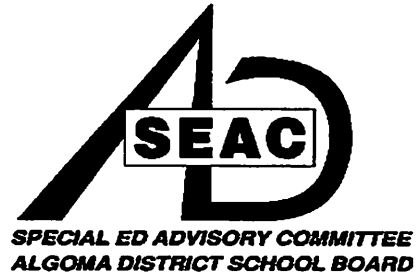


**ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE S.E.A.C**

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 2, 2019
Board Room
12:00 Noon



Present

Members: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), H. Marshall (Local Health Integration Network), A. Gauthier (Thrive), T. Bagnall (Learning Disabilities Association SSM), L. Lambert (Infant Child Development Program), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

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

Trustees: R. Reid, S. Evans-Price

Guests: Jennifer Bouchard (Autism Pilot Projects Lead),
Kirby Horton (Special Education Assignment Teacher)

Regrets: D. Morgan (Canadian Mental Health Association), A. Katajamaki (Alternate - Canadian Mental Health Association), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

1. Chair Pat Mick called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Round Table Introduction of members, staff and guests

3. Pat Mick called for approval of February agenda and January minutes

- Agenda approval - Moved by S. Evans- Price. Seconded by S. Kitts. All in favour.
- Minutes approval – Moved by L. Lambert. Seconded by H. Marshall. All in favour.

4. Correspondence:

Halton DSB (re: Ontario Autism Program). Halton District School Board trustees express concern about the changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Concerns include lack of notice regarding program changes, lack of an implementation plan or new funding from the Ministry.

Durham Catholic (re: Ontario Autism Program). Similar to the letter above, expressing frustration with the ministry regarding proposed changes as well as issues around SIP funding and the negative impacts that this will have on children, families and school boards.

Email From C. Nadeau (Child & Community Resources). Resignation from SEAC as CCR has cut back management staff due to changes to the OAP. B. Vallee expressed our regrets, will send a written response.

Discussion: Overview of Ministry Announcements regarding the Ontario Autism Program.

5. **Presentation: Update on Autism Pilot Projects in ADSB (Kirby Horton and Jennifer Bouchard)**

- Number of boards selected around the province to take part in two Ministry of Education (MOE) pilot projects to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). One project was to provide designated space in schools for therapists to work with clients/students. The second was to provide enhanced Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) training to Educational Assistants. Algoma District School Board selected to participate in both projects.
- K. Horton spoke about the designated space project. Parkland Public school selected as “designated space” site as the school had physical space available, as well as a larger population of students with ASD as the Communication Classes on-site. K. Horton spoke about the process of selecting and designing the space, and working with our community partners to schedule student use. Four students are currently using the space on a daily basis.
- J. Bouchard spoke about the ABA training for Educational Assistants project. Training was provided via a 40 hour on-line course through the Geneva Centre for Autism. The course, which is also the training course for Registered Behavioural Therapists, focused on case studies, clinical learning, and theory. Time was also provided for additional professional learning focused on practical application of the training. J. Bouchard and some of the Board’s Multi-Disciplinary team led this training. 15 EAs were selected to participate in 2017-2018, and another 15 in 2018-2019.

6. **Member Organization Updates**

Pat Mick– Member at large:

- Nothing to add

Lori Lambert– Infant & Child Development Program:

- Implementing some changes to service model based on Ministry direction.
- Currently focus on birth to 6 year olds, moving forward service will end following school entry.
- Mandated changes come into effect by June 30 2019.

Heather Marshall– North East Local Health Integration Network

- North East Local Health will be dissolving under new model, but no specifics on what will replace it.

Amanda Gauthier- Thrive nothing

- Busy time of year- transition meetings for JK working with Algoma Public Health and school boards.
- Excited that the Preschool program is now open providing 8 more child care spaces.

Tiffany Bagnall LDAO

- Still looking to secure money from the Ministry, The LDAO chapter in Sault Ste Marie will be running until June and if funding is not found, the program will end.

Sherry Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Really busy time of year.
- Within the Garden River Education Unit, approximately 80 students are currently identified with an exceptionality of 225 elementary, 90 secondary, and 165 post-secondary students.
- 13 support workers have been added
- Special Education transportation bus busy transferred special need students.
- J. Maurice is visiting a number of communities to discuss the Every Voice Matters survey.
- B. Vallee presented special education information at the last Tuition Partners meeting

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Last board meeting, received a presentation on the Well-Being survey and how the link was sent to schools for parents and students to take part in.
- Presentation from a W.C. Eaket student of her prize-winning poem on the topic of Residential Schools.
- Update on policies and by-laws.

8. Updates from Administration (B. Vallee and K. Viita)

- **School Mental Health Assist:** School Mental Health Assist has now changed their name to School Mental Health Ontario.
- **School & Attendance Counsellor (SAC) Training:** Four of our School and Attendance Counsellors are off to Sudbury during the first week of April to participate in BRISC training. BRISC refers to Brief Service Intervention for School Clinicians. School Mental Health Ontario recommends this model as a good fit for school-based counselling services as it focuses on providing Tier 2 interventions, and utilizes a social-emotional problem-solving model. Students will participate in approximately 5 sessions with a counsellor to work on a specific social-emotional problem that they have identified. Mental Health Lead Darryl Fillmore and two counsellors have already received this training.
- **April 12th PD Day:** The special education department will be providing training for Early Childhood Educators, who will participate in Behaviour Management Systems re-certification, and the Autism Awareness supplement training.
- **Special Education Survey-** We have been collecting data to inform our work on the Special Education plan.
- **Vice-Principal's Meeting:** Meghan Gardiner, our Itinerant Autism Resource Teacher provided training for all of our Vice-Principals in the Autism Awareness Supplement provided by BMS at their past meeting. This course takes approximately 2.5-3 hours to complete.

- **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT):** The provincial literacy test took place on Wednesday, March 27th. No special issues or problems reported. Several additional accommodations were made available to any student writing the test this year.
- **Empower Pilot Project:** Teachers from the five schools participating in the Empower Pilot Project received their fourth day of training from our trainer from SickKids. Schools are currently reaching the mid-point and we hope to have some more data available over the coming weeks to chart progress.

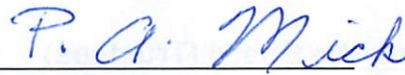
9. Next SEAC meeting date: May 7, 2019

10. Motion to adjourn at 1:30pm

- Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by S. Kitts. All in favour.



Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair