



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

*"Living our Catholic Faith to shape success for all of our learners"*

## **SEAC Meeting** **(Special Education Advisory Committee)**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015**

**11:45 a.m.**

**Catholic Education Centre**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kay Gaffney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services / Chair  
Pamela Stager, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre  
Kim Bordignon, Children's Treatment Centre  
Beth Nowak, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board  
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired  
Fred Salvador, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Amanda Wessman, Community Living Timmins  
Natalie Parnell, Timmins Family Counselling Centre  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Kay Gaffney welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: B. Nowak

SECONDED BY: B. Richer

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the minutes of February 19, 2015 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED.

**4. Review of Resource Teachers' Schedules**

Catherine Hoven stated that resource teachers' intervention schedules were reviewed earlier in March. Information to build consistency across the board such as things to focus on, comments about adjusting, frequency of interventions, and programs used was sent to the resource teachers and their principals. The Leveled Literacy Intervention Program, purchased by the board, is the main focus for struggling students, however there has been increased focus on math intervention as well this year.

**5. Exceptional Student Lists and Resource Teachers' Data**

Catherine Hoven explained the process being used currently to update the master list of exceptional students. Specific attention is being given to those students with a multiple diagnosis in order to define the exceptionality more clearly for individual students. Resource teachers have been given release time to go through all of the individual files and add data into a google doc format, which will identify their grades and exceptionalities and will be regularly updated by the resource teachers. Catherine will provide the number of students with multiple exceptionalities at the next meeting.

**6. Expansion of the Use of Leveled Literacy Intervention**

All elementary schools have the Orange Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) kit which covers levels A to C and is used in the full-day kindergarten classrooms. Additional kits were bought to be used for students in higher grades. The board is looking into expanding into the Gold Program next year. Catherine Hoven mentioned that the LLI kits contain phenomenal level books with neat topics. She added that they match with assessment tools and are aligned between resource and testing.

**7. Junior Kindergarten Registration**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz provided an update on the Junior Kindergarten registration, now referred to as Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK). There was a total of 86 registrants in January with an increase of about 15 students since then. Daphne Brumwell will provide information regarding the special education services required at a future meeting.

**8. Enrolment Projections**

Tricia Stefanic Weltz shared that the board's current enrolment is 1745 and due to declining enrolment, there will be a decrease of approximately 100 students for the next school year. The revised accommodation review process is being done by the Ministry. Daphne Brumwell will provide a report of the number of identified students in Full-Day Kindergarten at the next meeting.

**9. School Year Calendar**

The School Year Calendar 2015-2016 was shared with the members. The Ministry of Education has approved the board's submission of a modified calendar for all schools. Bishop Belleau School's calendar is slightly different due to their break in October. Staff at BBS will begin with a professional activity day on August 20, 2015. The remaining schools will start on August 31<sup>st</sup> with two professional activity days in order to set direction for the beginning of the school year and to plan for the arrival of the students on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**10. SEAC Provincial Conference**

Kim Bordignon has agreed to attend the SEAC Provincial Conference in Toronto on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**11. Agency Reports**

11.1 Presentation by Billie Richer

SEAC representative of VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Billie Richer, provided the members with a comprehensive look of the agency's services and shared a link to a video that shows families and students who have used the services of VOICE. She explained that early intervention is important and clarified the demographics and trends, identified the factors and the types of supports. There is a big push for acquiring educational audiologists and specialist teachers of the deaf. She mentioned that VOICE has a mentorship and training program to assist the growing number of students in school boards who benefit from auditory-verbal techniques. The agency is looking into getting more support from the government for training by VOICE for classroom teachers.

Bill Russell stated that 207 guests were served 432 servings last week. He added that there were a lot of families at the agency during March Break. There was a break-in at the agency where a number of items were stolen and walls were damaged.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre or via video conference.

**13. Other Business**

13.1 The Northeastern CDSB's SEAC is adding its support to the disappointment expressed by several district school boards regarding the Ministry of Education's hiring process for teachers. A letter addressed to Minister Liz Sandals was shared with the members.

**14. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: B. Russell

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

CARRIED.