



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

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
Tammy Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, the Lord's Kitchen
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association

1. Welcome and Prayer

Tricia Stefanic Weltz welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: C. Landers

SECONDED BY: E. King

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: K. Bordignon
SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on May 22, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Schedule of Meetings 2012-2013**

The members received a copy of the Special Education Advisory Committee meetings for the 2012-2013 school year. The schedule was approved by the members and will be posted on our website.

5. **Elections – Chair and Vice-Chair**

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Tricia Stefanic Weltz opened the nomination process.

1st Call for Nominations

Joel McCartney nominated Kay Gaffney as Chair of SEAC. Nancy Cole 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 2012-2013 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: B. Russell
SECONDED BY: E. King

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 2012-2013 school year.

CARRIED.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Tricia Stefanic Weltz opened the nomination process.

1st Call for Nominations

Nancy Cole nominated Joel McCartney as Vice-Chair of SEAC. Kim Bordignon seconded the nomination.

2nd Call for Nominations – Nil

3rd Call for Nominations – Nil

Tricia Stefanic Weltz declared the nominations closed and declared Joel McCartney, Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion

MOVED BY: N. Cole

SECONDED BY: C. Landers

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 2012-2013 school year.

CARRIED.

6. SEAC Recruitment

It is the committee's responsibility to approach agencies for additional committee members. Contact will be made for representation from the aboriginal sector. There will be board representation in the name of mental health as soon as the successful applicant for the position of mental health nurse is approached.

7. School Year Calendar 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 school year calendar was shared with the members. There will be a total six (6) professional activity days: 2 are ministry mandated, 2 are dedicated for completion of report cards, and 2 other days for teachers' own professional growth tied to their annual learning plans.

8. Student Services Staffing 2012-2013

The members received an overview of the student services staffing outlining the number of identified students, and the number of student services staff.

9. Special Education Board Plan and Board Improvement Plan

The revisions to the Special Education Board Plan were submitted to the Ministry of Education. Two (2) system priorities have been developed in the Board Improvement Plan (BIP): *Identifying and Responding to Student Learning Needs*; and *Actively Preparing Students for the 21st Century*. The BIP strives to ensure that special needs students become more independent and develop skills to become more active in the 21st century. Both plans are available on our website.

Nancy Cole informed the members that her son received a list of technology available to university students that she thinks should also be accessible to high school students. It was suggested to write a letter to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education requesting that additional technology be accessible to all children in order to make them more independent.

10. SEAC Learning Website

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

11. Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

NCDSB has received \$44,691 for all claim-based purchases made in 2011-2012. Boards are responsible for the first \$800 in costs for any student claim per year. An application was made for Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding in the amount of \$73,000. Dan Loreto will inform us of the outcome.

12. Mental Health Update

School boards were allocated funding to hire a Mental Health Leader in 2012-2013 to implement the strategy. It was recommended that the Mental Health Leader be a management position within the school board and unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with the hiring of a leader.

NCDSB and DSBONE discussed the sharing of a Mental Health Nurse, a position funded by Community Care Access Centre. The successful applicant will be introduced to the committee members at a future meeting.

13. Transitions, Planning, and Monitoring (TPM) Software

Special education staff members are currently being trained on the Transitions, Planning and Monitoring (TPM) software that enables the collection, organization and reporting of various data sets within a wide range of applications. TPM is an effective, user-friendly, cost saving web-based application that supports the collecting and reporting of various data variables through either standardized forms or customized templates. The software can also be used for equipment inventory and transfers.

14. Delivery of Education Services

A document entitled *The Delivery of Education Services* was shared with the members. This report provides an historical overview of inclusionary practices for students who have an intellectual disability.

15. Agency Reports

Bill Russell reported that The Lord's Kitchen served 20,430 servings last year. He added that the residents of South Porcupine can no longer get food at the Timmins Food Bank.

Major changes are occurring for recipients who are on the Ontario Disability Support Program. Tammie Molenaar mentioned that, effective January 2013, employment and start-up funds and home and maintenance repairs will cease to exist. The changes will have a great impact on children.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

17. **Other Business**

Bill 115: Colleen Landers inquired about the impact that *Bill 115, Putting Students First Act* will have on children with special needs. Tricia Stefanic Weltz stated that the question was asked at provincial forums and it was unanswered. Through a Memo of Understanding, an agreement reached between the Ontario Government and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), school boards have lost the authority to ask teachers to assess their students. We are expecting a policy forthcoming from the Ministry in late Fall.

18. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: N. Cole

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.
CARRIED.