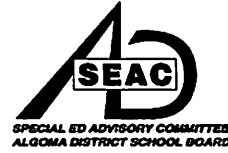


**ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE S.E.A.C**



MINUTES OF MEETING
May 7, 2019
Board Room
12:00 Noon

Present: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), H. Marshall (Local Health Integration Network), T. Bagnall (Learning Disabilities Association SSM), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), D. Morgan (Canadian Mental Health Association), H. Dionisi (Alternate - Infant Child Development Program)

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

Trustees: R. Reid, S. Evans-Price

Guest: Krista Lappage (VP, Isabel Fletcher) to present on the Empower program.

Regrets: M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), A. Gauthier (Thrive), L. Lambert (Infant Child Development Program)

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. Kitts. Seconded by H. Marshall. All in favour.
- Minutes approval – Moved by T.Bagnall. Seconded by D. Morgan. All in favour.

4. Correspondence:

Counseil Scolaire Viamonde RE: FASD (Bill 44)

- Letter to the ministry concerning FASD as an exceptionality. Special thanks to Lianne Vezeau (SLP) for providing a translation.

Durham District School Board (re: Ontario Autism Program).

- Letter expressing frustration about proposed changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and the projected impact of those changes.

Parent Letter

- Letter received from a parent at our co-terminus board looking for support to organize a meeting for parents regarding respite funding/programming for students with disabilities. The board would be able to support such a meeting through distribution of information (e.g flyers, etc) but the most appropriate course of action would be for a community

partner to organize such a discussion as respite funding/programming falls under their mandate.

5. Presentation: Empower Reading Program- Krista Lappage

- Empower™ Reading is a series of evidence-based reading intervention programs that were developed by Dr. Maureen W. Lovett her and her team have the trademarked program through The Hospital for Sick Children (Sick kids) Each reading intervention program has professional development specific to the program. Only teachers trained by Empower trainers can facilitate the Empower program. The program has been running for about 30 years with amazing data to back up the success of the program. Algoma District School Board is implementing the Grade 2-5 “Decoding & Spelling” program.
- Empower™ Reading includes decoding, spelling, comprehension that supports children and adolescents with significant reading and spelling difficulties into strategic, independent, and flexible learners. The success of the program is proven through the extensive rigorously designed research conducted by the research team.
- Staff from ADSB and HSCDSB participated in four full days of training together. Part of the program also includes mentoring for each teacher, which video observation and feedback taking place.
- Criteria for participating in the pilot program included :
 - Students in Grades 2 – 5 identified with a Learning Disability identification and/or data to support possible LD identification (average to above average cognitive ability)
 - Strong attendance and appropriate behavior,
 - Parental consent
 - Similar age grouping
 - Decoding as an area of weakness
- Students completed pre-assessment, mid-assessment, and will complete a post-assessment to identify progress.
- Intensive program – 60 minutes daily, 4-5 days per week

Questions:

H. Marshall any homework? No homework. If a student is absent or misses a lesson there is no make-up or catch-up session either.

P. Mick feedback from parents? Krista Lappage: Feedback has been amazing. Parents and students are excited to see the improvement. Students are more comfortable and want to read at home.

6. Member Organization Updates

Pat Mick– Member at large:

- Nothing to add

Heather Marshall– North East Local Health Integration Network

- Still no answers about North East Local Health Integration Network. Current information is that LHINs will dissolve and there will be a new model, but no specifics.
- Busy participating in JK transitions.

Haneli Dionisi - APH Infant & Child Development Program:

- IT department have been busy trying to get everything back on line after the attack on the system.
- Busy planning for July. Readiness program that will be offered once again for JK/ SK students who will be entering school in September.

Tiffany Bagnall LDAO

- Still trying to secure funding from the Ministry, The LDAO chapter in Sault Ste Marie will be running until June if no funding is found.

Sherry Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Superintendent J. Maurice traveled to Garden River First Nation to discuss the "Every Voice Matters" survey. Approximately 15 parents showed up to hear the presentation.
- Education Week: A rally has been planned for May 10th, 2019 regarding education funding.
- Busy with year-end reports for ministry
- Within the Garden River Education Unit, approximately 80 students (of 225 elementary, 90 secondary, and 165 post-secondary students) are identified with an exceptionality.

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:

- Nothing to add.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Trades Expo: Fantastic turnout. Guest Speaker Jamie McMillan spoke about women in the role of trades and provided an amazing presentation.
- Busy month as we are hoping to receive numbers from the Ministry to start the budget process. The process is almost a month behind so far this year.
- Reviewed the Every Voice 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.

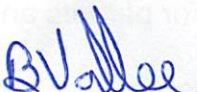
8. Updates from Administration (B. Vallee and K. Viita)

- **Grants for Student Needs/Funding Update.** While some initial information has been released around the Grants for Student Needs, Boards are still waiting to receive the “technical paper” that provides for allocated amounts in specific areas. Information/documents around Ministry funding are available on the MOE website (www.edu.gov.on.ca)
- **Ontario Autism Program Update:** The consultation process for the MOE’s consultation around the OAP program opened May 1st. Boards, organizations, and members of the public are welcome to log on to the website to complete the survey or participate in one of the “town hall” discussions.
- **ASET Conference:** 4 Special Education Department Staff members, including one of our Speech-Language Pathologists, LD Facilitator, ABA Support, and Rural Services Teacher Diagnostician were able to attend the ASET conference in Niagara Falls on April 11th and 12th. Conference sessions are heavily focused on assistive technology and applications of technology in special education.
- **April 12th PD Day:** The special education department provided training for Early Childhood Educators, who participated in Behaviour Management Systems re-certification, and the Autism Awareness supplement training.
- **Every Voice Matters Survey.** The Every Voice Matters survey remains live until May 22nd. We have gotten great participation rates from our Grade 4-12 students, who were provided time to complete the survey. Approximately 20% of our JK-3 students/families have also responded. We are looking forward to crunching the data.
- **April Principal’s Meeting:** Meghan Gardiner, our Itinerant Autism Resource Teacher, and Jennifer Bouchard, Autism Pilot Projects Lead, provided training for all of our Principals in the Autism Awareness Supplement provided by BMS. This course takes approximately 2.5-3 hours to complete.
- **May Vice-Principal’s Meeting:** Vice-Principals are slated to complete BMS Re-Certification training at their meeting on Thursday, May 9th.
- **Education Week:** May 4th – 11th is Education Week. Displays from schools are up at the Station Mall, and a number of our schools have special events planned.
- **Children’s Mental Health Week.** Coincides with Education Week. A kick-off celebration took place yesterday, hosted by Algoma Family Services. A variety of events are planned for the week – available via the AFS website/Facebook page.
- **JK Transitions:** Process continues with school-based meetings currently taking place all month. We currently have approximately 65 students encompassing all districts of our board.

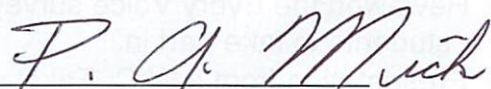
9. Next SEAC meeting date: June 4, 2019

10. Motion to adjourn at 1:40

- Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by D. Morgan. All in favour.



Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair