



MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, January 30, 2017
D.T. Walkom Room
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Heather Marshall, Dan Morgan, Linda Graham. Amanda Gauthier, Sarah Mansfield, Lori Lambert, Helen Scott

Staff: K. Colter, B. Vallee, C. Phillips

Trustees: Cheryl Evans- Price

Regrets: Janelle Martin, Morgan Levy, Russell Reid, Bob MacEachren, Marnie Yourchuck

1. **Chair Pat Mick called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.**
 2. **Round Table Introduction of members, staff and guests**
 3. **Pat Mick called for approval of November Minutes and January Agenda**
 - Agenda approved by–H. Marshall and seconded by L. Graham, all in favour
 - Minutes approved by L. Lambert and Second by H. Marshall, all in favour
1. **Correspondence- Letter:** No letters received
 2. **Presentation- Amy Lawson, Teacher of the Blind**
 - Itinerant Teacher of the Blind
 - 12 years' experience and has been with Algoma District School Board for the past 3 years.
 - Presently working with 11 students, but also provides services/consultation for other students who are blind, low vision or have multi- needs.
 - Each student's needs are unique, so her work is tailored to student's visual and academic needs.
 - If schools have documentation of a visual impairment, a referral is made through the SERT/SEAT and then approved by the superintendent.
 - Amy observes and works with the students to complete a Functional Vision Assessment. This assessment investigates how a student uses his or her vision in the school environment. Areas of observation are: near and distance vision, how a student is able to access classroom materials, contrast sensitivity, visual efficiency, visual tracking and scanning, visual fields, color vision and visual perception.
 - Amy then works with the classroom teacher to implement accommodations required for a student to have access to and master the Ontario Curriculum. Accommodations may include preferential seating, lighting, magnifiers, specialized paper or assistive technology.
 - Completed approximately 50 FVA'
 - Amy provided a Power point and handouts showing different types of tactile items used with Blind and/or multi-needs students she is working with.

3. Member Association Updates

Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma-

- Community Living Algoma meeting tomorrow. A discussion about a possible road trip to see how other school boards run special education programs.

Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders

- Nothing to add.

Heather Marshall – NECCAC

- Nothing to add.

Amanda Gauthier – Thrive

- Please to announced the hiring of Kelsey Dugas Special Need Strategist Coordinator.

Sara Mansfield LDAO-

- LDAO will be holding another 8-week program for parents “We Are Not Alone” sessions include: Assessments/ IEP’s, Assistive Technology, ADHD etc. Next Session is January 19th focusing on Mindfulness.
- Excited that Angie DeMarco will be visiting in February for a presentation

Lori Lambert – Infant & Child Development Program:

- Finishing up with transitions meetings with both school boards for JK’s that will be entering school next year. Currently Algoma District School Board has approximately 41 JK Students for next year.
- Psychology clinic February 2017.

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association-

- The NOJHL and CMHA branches in northern Ontario are entering their second season of Talk Today, one of the most comprehensive mental health programs for athletes in Canada. This includes the Soo Eagles, Soo Thunderbirds, Blind River Beavers and Elliot Lake Wildcats. CMHA Sault Ste. Marie is proud to offer mental health and suicide-awareness training and additional support as needed to those teams and their players.
- Canadians across the country will join together on social media to text, talk and tweet about mental health for the 7th annual Bell Let’s Talk Day on January 25, 2017.
- Push for change – Out door event- Wednesday, February 1, 2017- 1-4pm (Donations to Pauline’s Place Shelter and the Push for Change Foundation)
- “Shadows of the Mind” runs from February 13 2017 to March 5, 2017 an amazing line up of movies.
- “Walk in Services”

Helen Scott – Association for Bright Children

- Nothing from her association to bring forward
- Asked if she could address the group; spoke to her frustration with gifted identification/programming and the role of SEAC.
- In regard to SEAC role, suggested that the committee doesn’t really advise on anything e.g. suggested that Budget and Special Education Plan come out the day before the board meeting, members are given it to review- not able to voice or give opinion or make any changes to it.
- In regard to gifted programming, Helen offered personal examples to illustrate her feeling that programming is not meeting her family members’ needs. She feels that her advocacy has yet to lead to changes over the 7years she has been involved in SEAC.

- P. Mick spoke about gifted programs historically available in board, and that students were withdrawn from their peer group, causing many to feel isolated and not wanting to feel “different.” P. Mick also spoke about parents who had gifted students who put their children in a variety of extra-curricular activities to enrich experience.
- H. Scott spoke about how she does that already and feels that the school board needs to stimulate gifted students more. She expressed that since gifted students aren’t throwing desks, they get nothing extra. Students that act out receive the extra EA’s, support and focus.
- C. Evans-Price spoke about as an alternate trustee on the committee that this is the first SEAC meeting she has attended this yet, but reassured Helen that the trustees bring forward what is being discussed and concerns that are expressed.
- L. Lambert-discussed she understands having frustration in regard to pace of change; spoke about her agency’s relationship with Algoma District School Board and how it has been built over years.
- B. Vallee- spoke to how many SEAC member organizations work closely with board staff, and that this regular interaction shapes practice on an ongoing basis. This may be more difficult for SEAC members that are advocacy groups without operational staff but SEAC members always have the opportunity to raise questions or discussion around information presented at meetings.
- In regard to gifted programming, B. Vallee suggested that the current funding models are based on numbers of students, and this means that the variety of programming options that would be available in a larger board with a larger concentration of students may not be available in a board our size. Programming options available in Algoma are indirect service, resource assistance, or withdrawal assistance; this is similar to programming provided by other boards in the Northeastern Ontario region
- Programming needs to be tailored to individual needs; if there are issues, our schools, program team and families work to solve the problems and adjust programs
- B. Vallee stated that we recognize that there is always room for improvement and we continue to work towards this.

4. Reports from Administration Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education, Kelly Colter, System Coordinator Special Education Department:

- February 3, 2017, Pd day all educational assistants will be attending training at Superior Heights for BMS training (Behaviour Management Systems)
- School and Attendance Counsellors will be taking part in the 2 day “Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)”
- SIP claims were due in December and this year we have submitted claims for approximately 1.2 million dollars.
- Update MASCE: The October report from MACSE is available
- Pleased to announce with the new ABA funding, Algoma District School Board was able to secure Brenna Lanktree, who will be providing ABA support to some of our ASD students on a needs basis
- Proposal submitted to Ministry for after-school programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Thanks to K. Colter and D. Lauszus for their work on this)
- K. Colter busy working with Algoma Public Health, Lori Lambert- currently 41 jk age students had transition meetings to help prepare for next year.
- **Report from the Board (Trustees) Sheryl Evans-Price**
 - Last board meeting in December was a short meeting, and a conversation was about Accommodation Review for Wawa, Arthur Henderson and Blind River.

Next SEAC meeting date: Monday, February 27, 2017

- B. Vallee to report back on Gifted Identification and Programming in ADSB

Motion to adjourn

- A. Gauthier, 2nd Dan Morgan, all in favour
- Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm
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Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair