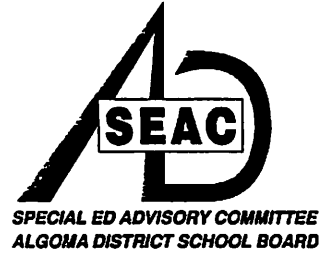


ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE S.E.A.C.



MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, January 28, 2014
D.T. Walkom Room
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: P. Mick, Amanda Gauthier, L. Lambert, D. Morgan, L. Tombari

Staff: K. Colver, C. Phillips, Marilu Horton, K. Colter, Colleen Rienhart

Trustees: B. McEachren, R. Reid

Guests: Jen Barbeau, Diana Lauszus

Regrets: J. Martin, P. Southwind, M. Yourchuck, V. Greco, H. Scott, C. Burgess

P. Mick called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. Welcome (Approval of Agenda)

Agenda motioned for approval by B. McEachren and seconded L. Tombari -All in Favor – Carried

2. Round Table Introduction of members, staff and guests

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for October

Motioned for approval for revised minutes by R. Reid and seconded by B. McEachren- All in Favor – Carried

4. Presentation - Supporting Students With Technology - Jennifer Barbeau, Diana Lauszus – Special Education Dept.

D. Lauszus shared she has been working in the field for over 25 years and is amazed with how much technology has evolved. The work to create communication devices for students was often laborious – but with the new technology assistive technology is easy to access for all students.

J. Barbeau shared some apps and how easy it is for students to access and on many devices. Almost all students have phones – so students with special education needs do not stand out when using their phones for support. There are many different apps that are available; most apps are free and are economical for parents to add to students personal devices.

5. Correspondence-

- **Letter- London District School Board-** to the Minister of Education regarding the needs of full day junior kindergarten students and the difficulty with their own self-regulation.

SEAC members agreed that a letter should be put together to show our support

- **Letter- Toronto Catholic District School Board** – to the Minister of Education regarding speech and language services for students at the school level.
- **Letter-Near North District School Board-** to the Minister of Education regarding the present funding model and the impact on students with special education needs.

6. Association Updates

- **P. Mick– Community Living Algoma**, excited to announce the inclusion contest. This is its 3rd year. Flyers and posters have been delivered to schools.
- **L. Tombari, Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders** provided handout on behalf of V. Greco for the Learning Disabilities of Sudbury – their January newsletter one of the topics highlighted was accommodating reading styles.
- The second hand out was from the Ontario Association For Families With Children With Communication Disorders, the newsletter highlighted many important topics with children who struggle with communication disorders, one in particular was to help parents obtain financial assistance.
- **A.Gauthier- Children’s Rehabilitation Centre Algoma-** Completed school transitions in the Sault Ste. Marie area and will begin transitions for schools in the district. Peer programs are beginning to support teens- taking place at Sault College.
- **L. Lambert – Infant & Child Development Program – Algoma Public Health, --** School Transitions has been the focus – this is an important process to assist students who are entering school in the fall. .
- **D. Morgan, Mental Health Association-** Shadows of the Mind - some of the films will be shown at the Galaxy cinema and some at Sault College.
- **C. Burgess, Autism Ontario** -was unable to make the meeting but requested that the following information be shared. A resource library will be opening soon (for

parents and professionals) located at the DSO office on Queen Street, including many great autism-based books and DVDs. C. Burgess is the contact person, the information is also available either on the web site or Facebook page. Event info / calendar are now available at autismontario.com.

7. Up-dates from Superintendent K. Colver and Special Education Program/Services

- LDA of Sudbury has contacted ADSB – principals are able to request workshops to support teachers. Also there are parent workshops available. Pamphlets and CD have been delivered to all schools. H. Whitfield is the contact for our ADSB.
- Professional Development
 - December 20th - all Educational Assistant – topic – mental health and how the Algoma Model can support our students, parents and staff.
 - January 31, 2014 – all Educational Assistants took part in various workshops
- CAT 4 / Insight results- positive feedback from schools.
- SERT meetings – with Family of Schools - smaller group to meet – recent meeting regarding understanding assessments.
- K. Colter –
 - Special Education Program team and Program team are meeting with Gr. 3 & 6 teachers to assist in an understanding of learning disabilities and how students can be supported in the classroom.
 - Dr. Jean Clinton will be presenting to staff in February.
 - Update Section 23 - Attendance Center- students are attending – this is an improvement from the past.

8. Report from the Board (Trustees) B. McEachren & R. Reid

- White Pines C&VS girl's basketball team was very successful.
- Adult Education programs are successful
- Accommodation Review for Aweres and Etienne Brule – there will be a 60 day consultation period for the Board of Trustees to make its decision.
- Trustees have their professional development this weekend – joint conference with OPSBA and the French language boards

9. Agenda items for Next meeting


- Self-regulation - letter to the Ministry of Education

- Behavior – special education portal
- CAT 4 / Insight summaries
- H. Whitfield

Next SEAC meeting date: February, February 25, 2014

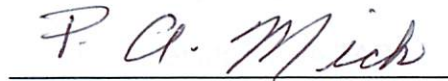
10. Adjournment at 1:10

Motioned for approval by B. McEachren and seconded by L. Tombari- All in Favor – Carried



Kime Collver

Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick

Chair