

# Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Sabrina Gravel, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre  
Karla Gagnon, Autism Ontario  
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
Mackenzie Carrier, YMCA  
Heather Demers, The Lord's Kitchen  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee  
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher  
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor  
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

### **EXCUSED:**

#### 1. Welcome, Prayer and Land Acknowledgment

Daphne welcomed everyone and led the group in the following prayer and land acknowledgments.

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Since the committee did not have quorum the election will take place at the November meeting.

#### 4. Schedule of Meetings and School Year Calendars

The 2022-2023 meeting schedule and school year calendars were shared with the committee members.

#### 5. 7.4-6 (1) (m) 3 esteti. 1 (n) 7.5 (n) ns - based reading practices. We are focusing our efforts at the early primary level on supporting word recognition strategies which include phonological awareness, decoding (alphabetic principle and letter-sound correspondence) and sight word recognition.

We are in the process of using a variety of assessment tools to determine what baseline skills students have so that we can better target instruction and intervention as needed. This is happening at all levels from grade 1 to grade 8.

In the later primary grades and in the junior grades, we are closing existing gaps in phonological awareness and phonics. Where this is not necessary, instruction will not look much different than it has in the past. However, we have instituted a 30-minute block each morning called the Morning Routine. This will provide teachers with the time to front-load facts and vocabulary related to areas of the curriculum like science, social studies, health and the arts. The morning routine includes learning in four areas – calendar/time, talking for learning, sentence of the day and 100 days of school. Students are kept engaged using white boards and through differentiated seating and tasks.

Daphne shared a couple of documents that have been provided to staff to support implementation.

## **6. Update on the Summer Transition Program**

The Summer Transition Program took place in nearly all NCDSB schools in August. Only OICS, BBS and St. Patrick School in Cobalt did not run a program. This was due to the inability to find staff, or lack of student enrolment (OICS). Programs were funded either through the Ministry of Education's summer learning funds for students with special needs, or through the After School Skills Development Program for students with Autism. Six schools had programs for students with autism, while three have programs for students with other special needs.

The program took place the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>

## 9. IPRCs and IEPs Fall 2022

IPRC meetings continued to take place over the phone or through video conferencing with parents this year unless a parent requested an in person meeting.

The IPRC – (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) is a group consisting of at least 3 individuals – typically the School Principal, Resource Teacher and Classroom Teacher. In some cases, the student also attends. This committee meets with parents and determines if a student meets the criteria of being an exceptional pupil based on Ministry of Education standards as well as determines the exceptional student’s educational placement. To date we have received paperwork that supports newly identifying 49 students. 26 in the Central/Northern region and 23 in the Southern portion of the board. There were 43 initial IPRCs last year in the same timeframe. Of these 49:

- 7 students are identified with Autism (10 last year)
- 23 students are identified with a Learning Disability (18 last year)
- 4 students are identified with a Developmental Disability (2 last year)
- 2 students are identified with a Language Impairment (2 last year)
- 2 students are identified under the Behaviour category (2 last year)
- 2 student is identified as having a Physical Disability (1 last year)
- 1 student with a Mild Intellectual Disability (0 last year)
- 8 students are identified as being Multip2.3 (e)-3 (r 4(e)4.8 (0))TJ0 Tc 0 Tw(id)2.2 (e)-3 (n)2.3 (t0 Tc 0 Tw 27ody /

10. Agency Reports

The Lords Kitchen

The society completed a fundraiser recently with the support for community members. All proceeds raised in the fundraiser was reinvested back into feeding community members. The Anti Hunger Coalition October schedule was shared with the committee. The schedule is a list of locations in the Timmins area providing meals for those who may be experiencing food insecurity.

The schedule was shared with the schools within the Timmins area to share with their school community.

Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre

The Centre is implementing new initiatives at the agency. The strategic committee and the equity diversity and inclusion committee and is in the process of being developing. This includes a review and internal policies and improving efficiencies.

A trip to Fort Albany was recently completed where the agency was able to meet with 22 clients over the course of a week.

Autism Ontario

As a volunteer for Austim Ontario and as a parent Karla would like to be a support system for other parents who may have children with exceptionalities. She created an Austim support package to assist families with navigating an Austim diagnosis. The package includes several resources that can be accessed and support both schools and families. The package will be shared with our school community.

11. Date of Next Meeting – November 16, 2022 at 11:45

12. Other Business – N/A

13. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm