



SEAC MEETING
(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
12:05 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kim Bordignon, Children’s Treatment Centre
Nancy Cole, Canadian National Institute of the Blind
Pamela Stager, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord’s Kitchen
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Marc Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher

1. Welcome and Prayer

Due to the absence of both the current Chair and Vice-Chair and in accordance with Regulation 464/97.9 (6), the members present elected Tricia Stefanic Weltz to serve as Chair for this meeting.

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

Tricia welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer. A warm welcome was extended to Pamela Stager, Professional Resource Team Supervisor of Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre. Pamela attended the meeting as an alternate in Joel McCartney’s absence.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: N. Cole
SECONDED BY: K. Bordignon

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held May 18, 2011 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Schedule of Meetings 2011-2012

The members received a copy of the Special Education Advisory Committee meetings for the 2011-2012 school year. The November meeting will have to be rescheduled as Tricia Stefanic Weltz and Judy Piché will be away. A revised schedule will be distributed to the members at the next meeting and will be posted on our website.

5. Elections - Chair and Vice-Chair

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. School Year Calendars 2011-2012

A copy of the 2011-2012 School Year Calendars were distributed to the members. The calendars are posted on the board's website. A general outline of the activities to be conducted on the professional activity days was explained.

7. Special Education Enrolment and Staffing

A handout was given to the members outlining the student enrolment, the number of identified students, and the number of special education support staff.

8. Special Education Update

Elements of the Ministry of Education's Special Education Update of June 2011 were shared. The document provides an excellent overview of the initiatives currently happening at the Special Education Policy & Program Branch.

9. SEAC Learning Website

The members were encouraged to visit the SEAC Learning website at <http://seac-learning.ca>.

10. SEAC Building Capacity Survey Results

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Ministry of Education requested the assistance of provincial SEACs by completing a survey on Building Capacity. Highlights of the survey results were shared.

11. Professional Learning Plan for Principals and Teaching Staff

A survey was created to seek input from principals and teaching staff on their professional growth needs. NCDSB is pleased to offer job-embedded training facilitated by program staff. Dan Loreto ran an after-school session on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The session was well attended and staff welcome the opportunity for after-school learning.

12. Correspondence

Letters addressing concerns of special education programs and funding sent by several district school boards of Ontario were shared with the members.

13. Agency Reports

Bill Russell commented on the events of The Lord's Kitchen's 25th Anniversary which will take place this Friday, September 23, 2011. 125 tickets were sold for the dinner catered by the Knights of Columbus. Former priest Dan Bagley will be a guest speaker. The mayor and a member of Parliament have been invited. As Chair of this event, Bill is looking forward to it and encouraged members to attend.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), partnered with the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) are offering a program to job seekers who are blind or partially sighted to connect with successful mentors in their field who also have vision loss. CareerConnect Canada is designed to match mentors and job seekers online and offers helpful resources for job seekers. They can expect to benefit from great tips and advice from a mentor in a career-related field. More information can be found online at www.cnib.ca/careerconnect.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

15. Other Business

Bill Russell shared an NCDSB success story relating to the way NCDSB staff assisted a family during a difficult transition during the summer holidays. Bill acknowledged the commitment shown by Dan Loreto, SAT for his willingness to speak with the family to ensure that a student's needs were met and accommodated before entry to a new school.

Bill requested that we look into the release of names of SEAC members (check with PIM champion) and update the members in October.

16. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

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