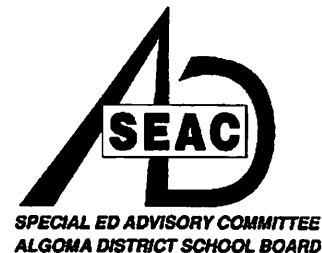


**ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE S.E.A.C**



MINUTES OF MEETING

September 25, 2018
D.T. Walkom Room
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Heather Marshall, L. Lambert, Amanda Gauthier, Sherry Kitts,

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

Trustees: R. Reid

Guest: Mallory Kent- Thrive, Kelsey Dugas – Algoma Public Health

Regrets: Linda Graham, Dan Morgan, Sarah Mansfield, B. McEachren, M Yourchuk (teleconference issue)

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 R. Reid. Seconded by H. Marshall. All in favour.
- Minute approval - Moved R. Reid. Seconded by H. Marshall. All in favour.

4. Presentations:

Self-Regulation Group - Mallory Kent (Thrive)

- Thrive, along with a variety of community partners (including school boards) have formed a committee to focus on developing a service pathway for children with self-regulation needs.
- Purpose of this pathway will be to assist with strategies and methods to help children who struggle with emotional regulation.
- This includes setting goals, working together as a team to address the goals, and developing a shared language and understanding.
- There is a form to be completed and submitted to begin the process.

Discussion around the presentation included:

- How much commitment is required from the parent? The parent would need to be committed to attend 2 education sessions of approximately 1 hour in length.
- Pathway at home and school- 6 sessions.
- Form can be sent to any OT at Thrive

Special Education Department Staff 2018-2019 (Brent Vallee)

- Brent Vallee provided an overview of the current Special Education Department team. The team's role is to support schools in supporting their students. We use a "tiered" model to provide support – Tier One (for All), Tier Two (for Some), and Tier Three (For a Few) to indicate the degree of intervention.
- **Special Education Assignment Teachers (SEATs):** SEATs may provide Tier One, Two, or Three supports as they act as a liaison between the school and the system. They collaborate with SERTs, Principals, and classroom teachers to build the school's capacity to in support appropriate programming and services. Our SEAT team includes:
 - **Sault Area: Amanda Naccarato, Marie Morin- Strom**
 - **Sault & North: Heather Whitfield**
 - **Central Algoma/East- Kirby Horton**
- **Itinerant Teachers:** Itinerant teachers provide Tier One and Two supports. They are embedded within schools for a specific period of time to build the school's capacity to conduct ongoing assessments, develop and monitor Individual Education Plans, and to help schools implement strategies to support students. This team includes:
 - **Autism Resource Teacher (Meghan Gardiner)**
 - **Early Years Special Education Resource Teacher 0.5 FTE (Jennifer Bouchard)**
 - **Behaviour Resource Teacher (Jim Verslype)**
 - **Blind & Low Vision (Amy Lawson):** - includes both direct service & system-wide responsibilities
 - **Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing (Lindsay Bisailon)** - includes both direct service & system-wide responsibilities
- **Multi-Disciplinary Team:** Our MDT provides specialized Tier Two and Three supports to build the school's capacity to work with students with very specialized needs. This team includes:
 - **Speech-Language Pathologist (Lianne Vezeau & TBA):** The SLP provides assessment and consultation services to assist schools in support student needs related to language development.
 - **Behavior Analyst (Chris Bartko):** The Behaviour Analyst provides assessment and programming support for students with intensive needs related to ASD
 - **ABA Support Person (Diana Lauszus):** The ABA Support Person provides programming support for students with intensive needs related to ASD
- **Mental Health Team:** Our Mental Health team provides support for the promotion of positive mental health and social-emotional learning. This team includes:
 - **Mental Health Leader (Darryl Fillmore):** The MHL provides Tier 1, 2, 3 supports. This includes development and support of the ADSB Mental Health Strategy, working with community agencies and partners to ensure pathways to care, and acting as a liaison for students that transition back to school after receiving community-based services.
 - **School & Attendance Counsellors (12):** Our SACs provide Tier One and Two supports to promote student well-being and social emotional learning, as well as acting as members of the Board's Traumatic Events Response team. SACs also assist students and families requiring more intensive supports access community-based services. Attendance services focus on implementing the attendance provisions of the Education Act.

5. Member Association Update

Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:

- October 18th, 2018 will be first meeting. Nothing to report at this time.

Lori Lambert – Infant & Child Development Program:

- Excited to introduce Kelsey Dugas, who will be working alongside of L. Lambert. This will help alleviate caseload.
- Very busy with new referrals coming in.
- Transition meetings from the spring have made a smoother September start-up.
- Follow-up check-ins with schools begin in October.
- Will be providing assessments for 13 more students this fall.

Heather Marshall – North East Local Health Integration Network

- Busy but good start up for September.
- Concerns of space in schools, struggling to find a private quiet spot to work with students.
- B. Vallee will have a conversation with principals at the next principal meeting.

Amanda Gauthier- Thrive

- Busy but good start up
- Excited about staff changes with recent hire of a FASD worker, and 7 new staff.
- Seeking additional Speech and Language Pathologist and a Physiotherapist.

Sherry Kitts- North Shore Tribal Council

- Excited that Jordan's Principle funding will continue
- Currently have 15 staff who are able to support Garden River Students.

6. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Grand Opening & Open House scheduled for today at Boreal P.S. Parents, and community are welcome to have a tour between 4:30 -6:30 tonight (September 25, 2018)
- First Board meeting takes place tonight (September 25, 2018).

7. Reports from Administration (B. Vallee and K. Viita)

Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education

- **Empower Reading:** Algoma District School Board is conducting a pilot project to implement *Empower Reading*,
 - Empower Reading was developed by Dr. Maureen W. Lovett and her team of educators and psychology professionals in the Learning and Disabilities Research Program (LDRP) at The Hospital for Sick Children:
 - Empower is a set of reading programs designed to address the core learning problems of children and adolescents who struggle with reading. The programs offer remediation in decoding and word reading, spelling, vocabulary development and text comprehension.
 - *Ben R. McMullin, East View, River View, Northern Heights, and Isabel Fletcher* will be implementing the program;
 - SERTs completed training on September 24th and 25th and will begin implementation in October.
- **Funding Update:** new government has made a few adjustments to funding:
 - **Per Pupil Allocation.** The amounts for SEPPA have been increased

- **Special Incidence Portion:** SIP amounts were originally to be increased to a maximum of approximately \$38,000. The government has reduced the maximum back to the original amount of approximately \$27,000.

Kristen Viita, System Administrator:

- **Start-up:** All of our Special Education Team spent the beginning of the school year supporting schools and classrooms with high numbers of at-risk students.
- **SERT Meeting:** September 7, 2018 was an orientation sessions for teachers new to the SERT role. Focus areas include an overview of the Spec. Ed. team, use of the "portal" and Trillium programs, and discussions around scheduling.
- **EA Allocation:** Committee met again in August to review allocations; these will be reviewed periodically throughout the school year.
- **Principal's Meeting** –The Special Education focus for our September meeting was on Transitions. Elementary principals focused on Kindergarten transitions while Secondary Principals focused on transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9. This was a case study approach where all principals received a student profile, developed a transition plan, and completed the relevant forms
- **Specialized Classroom PD:** Initial sessions for our Communication Class and Supported Learning Class teams took place in mid-September with a focus on developing student profiles and IEP goals.

8. **Next SEAC meeting date: October 30, 2018**

9. **Motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm**

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

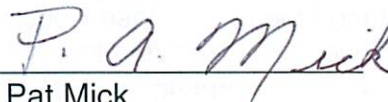
Meeting adjourned at 1:10.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting - Nomination Forms for the next term of SEAC



Brent Vallee

Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick

Chair