

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

11:45 a.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre

GUEST: Kim McEntee, Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness

1. Welcome and Prayer

Chair Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: C. Landers

SECONDED BY: V. Toner

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of November 30, 2016 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)

The 2015-2016 EQAO results were shared with the members. Daphne Brumwell mentioned that the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results were fairly steady. She compared the results of NCDSB and DSBONE and as a board, we are demonstrating slow, but steady progress in primary and junior reading and writing. Math is an area of significant need at all levels. The next steps for NCDSB are to celebrate the individual success stories in each of our schools; to support school principals in monitoring the instructional program with greater precision; to continue to focus on the use of assessment *for, as* and *of* learning to plan small group instruction to meet the needs of all learners; to continue to support professional learning job-embedded learning that includes co-planning and co-teaching with special assignment teachers; and to provide specific professional learning to build capacity in mathematics for all NCDSB staff.

5. Autism Program Update

Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness, Kim McEntee, provided a brief update of the Autism Program. Kim works closely with Catherine Hoven and ABA Specialist Kyla Guillemette. They're in the process of creating resources for staff and building good relationships with the schools. There are 24 students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across the district. The Board has purchased clinical supervision services from Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, Kim Morris. Services include a review of clients, data, reports and behaviour plans, and she ensures that we are following best practices and standards in behaviour therapy. Kim and Kyla met with One Kids Place who may help support the group of students in Kapuskasing. The agency oversees the Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) program at NEOFACS and has highlighted the *Friends For Life* pilot program in Ontario schools. The Board is exploring and is looking at opportunities for partnerships to get services in its schools. Kim added that the child and youth workers and educational assistants have the opportunity to participate in the *Autism Spectrum in the Classroom* online training, offered by the Geneva Centre for Autism.

6. School Year Calendar Consultation

The draft 2017-2018 school year calendar was shared with the members. Stakeholders can provide feedback on the board's website.

7. Transition Update

Pope Francis Elementary School is the name to identify the new Kindergarten to Grade 4 school in Timmins. O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School will house students in Grades 5 to 8. The next steps are to announce the names of the principals at each site, begin the staffing process, and finalize plans with the architect. The project is happening in 3 phases: Phase 1 - the interior of the classrooms; Phase 2 – new daycare spaces; Phase 3 – the exterior of the building. An update will be shared at each SEAC meeting.

8. iPad Project Update

For the past 2 years NCDSB has supplied many students with a SEA iPad to help support their individual learning needs. Catherine Hoven reported that although the students were keen to use their iPads, the teachers were not always using the device in the most meaningful manner. We set out to expand the learning, and to link the iPad use to the provincial focus on Mathematic achievement. Each school was asked to identify several teachers within the school that had multiple students with SEA iPads in their classrooms. These teachers, along with the resource teachers, educational assistants, and principals took part in a Google Hangout with Melissa Lavoie in mid-December. The focus was on helping the teachers become comfortable with using the app *Explain Everything* to help students better communicate their thinking in math. The day was well received and to continue to support the teachers, Melissa is working side-by-side with them throughout the months of January and part of February. She is directly working with the teachers, resource teachers, educational assistants and students on math problems that support their curriculum objectives by using the *Explain Everything* app. All participants are completing a pre-coaching survey and will also complete an electronic survey at the end of the year to detail the learning and change in comfortability that we anticipate will happen. There will also be several times in the next few months when we will come together again through a Google Hangout to share our progress.

9. Psych Services Update

Catherine Hoven reported that we have had 17 students assessed through board services to date; 5 assessed by Catherine under Tom Boniferro’s supervision. Catherine and Mary O’Neil just completed 12 assessments in the southern part of our board, again under Tom’s supervision. For all of these assessments the resource teachers have completed the referral forms and the achievement portion of the referral. Mary or Catherine have administered the cognitive portion along with the collection of data through parent and teacher rating scales for attention, hyperactivity, behavioural difficulties, phonological processing and/or executive functioning. After each set of assessments Tom and Catherine connect and spend much time going through the scores, testing observations, rating scale data, possible diagnosis, and recommendations. They have been managing to have the completed report sent to the families within 4 weeks of the initial assessment, often sooner.

We anticipate another 8 assessments being completed for the Timmins area this winter, several for Bishop Belleau School, and 8-10 for the northern portion of our board in the Spring when Tom is able to visit. Things have been going very smoothly; school principals and resource teachers have provided positive feedback.

10. Agency Reports

Joel McCartney mentioned that Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre had more success re-advertising for the Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard offices. He is hopeful that things will be up and running by March and they will be back in schools in late Spring.

Community Living Timmins held its parents' night last week. A binder called *All About Me*, developed by Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders and funded by Trillium, was created for the parents. Val Toner explained that the agency is able to reproduce the binder as long as they put in the page of credit to the agency that developed it. Contents of the binder are beneficial for meetings with family doctors and specialists and include the following sections: Meet My Child (information about their child, i.e., what to do to calm child; getting school to meet child's needs; fact sheets; how to prepare for IPRC); definitions and abbreviations; preparing for Kindergarten; steps to write an effective IEP for your child; lunch ideas; social skills; sensory suggestions; play toys; activities for home; back to school tips; communication records; assessments and reports.

NEOFACS is working on moving on the mental health initiative. In consultation with consultants and stakeholders, the agency will identify gaps in services and needs in the area and develop a community mental health plan. Kay Gaffney stated that NEOFACS is looking for volunteers to assist staff in most service and program areas. Volunteer drivers are needed to help transport children, youth and their families to medical appointments, daycare/school, family visits and other activities. The agency is also looking for foster parents who are willing to open their lives and their homes to children and youth in need of safe, temporary care.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

12. Other Business - Nil

13. Adjournment

MOVED BY: C. Landers
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:08 p.m.
CARRIED.