

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association

Heather Demers, The Lord's Kitchen

Deborah Chornobey, YMCA

Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee

Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education

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4. Special Education Plan 2023-2024

Daphne reviewed with the committee the action items for the 2023-2024 plan.

4.1 Review of Changes

1. Continue to work on the creation of the documents that outline the various internal processes found in the special education department.
2. It is our desire to include students in the IPRC and IEP process 4(n)I

11. Support and monitor the use of IXL in Grades 2-9 as a mechanism to close gaps in math skills. Regular use of the diagnostic arena and the student personalized learning plan is expected for all students. We are aiming for 15-20 minutes of use of this program 3 times a week.
12. Continue to support schools in implementing the School-Based Team model. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for school staff to discuss the needs of students by sharing ideas about how to better support the student, and collaborate to create an action plan to support the student moving forward. A follow up is required to ensure that actions have been taken and to discuss their effectiveness. Special Assignment Teachers for Special Education may need to provide side-by-side coaching to support teams in maximizing this structure/protocol.
13. Explore a variety of screening tools that could be used in early primary French Immersion classrooms to support the recommendations of the Right to Read Inquiry Report. Ideally we would find something that provides norm-referenced results and allows for easy collection of data at a board level.
14. Work with our secondary school to determine how best to support the large number of students with diagnosed learning disabilities (nearly 25% of the student population). Review the use of LD Class Profiles as one mechanism to support students in destreamed and streamed classes. Build capacity with classroom teachers to better understand how to support students with an LD in the classroom.

4.2 Motion of Approval

Stan made a motion to the committee to accept the Special Education Plan for 2023-2024. All in attendance voted to accept and pass the motion.

A Motion of Approval was signed by Colleen Landers chair of the committee to have the Special Education Plan for 2023 2024 presented to the Board of Trustees at the June 14,2023 Board Meeting.

5. August Transition Program

We are still finalizing the locations of the August Transition Programs. At this time, it appears we have enough students to run the program at ECCS, Holy Family, OICS, Pope Francis, Sacred Heart, St. Jerome and St. Joseph. We are still needing to secure staff in some schools to ensure the program can move forward.

6. Update of Tutors in the Classroom

Tutors in the classroom were hired to support all elementary school except ECCS and BBS. Unfortunately, they were unable to find candidates to do the work. Most schools have employed two tutors who have supported our students since early May. A great deal of work went into creating intervention kits that included a wide variety of activities related to literacy and numeracy skill development. We are tracking who has received support and looking at how they have done with assessments to gauge efficacy of the work.

7. AimsWeb Assessment Update

We just completed our 3 rounds of AimsWeb+ assessments in all elementary schools. Every student from Grade 1 to 8 had an Oral Reading Fluency assessment completed. Students from grade 2 to 8 also completed a digital reading assessment that provides information about reading comprehension, vocabulary and silent reading fluency. Alongside the Oral Reading Fluency data, these assessments give us a really nice window into reading achievement in students. We also completed the early literacy screen on all K-Grade 2 students, as well as any grade 3-8 student who is reading at or below a grade 3 level. These screens have helped us identify at-risk students who need further assessment and/or intervention. We are looking forward to sharing results from this past year in early fall.

8. Digital Math Tools

The Ministry of Education provided all schools boards with funding to purchase digital math tools to support gap closing. As previously shared, we are using IXL for Grade 3-8, but reconsidering the need to use the program with students in Grade 2, if not grade 1. We are also using Math Seeds with Kindergarten to Gr. 2. Though the kids love the program, our ability to gather data from this tool is very limited when compared to what we receive from IXL. We continue to explore our options. It is important to note that boards have also received funding to support digital reading tools for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to fund Lexia using these funds.

9. New Special Assignment Teachers 2023-2024

We are pleased to share that in addition to Catherine and Katie in Special Education, Megan Beyer will continue in her role support elementary curriculum, Todd Bosak will continue in his role with technology, Lisa Romanowski has been hired to support secondary and transition to secondary and Cristina Corbett has been hired to support Catholic education and experiential learning. We look forward to having a few new team members.

10. Agency Reports

The Lords Kitchen

The organization will be closed for Thursday dinner service from July 20 – Aug 10. Breakfast service will still take place on Friday mornings from 7am-10am. 0.739Tc Tmomew 0.

You will receive:

- Counselling from experienced clinicians from across the province
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