



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, October 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
Kim Bordignon, Children’s Treatment Centre
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Val Toner, Community Living Timmins

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Introduction of Members

Kay introduced Kim Bordignon as a new SEAC member representing the Timmins Children’s Treatment Centre. Val Toner, representing Community Living Timmins, was unable to attend this meeting but will be present at the next meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: E. King
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held May 26, 2010 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

5. **Schedule of Meetings 2010-2011**

The meetings schedule of the 2010-2011 school year provided was accepted by the members.

6. **Elections - Chair and Vice-Chair**

To ensure alignment with SEAC regulations, an election of the Chair and Vice-Chair was conducted. It was indicated that Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Judy Piché had volunteered to be Scrutineers should the need arise.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Tricia Stefanic Weltz opened the nomination process.

1st Call for Nominations

Nancy Cole nominated Kay Gaffney as Chair of SEAC. Joel McCartney seconded the nomination.

2nd Call for Nominations - Nil

3rd Call for Nominations - Nil

Tricia Stefanic Weltz declared the nominations closed and declared Kay Gaffney, Chair of SEAC for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: M. Lionello

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Kay Gaffney as Chair of SEAC for the 2010-2011 school year.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Kay Gaffney, Chair of SEAC, opened the nomination process.

1st Call for Nominations

Nancy Cole nominated Joel McCartney as Vice-Chair of SEAC. M. Lionello seconded the nomination.

2nd Call for Nominations - Nil

3rd Call for Nominations - Nil

Kay Gaffney declared the nominations closed and declared Joel McCartney, Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: N. Cole

SECONDED BY: M. Lionello

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) appoint Joel McCartney as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2010-2011 school year.

CARRIED

7. School Year Calendar

Tricia distributed a copy of the 2010-2011 School Year Calendars. Belleau School in Moosonee has its own calendar to accommodate their cultural Hunt Break holiday in October. Tricia shared the Professional Activity Day designations and offered that there continues to be a focus on special education services and programming.

8. Programming 2010-2011 - Timmins and Kirkland Lake

Dan Loreto and Tricia Wertz offered an overview of the current special education programs and structures in place to meet the distinct needs of students with special education needs. Specific focus was drawn to the programs at:

O'Gorman High School: Essential Skills/Life Skills program to meet the needs of students with Intellectual Exceptionalities. Expansion of a specialized snoezelen room is among one of the goals for this upcoming school year.

O'Gorman Intermediate and O'Gorman High School: Both schools continue to offer specialized programs for students with learning disabilities. Though provincial funding opportunities were ceased, our partnership with Sick Kids continues and the NCDSB remains involved in the research elements of the learning program.

St. Jerome School (Kirkland Lake): a primary division program has been established at the school to address the distinct needs of primary students identified with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorders.

9. Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

The funding parameter for SEA changed for this school year. Traditionally, all specialized equipment purchases were "claims-based" whereby the district school board would be responsible for the first \$800.00 of any student-based purchases. This year, the ministry has introduced two distinct processes:

a base amount has been afforded to boards for purchases relating to technology, software, and accessories and the claims-based process as described above remains consistent for all other purchases. Tricia shared that the allotted budget amount is insufficient and adjustments will have to be made during the November budget revision period to help offset the growing costs associated with specialized equipment purchases for students.

10. Special Education Enrolment and Staffing

Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided a snapshot of the number of identified students and the number of special education staff assigned.

11. Special Incident Portion (SIP) Applications

Dan Loreto shared the process by which district school boards undergo to receive ministry support. Though it is a tedious process, Dan has committed to engaging school personnel in the necessary issues to submit applications on behalf of qualifying students. Dan will keep SEAC members informed of his progress in this regard.

12. Special Education Funding Discussions

An overview of provincial funding for special education was presented at the Special Education Funding Discussion session in Sudbury on September 30th. Barry Finlay, Director of the Ministry branch and session facilitator, informed the participants that he is looking for input from service providers to modify the high needs amount and to come up with a community-based prediction model. Dan Loreto provided the members with a pie chart reflective of the needs. NCDSB Manager of Financial Services, Mary-Lou Pollon, will be invited to talk about the special education budget at a future meeting.

13. Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario

The Ministry of Education created the document *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario* which is intended to serve as a practical resource for superintendents, principals, and vice-principals, to help them address issues of student behavior both through instruction and interventions tailored to individual student needs and through ongoing efforts to build and maintain a caring and safe school culture. Tricia gave an overview of the document which is specific to special education students ensuring safe schools parameters are reflective to their needs. Colleen Landers suggested that Tricia present the document at a future Board Meeting.

14. Clustering of Social Justice Tribunals

The Ministry of Education shared information with school boards regarding the current initiative on the clustering of social justice adjudicative tribunals that the government is working on. The government will cluster tribunals and agencies with common stakeholders and related mandates in order to improve public services. The clustering of the Special Education Tribunal (English and French) does not change the Special Education Tribunal Process. It will promote the best use of current resources by improving public services through cooperation and coordination. It also enhances consistency in tribunal practices, procedures and decision making.

15. SEAC Learning Website

The SEAC Learning website <http://seac-learning.ca> was shared with the members. More in-depth information will be presented at a future meeting.

16. SEAC Capacity Building Survey

The Ministry of Education has requested the assistance of provincial SEACs to ensure that all SEAC members are provided with up to date information and resources to support the recommendations they make regarding programs and services for students with special education needs. The members were asked to complete a survey provided by the Ministry by the November SEAC meeting. Judy will input the members' responses on behalf of SEAC by the deadline date of December 1, 2010.

17. Minutes of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education

The minutes of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education were provided.

18. Agency Reports

CTRC has hired a new Speech and Language Pathologist. Annie-Claude Boudreau will get her designation and work for six months under supervision.

533 meals were served at The Lord's Kitchen. This agency will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2011.

The Children's Treatment Centre is hosting a workshop during the evening of December 9th. Instructor, Kim Barthel, will speak on *Becoming a Behavioral Detective: Understanding, Surviving and Supporting Complex Behaviors*. This workshop is designed to assist parents, teachers, caregivers, one-to-one workers and professionals involved in the educational and mental health field learn to support children with behavioral challenges and learning problems. Ms. Barthel will also present on *Mental Health, Sensory Processing and Challenging Behavior* on December 11th.

Canadian Mental Health Association is bringing in a speaker in January to talk about the Youth Justice Coordinating Committee for Young Offenders. Mark Lionello will provide more information at the next meeting. Mark also shared that numbers of youth engaging in the use of marijuana are increasing and reports indicate that it does develop mental health issues.

Leading psychiatrist, Dr. Umesh Jain, will speak about ADHD on October 21st at the One Day at a Time conference, organized in conjunction with the Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre.

The Commission for Sustainable Child and Welfare has come out with recommendations. Thirteen agencies have been identified and will merge. More information will be shared by Kay Gaffney at the next meeting.

19. Date of Next Meeting

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

20. **Other Business** - Nil

21. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: J. McCartney

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:02 p.m.
CARRIED.