

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

11:45 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins (Alternate)
Sharron Pountney, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Judy Piché, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair
Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association
William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen

GUEST: Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher

The members met at Pope Francis Elementary School prior to the meeting to tour the school.

1. Welcome and Prayer

Kim Bordignon 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: V. Toner
SECONDED BY: S. Pountney

THAT the minutes of September 26, 2018 be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

4. EQAO Results

A summary of the 2017-2018 EQAO results was shared by Daphne Brumwell. There is slow and steady progress in Grade 3 and a slight increase in Grade 6 reading. There continues to be concern about the results in mathematics in both divisions and with writing at the junior level. The results of the Grade 9 Applied Math showed that we are holding relatively steady in terms of achievement over the last year, however we are still well below the provincial standard. The Ministry of Education has invested funding to help support mathematics across the province. Students must pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) in Grade 10, 11 or 12 as this is a graduation requirement, or take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). For the most part, females in elementary schools are doing better than males. There is a significant gap between secondary girls and boys in math. Daphne is pleased with the success of the special education students, scoring higher than the provincial average on most elementary assessments. Interesting conversations are happening across the board regarding assistive technology. Students are using technology up until grade 8 but not as much at the secondary level. There is a need to help educate teachers about the nature of their disabilities. Resource teachers are starting conversations with their students. It was suggested to create a focus group for parents to help them advocate for their children.

5. Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot

Special Assignment Teacher, Katie Mundle, gave the members a brief update of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot. Last year 15 support staff participated in the 40-hour training course. Teachers, educational assistants and child and youth workers took part in an online registered behaviour technician course provided by the Geneva Centre for Autism. After participating in professional development sessions with Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, Kim Morris, and Psychometrist, Alexandra Freeman, they are feeling more comfortable in their work with our students. The program will continue again this year with the focus on training all our child and youth workers.

6. New Students

Catherine Hoven shared that there are 35 new identified students this year – 11 in our southern schools and 24 in our northern and central schools. 10 out of 35 students were transferred to us from other boards. Their identifications range from learning disabilities, language impairment, behaviour, physical, autism spectrum disorder, deaf, and multiple complex needs.

7. Agency Reports

No agency reports shared at the meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

9. Other Business - Nil

A letter from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board was shared. Daphne Brumwell stated that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board did not see that kind of reduction in funding, as mentioned in the letter received. Special education funding is always problematic as we see a rise in student needs, particularly with our younger learners.

Sharon Pountney announced that she will be retiring at the end of December. The agency will select another staff member to replace her on SEAC.

10. Adjournment

MOVED BY: S. Pountney
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:17 p.m.
CARRIED.