



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Vice-Chair
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre
Tammie Molenaar, Community Living Timmins
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Elizabeth King, 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
Lisa Innes, NCDSB Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
- GUESTS:** Sue Cecchini, North East Community Care Access Centre
Wanda Sear, Mental Health Nurse

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: B. Russell

SECONDED BY: J. McCartney

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 October 17, 2012 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. **Resignation of Member**

Nancy Cole, representative of the Canadian Institute for the Blind, resigned from SEAC. Kay Gaffney stated that Nancy was a valuable member and a strong advocate for special education at NCDSB.

5. **Mental Health Nurse Strategy**

Sue Cecchini, Manager of North East Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), introduced the Mental Health Nurse hired for NCDSB, Wanda Sear. An overview of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy was given. Nurses are presently in schools and are assisting school boards in recognizing and responding to issues related to student mental health and addictions. The focus is on the success of students to thrive in school, remain in school or successfully transition back to school. The initiative is still in the planning stages and nurses will spend the remainder of the school year evaluating the program, setting action plans, contacting community organizations to discuss their roles, and eventually begin to interact with students and parents. Policies and procedures will be developed next summer.

6. **Support Services at ECCS**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz shared that a review of support services was recently conducted at English Catholic Central School in New Liskeard. As such, the number of hours of work for the Child and Youth Worker was increased to five (5) hours daily.

7. **M.A.C.S.E. Representation**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided clarification regarding a discussion held at the last meeting. The membership of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education is comprised of representatives from the various associations across the province. There is no regional representation on Council. The Director of Education receives information from the trustees' association and it is shared with SEAC. The form *Communication: Collaborating with the Community* was not meant for SEAC to submit. It was sent to the trustees for their input.

The Ministry of Education Special Education Update of October 2012 was shared with the members.

8. **Speech and Language Partnership**

Dan Loreto informed the members that NCDSB continues to have a contractual agreement with Speech and Language Pathologist, John Stark. We access services which include assessments, intervention, report writing, administration, coordination and programming for school and/or parents/guardians. As part of our partnership this year, our Resource Teachers will engage in training with our SLP to learn how

to deal with language interventions as part of the work with the Leveled Literacy Intervention system we use across our district. This strategy will help to address the language needs of some students, eliminating the dependency on a SLP to provide such services. Dan Loreto has established the required training dates and will be working closely with the resource teachers to incorporate these interventions into their schedules as soon as possible.

9. Agency Reports

Bill Russell reported that over 200 people are coming to The Lord's Kitchen every week serving over 600 meals.

The new board foundation for the North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services hasn't been set up yet.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

11. Other Business

11.1 A letter to the Minister of Education from Renfrew County District School Board was distributed to the members.

11.2 Manager of Financial Services, Mary-Lou Pollon, will be invited to the next SEAC meeting to discuss special education funding.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

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