

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



MINUTES OF MEETING

January 29, 2019  
Board Room  
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), S. Yun (Alternate-Local Health Integration Network), A. Gauthier (Thrive), T. Bagnall (Learning Disabilities Association SSM), C. Nadeau (Child & Community Resources) H. Dionisi (Alternate-Infant Child Development Program)

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

Trustees: R. Reid, J. Sarlo

Regrets: S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), M. Yourchuk (Alternate-North Shore Tribal Council), D. Morgan (Canadian Mental Health Association), A. Katajamaki (Alternate - Canadian Mental Health Association) L. Lambert (Infant Child Development Program), H. Marshall (Local Health Integration Network), 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 September agenda and June minutes

- Agenda approval - Moved by A. Gauthier. Seconded by R. Reid. All in favour.
- Minute approval - Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by T. Bagnall. All in favour.

4. Correspondence

- **Letter from Thames Valley District School Board SEAC** expressing concern over long waitlists for children requiring occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech-language pathology in their district. As part of the Special Needs Strategy, services transferred from the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to the Thames Valley Children's Centre. Approximately 3700 children are now currently on this waitlist. The letter encourages Ministries to work together to solve the wait list problem.
  - B. Vallee asked if similar problems have arisen in the Algoma District.
  - S. Yun (LHIN) reported that currently the LHIN and Thrive have been working together to make sure all students are serviced. Numbers on the wait list have not changed dramatically from last year. A. Gauthier (Thrive) stated that there is a great working relationship between the LHIN and Thrive and they are currently working together in regard to services.

5. Presentation: ADSB 2019-2020 Special Education Plan/ Report Process (B. Vallee)

- January begins the process of developing the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan. Consultation and input regarding the Special Education Plan is one of SEAC's *key roles*.

- A handout was distributed outlining the process that will take place from January to July. B. Vallee discussed the various steps that take place as part of the process.
- We are putting an increased focus on consultation. Last year, we rolled out an educator survey to seek input on the plan. For the upcoming year, we are continuing the educator survey and seeking parent/guardian feedback as well. Draft copies of both surveys distributed for review and suggestions.

## 6. Member Association Update

### Pat Mick– Member at large:

- Nothing to add

### Hanele Dionisi– Infant & Child Development Program:

- Busy with transition meetings. Many students with complex needs entering JK next year.
- Letter sent to stakeholders regarding the revised guidelines for service. In October, 2018, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services revised their guidelines around the age of eligibility. Moving forward next year, ICDP's mandate will be from birth to school entry.

### Shirley Yun– North East Local Health Integration Network

- Nothing to add

### Amanda Gauthier- Thrive

- Preschool is expanding. There will be 8 new spots available and one full-time staff will be hired to accommodate the additional children.
- Hired FASD coordinator with the Ministry grant money, excited that 8 or 9 parents are currently accessing the service.

### Carolyn Nadeau- Child & Community Resources

- Continue to be busy with services through the Ontario Autism Program
- Have added a Family Support position.
- Rollout of "Children's Friendship Training" (w/Thrive)
- Workshops for Families continue into the spring. Topics include toileting, transition between settings (e.g. entry to school).

### Tiffany Bagnall LDAO

- Still trying to secure funding for continued services - position has been extended until June
- February 5 Workshop - Roadmaps to Learning (Angie DeMarco)
- YGap and YMCA- Gambling and mental health seminars
- Journey to Success program continues

## 7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- **Inauguration** of new Board in December. There are four new trustees on our Board.
- **Orientation & Training.** Lots of learning and orientation. Initial Committee of the Whole meeting in January was a workshop on the role of the trustee and the role of the board.
- **Public Education Symposium** sponsored by Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) took place in Toronto this past weekend. There was a 44% turn over in trustees during the past election.
- **Committee assignments** will be determined at tonight's meeting.
- **New First Nations Student Trustee Position.** A third student trustee position has been added. This Student Trustee to represent First Nations students. Kaitlyn Wildgoose (W.C. Eaket) is the new student trustee.

## 8. Reports from Administration (B. Vallee and K. Viita)

- **JK Transition Meetings.** JK transition process has begun. We work with Algoma Public Health and Thrive as well as other community stakeholders in this process. Process intended to help provide a smooth transition for incoming JK students that may be presenting with special needs.
  - We currently have 48 students in the Sault Ste Marie area and 8 students in the district on our transition list.
  - The process begins with an initial screening meeting in January with board staff, agency staff, and parents. This is followed by a meeting at the receiving school in the spring with the principal, Special Education Resource Teacher, and receiving teacher, as well as board and agency staff.
  - Funding also provided by the board for school staff to go and observe the student in their daycare setting.
  - There may be an August check-in, and then a follow-up meeting in the fall after the student has been in school.
  - Process concludes in November with a meeting among all stakeholder groups to review the process and suggest enhancements.
  - Question – How does the number compare to previous years? Answer - 48 is similar to the numbers we have seen over the past two years, but this represents an increase over years past. For example, five years ago there were 20 students participating in the process.
- **Attendance Training:** School and Attendance Counsellors participated in a training session on Nov 29 and 30 with a focus on attendance counselling and enforcement of Education Act requirements around attendance. Staff from Huron-Superior CDSB joined us for this training as well.
- **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Claims.** B. Vallee reviewed some of the shifts in SIP funding. In the spring, SIP funding was to increase to a maximum claim of \$38,000 from \$27,000. In September, however, the Ministry announced that this would roll back to a maximum of \$27,405 (a much smaller increase than anticipated). This was problematic as boards budgeted anticipating \$38,000, leaving a gap between anticipated funds and actual amounts received. There was also a slight increase in per-pupil funding (as was shared in the fall) as an offset. Algoma District School Board has submitted approximately 1.4 million in claims this year.
- **Cross-Training Week.** During the last week of school prior to the December break, central office staff in various departments at the Education Centre participating in “cross-training”. Each department took the lead in providing other staff with a half-day of training focused on priorities within their respective departments.
- **Empower Training:** Our trainer from SickKids returned at the beginning in January to provide the third training session to our Empower teachers from River View, East View, Ben R McMullin, Northern Heights and Isabel Fletcher. One more training day will take place in the spring as staff and students progress through the lessons. Mid-project testing will be starting over the coming month or so, which will enable us to share some data. Staff from the Huron-Superior CDSB also joined us for this training.
- **Upcoming PD Day:** The special education department is providing training for Educational Assistants and Occasional Teachers on the upcoming PD Day. Training topics for Educational Assistants include Cultural Competency Training, Re-Certification in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training, and an Autism Awareness course that supplements the BMS training. EAs that completed cultural competency training in November will participate in BMS/Autism training, and vice-versa. Occasional teachers will be participating in sessions on Trauma-Informed Classrooms (conducted by Board Mental Health Leader Darryl Fillmore) and an Introduction to the Learning Disabilities Waterfall Chart resource.

- **Transportation Supports for Children & Youth in Care:** Boards are once again able to apply for funding for to provide transportation supports for children and youth in care to ensure that they are able to remain at a single school site rather than switching schools every time they experience a placement change. and to pay for transitions for the students. Student can stay at school they have been at instead of changing schools

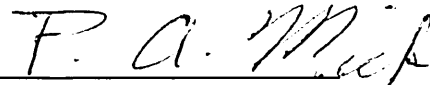
9. Next SEAC meeting date: February 26, 2019

10. Motion to adjourn at 1:20 pm

- Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by T. Bagnall. All in favour.



Brent Vallee  
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick  
Chair