



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

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday February 23, 2015

D.T. Walkom Room

12:00 Noon

Present

Members: P. Mick, D. Morgan, A. Gauthier, J. Martin, H. Marshall, C. Burgess

Staff: K. Colver, C. Phillips,

Trustees: B. McEachren, S. Evans-Price

Regrets: P. Southwind, M. Levy, M. Yourchuk, L. Graham, H. Scott L. Lambert
K. Colter

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

1. Welcome (Approval of Agenda)

Agenda– B .McEachern and seconded by S. Evans-Price

Minutes– C. Burges, and Seconded by D. Morgan

Round Table Introduction of members, staff and guest

2. Correspondence – Letters

- a) **Upper Grand District School Board** - The letter was written to the Ministry to support other school boards statement about advocating for mandatory special education preparatory courses for all teachers graduating from teacher education programs in Ontario
- b) **Upper Grand District School Board** - “Special Education Plan” the Upper Grand District School Board wrote a letter to the Ministry for Clarification regarding its expectations for Special Education Report and Special Education Plan. Algoma District

School Boards are locating on our board website. K. Collver will call not sure what the letter is in regards and will ask for clarification.

- c) **Ministry of Education – Welcome letter to all SEAC Chairs.** K. Collver- we still have to have our Vote for chair and Vice Chair.

B. McEachren- let's do it right now. I nominate: Pat Pick for Chair and Dan Morgan for Vice Chair

D. Morgan, and Seconded by H. Marshal- P. Mick –Excepts

Pat and Seconded by Bob McEachren- D. Morgan excepts

P. Mick and D. Morgan will be chair and vice for the 2014-2015 SEAC.

- d) **Ministry of Education-** SEAC workshop inviting SEAC chair conference May 2nd suggest a SEAC chair, trustee etc. The work shop will be reflecting on what SEAC roles and duties and what the province is doing, variety of presentations and carousels on topics of interest to SEAC's including presentations from DSB SEACs, resource information from Provincial associations.

K. Collver anyone interested- B. McEachren, K. Mick, P. Mick, C. Burges- wondering. B. McEachren, a lot of you organizations such as Autism Ontario will be also sending members.

- e) **Renfrew County District School Board-** Writing a letter in support of other school boards with regards to Regulation 274 and the negatively that affects all children in the province particularly students with special needs.

5. Presentation – FASD Brain Development: Algoma District School Board was able to send staff in the fall to attend this amazing presentation. The presentation had actual MRI's of brains of FASD children and adult. The MRI's showed the different parts of the brain and what is affected when a child is born with FASD. People who are diagnosed with FASD actually have brain damage and there is nothing can be done to repair the brain. The images show the different lobes of the brain and the functions. Students with FASD have learning disability and behavior issues. It was amazing you could actually from the MRI see the shape of the brain was different and the thickness was different then a regular brain, which hinders learning. A lot of children have FASD but don't have the regular facial characteristics and MRI would give a clear picture.

Summary- range physical features, pattern, amount of exposures and each child is different. For a parent to admit- drinking and doing drugs- shrinks the brain- logical and emotional brain- don't talk to each other- might not even happen. A Doctor in Sudbury Just recently started performing MRI's amazing opportunity.

From the MRI it can show that damage in the Frontal lobe where a person's- organization, self-regulations, interrupting, sexual and social behavior are stored. Almost everyone FASD student has problems in Math- writing self-care, memory- very short, issues with working memory, motor functions

In Sault Ste Marie the Indian friendship center has done amazing job to support FASD, Matt Sinclair an adult who was born with FASD has been traveling our schools and making connections with students.

Unfortunately still in the early stages for getting MRI imaging a teacher can do a referral- but parents have to agree. – informal working with community agencies, AFS, CCAS, CRCA- medical documents- first nation communities- presently adoptive parents- are having the testing done.

6. Association Updates

- **J. Martin- Spina Bifada & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario-** Nothing to add
- **A. Gauthier- Children's Rehab Algoma-** busy with transition meetings.
- **C. Burgess- Autism Ontario: Monthly workshop for parents and professionals**
Workshops are running for Parents and Professionals once a month until July. Exciting opportunity for parent and professionals each month the work shop show cases a different topic.
 - April 2 will be world Autism Day- schools have registered and taken parent in raising \$200.00- the school will receive a free flag, magazines, educational materials etc. Local chapter members are willing to come to the schools on April 2 to talk about Autism. Website www.raisetheflagforautism.com also check out Facebook.
 - Bringing forward a concern from a parent- child was asked to stay back since there wasn't enough EA's. Parents have been going to supervise their child so there are able to go on field trips. Was wondering the protocol. K. Collver- EA's are to accompany students on field trips, but every case is different and would recommend the parent talking to the principal.
- **Heather Marshall - North East Community Care Access Centre (NECCAC)**
A new initiative was introduced in the fall and getting lots of referral, wonderful partnership working with Algoma District School board were able to have an Occupation therapist. Lot of request for students in JK/SK classes, presently the O/T is in the grade one class and is amazed by the support from the school and that grade 1 is a more appropriate age to work with students as they are able to carry stuff learned from the previous week to the next as JK/SK you were constantly starting from the beginning each session.

- **D. Morgan - Canadian Mental Health** – nothing to add
- **P. Mick - Community Living Algoma** – nothing to add

Update from Superintendent K. Collver & Special Education Staff - Special Ed Program/ Services

- Staff have been busy with transition meetings for JK/ SK working with Lori Lambert from Algoma Public Health, approximately 45 high needs students have been identified for next year.
- Staff also busy with transitioning our high school, and our special education class. Students who are 21 will be graduating this year.
- Budget talk- Once again it's that time of year, very hopeful that things will stay the same as the previous years. Some of our special education programs will be changing a little-reducing a class at community Ed and adding a class to White Pines Dare program Dare Intermediate: we have about 17-20 students who we are looking at their profiles, would move them into the fields schools- students from grade 7 and 8 will be streamlined into the Dare Program and the world of work, very exciting. Already have students from Greenwood and Tarentorus taking tours. White Pines staff have been amazing and excited to house this wonderful opportunity
- January 30th PD- EA half a day –restorative approaches- consequence and discipline was an excellent presentation and EA's were excited and appreciated to be involved in the PD day session.
- Great opportunity for staff with training the next few months CPI Training with Will Nelles, Mental Health Assist training with Sandy Irwin.
- Dona Menard-Calder and Rico Iacoe will be retiring this June, will be posting for their position soon, Sad to see them both go but excited for their next journey,
- Report Cards were sent out with IEPs in February.
- Once again we will be part of the team and the Ministry for IEP reviews that take place in May.

Report from the Board (Trustees) B. McEachren & C. Evans- Price

- Proud of our Korah basketball- invited to sand jam Bahamas- because they were well mannered, good a group of students- picked from Ontario- not from ability but because of leadership
- Purchased Microsoft office for all students and staff- download and use.
- Talking a look at Etienne Brule- working with the town- garden and park
- Merrifield- hasn't come to the board- waiting for parent and feedback. April. Process will change- come out the beginning so groups can arguing and share their opinion, government realized flaws in the process.
- Win for kids finalized- 6 or 10 students ADSB- vote by March. 1 vote per email. Cash for our kids. Active programs.

7. **Agenda items for Next meeting**

Next SEAC meeting date: April 20, 2015

8. Adjournment at 1:05 pm – B. McEachren and seconded by H. Marshall



Kime Colver

Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick

Chair