our schools and would like to highlight a school at each meeting. St. Anne English Catholic School in Iroquois Falls is a school with special needs students with complex situations. The school works well with community relationships. Darlene White is a very experienced, compassionate and patient resource teacher who runs a program for students with developmental needs. The program provides students with a life skills setting giving them the opportunity to work with kitchen equipment, donated by an agency. This teacher understands what children need and has a way of approaching the needs of her students. SEAC congratulates St. Anne, the principal Betty Pichette, Darlene White and her classroom. Correspondence will be sent to the school thanking them for Tricia's visit.

11. Agency Reports

Bill Russell mentioned that the Lord's Kitchen served a total of 291 plates the first week after the Christmas holidays. He expects that this number will rise up to 500 this week. Younger families are going with their kids speculating that minimum wage isn't sufficient.

Joel McCartney has accepted the position of Director of Psychological Services and Infant Development at Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre. Kay Gaffney congratulated Joel on his promotion. Recruiting for Joel's position is ongoing.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via videoconference.

13. Other Business

Bill Russell stated that he has discussed the recruitment of additional members of SEAC with Sandra Rupnuck and John Stark. Tricia will contact them.

14. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:44 p.m.
CARRIED.