

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



MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 27, 2018  
D.T. Walkom Room  
12:00 Noon

Present: Pat Mick (CLA), Heather Marshall (NELHIN), Amanda Gauthier (THRIVE), Sherry Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), Tiffany Bagnall (LDAOSSM), Dan Morgan (CMHA), L. Lambert (APH – ICDP)

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

Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren

Regrets:

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 B. McEachren. Seconded by R. Reid. All in favour.
  - Minute approval - Moved by H. Marshall. Seconded by R. Reid. All in favour.
4. **Correspondence-**
  - **Letter from the Upper Grand District School Board** regarding supporting of Bill 44. The letter requests the Ministry of Education amend the Education Act so that every board can promote the awareness and understanding of FASD and the permanent brain injury resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure. This would provide all school boards with a universal definition.
  - **Letter from the PVNC Catholic School Board** regarding SIP funding. Ministry had originally announced that SIP funding would be increased to a maximum of \$38,000 but reverted back to \$27,405. Many boards budgeted based on the \$38,000 maximum, which left a gap in many budgets.
5. **Presentations: Scott MacDonald- DARE/Field School Program**
  - DARE (Developing Alternative Realistic Expectations) is a non-credit program for Grade 9&10 students. Students entering the DARE program have a cognitive profile requiring **modified** or alternative academic programming, but demonstrate the adaptive functioning skills necessary to function independently within the school setting (and

eventually the workplace). The program originated at Alexander Henry High School before moving to White Pines C. & V.S.

- The DARE program focuses on helping students build knowledge and skills that will prepare them to participate in field placements as part of their pathway to transitioning to the world of work. Programming focuses on promoting independence, building everyday living skills, participating in physical activity and making healthy lifestyle choices, and enhancing basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- **Field Schools:** After completing the DARE program, students who are prepared to do so transition into a Field School placement. These placements assist students in developing their readiness level for employment, community placement, or further education (through Sault College). Students participate in classroom work on basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as work placements that provide students with a hands-on, everyday life skills approach.
- Field School sites include the Bushplane Museum, F.J. Davey Home, and Station Mall. Approximately 25 businesses in the Sault Ste. Marie support the Field School Program by providing students with a worksite.
- Specific programming provides opportunities for a variety of work experiences, health & safety training, building and developing social skills and self-esteem, promoting and enhancing independent living and life skills development.
- Students are able to stay in the program until the last day of school of the year in which they turn 21.
- After finishing, many of our students go on to attend Sault College and the Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) Program.

#### **Discussion around the presentation included:**

##### ***How many students attend the program?***

Approximately 60 students are enrolled in DARE 1 DARE 2 and the Field Schools.

##### ***What happens when students turn 21?***

Students from this program often receive adult services through Community Living Algoma and other agencies, attend Sault College CICE, or enter the world of work. Most of these students are involved in the Integrated Transition Planning process throughout their secondary school years.

#### **6. Member Association Update**

##### **Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:**

- No report at this time.

##### **Lori Lambert – Infant & Child Development Program:**

- 50 year of celebration
- Gearing up for transition meetings. ICDP has identified a lot of complex students who will be entering JK next year.

### **Heather Marshall – North East Local Health Integration Network**

- Excited that they have hired a new Speech and language Pathologist who will be starting December 10, 2018.

### **Amanda Gauthier- Thrive**

- 5<sup>th</sup> annual PD session was held at Grand Gardens Verdi location.
- Great success with a great turn out. B. Vallee added that 10 staff from the special education department were able to attend the session.

### **Sherry Kitts- North Shore Tribal Council**

- Lots of work with 15 Anishinabe Support Workers
- Session for parents on Self-regulation
- Busy with case conferences and transition meetings

### **Tiffany Bagnall LDAO**

- Still trying to secure funding for continued services.
- Learning Disability Awareness Month – a number of activities took place including the placement of flags at Sault college to represent the number of students with a learning disability in the district.

### **Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:**

- Upcoming fashion show and silent auction to support the Canadian Mental Health Association.

## **7. Report from the Board (Trustees)**

- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French Immersion programs
- Centre for DELF (will be based out of Boreal)
- Update on capital projects underway
- Approval of SEAC members goes to the board tonight.
- Four new trustees will be on the next board.

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

- **November 30<sup>th</sup> PD Day:** Mathematics focus with examination of the “Focusing on Fundamentals” resource that the Ministry has released. Specialized classroom teachers are participating in mathematics PD in the morning, and meeting with the specialized classroom colleagues in the afternoon. Behaviour Program teams will focus on working with students with learning disabilities, Communication Classes will participate in resource development, and Supported Learning Classrooms will focus on developing language/communication strategies.
- **Educational Assistant PD:** Educational Assistants participated in Behaviour Management Systems re-certification, an Autism Awareness supplement, Cultural Competency Training and/or a session on Trauma-informed classrooms.
- **CEC Conference:** Several special education staff will be taking part in the *Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference* that took place in Toronto from November 29 to December 1, 2018.

- **Trillium Demonstration School Presentation:** SERTS participated in a presentation from Susan Hallett from the Trillium Provincial Demonstration School. Trillium, located in Milton, Ontario, focuses on learning disabilities
- **Thrive PD session** – 10 ADSB staff attended the PD session at Thrive.
- **Transition Meetings:** Fall follow-up meetings for all of our Junior Kindergarten students have taken place. We are now looking forward to beginning the process again in January.
- **Principal PD:** Introduction to the York Region DSB “WaterFall” chart. Intro Was a great exercises for the principals to take part in.

9. Next SEAC meeting date: January 29, 2019

10. Motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm

- Moved by R. Reid Seconded by L. Lambert. All in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10.



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Brent Vallee  
Superintendent of Education



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Pat Mick  
Chair