

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

D.T. Walkom Room

12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Heather Marshall, Amanda Gauthier, Leslie Wright, Linda Graham, Sarah Mansfield – guest -CYC Spencer Longshot, Dan Morgan, Helen Scott,

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

Trustees: R. Reid

Regrets: B. McEachren, Marnie Yourchuk, D. Roach

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 June Minutes and September Agenda**
 - Agenda approval moved by R. Reid and seconded by D.Morgan. All in favour
 - Minute approval moved by L. Graham and seconded by D. Morgan. All in favour
4. **Correspondence** – No correspondence provided at this time
5. **Member Association Update**

Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:

- First meeting today at White Pines
- Nothing to report over the summer

Heather Marshall – CCAC:

- Lots of changes over the summer month with move to the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
- some new hiring completed as well

Amanda Gauthier – Thrive:

- A busy back-to-school start up
- Excited to have hired a new social worker - Thrive now has 3 in total and has filled a temporary position for a speech and language pathologist.

Leslie Wright– Infant & Child Development Program:

- Transition to the Ontario Autism Program has caused some changes
- the wait time for diagnoses has become faster for families with the goal that early service will be in place before students enter JK/ SK

- Ideally, would like to have schools make earlier contact with possible concerns for students that might require services. By the end of Sept or beginning of October would be ideal
- Summer Language Program (on-site at Northern Heights this year) ran successfully.

Helen Scott – Association for Bright Children:

- Annual conference scheduled (tentatively) for December, H. Scott Will confirm closer to the date.

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:

- No report.

Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders:

- No report.

Sarah Anich –Learning Disability Association of Ontario (LDAO):

- Excited to have a co-op student working with her this semester.
- Receiving a lot of phone calls from parents with regard to their child who are identified with a Learning Disability and asking for help.
- Excited to announce that Angie DeMarco will be in town for presentations in October. Angie will be presenting to ADSB staff on October 17, 2017.
- Spoke about doing a theme of transiting students from grade to grade, especially grade 8 to 9 and grade 12 to post-secondary school.
- Programs running at Grand View, Northern Heights and Korah Intermediate focusing on Learning Disabilities. Parent Support Group. Hoping to meet 3 times this year.
- October is Learning Disability Awareness Month. On Monday, October 16, 2017, mini flags will be placed at Sault College to draw awareness to numbers of students with a learning disability.
- A movie night is also planned.

6. Reports from Administration B. Vallee and K. Viita

Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education

- Welcome Kristen Viita to the Special Education Team, She replaces Kelly Colter who has returned to a school posting as Principal at Northern Heights.
- Welcome Kirby Horton and Marie Morin-Strom who have taken on the role of SEAT for the 2017/2018 school year with the departure of James Kerr and Krista Lappage who have taken on roles as Vice-Principals
- *Busy with transition, very busy start up*
- Lianne Vezeau, Speech-Language Pathologist has started her Maternity leave. Unfortunately, Algoma District School Board are having a hard time securing a replacement in this position. It has been posted multiple times.
- First SERT meeting took place on September 15th. Pleased to have Sarah Mansfield from LDAO as our community partner presenter. The Special Education team provided professional development presentations on *Developing Student Support Plans, Guidelines for IEP Development, Technology Focus* (use of the 'portal'), an overview of the *Testing Referral Process*, as well as school grouping sessions with their SEATs.
- Stats- We generally do "counts" of our exceptional and non-exceptional students in May (as part of our Special Education Plan) and October. This allows us to provide consistent comparisons. However, we know that we have seen an increase in Behavioral exceptionalities (approximately 270) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (appx. 280).

- Over the past few years, Geneva Centre has offered school boards spots for on-line training. This was subsidized by EDU in the past. Have not heard whether this continues for 2017-2018.
- Special Needs Strategy- first meeting of current school year scheduled for September 21st
- Northern Support Initiative – Announcement of funding dollars last spring, however there seems to be a number of parameters that have changed. All North-Eastern Ontario boards met in Sudbury on September 7th to discuss a collaborative network, and next steps. Follow-up teleconference scheduled for October 6th. Looks like the focus areas for boards are similar - mental health, assessment wait times, and increasing numbers of high needs/complex cases.
- Ministry Alternative Expectation Framework. This has been ongoing work for the past few years. Regional session to share an initial draft was held last spring – ADSB sent a team (Pat Mick, Kelly Colter, Brent Vallee, Kara Provenzano, Amanda Naccarato, Jennifer Bouchard, and Scott MacDonald) to attend this session. During the summer, Ministry assembled a team to update/re-write draft. Boards were able to nominate two possible candidates. Amanda Naccarato (SEAT) participated as part of this team. We are hoping to get further information on the status of the document in the near future.
- Discussion concerning SERT meetings. We would love to have a community partner/SEAC member group present at each of our SERT meetings to raise awareness. All members indicated they would be supportive of this.

System Administrator K. Viita

- Busy with JK/SK transition meetings
- Was excited to take part in Geneva Centre and LD@School conferences in Toronto this past August.
- LDAO: Great information and speakers e.g. Rick Green from The Red Green Show an adult with ADHD, provided a comical look into “identifications that follow us in to adulthood. Rick’s website is <http://totallyadd.com>. Dr. Peg Dawson, another keynote speaker, focused on executive functioning. Her website is <http://www.smartbutscatteredkids.com>. Other sessions that the team attending included a focus on teaching strategies, diagnosis & identification, and assistive technology.
- Geneva Centre: 2-day workshop. Day One was a keynote presentation by Kathryn Quill looking at Integrated Service Planning. The second day offered a choice of sessions presented by Geneva Centre staff. Kristen Viita & Kirby Horton attended a session on Applied Behaviour Analysis (Andrew Davis) while Brent Vallee attended a full-day session on ABA and Anxiety. (Katy Albert)
- Upcoming PD – teams will be attending a Deafblind conference at W. Ross MacDonald and the G7 FASD session in Sault Ste. Marie during October. Brent Vallee and Kristen Viita are also attending the annual symposium on Issues in Special Education Law presented by Osgoode.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Very busy start up and sounds like everything is now running smoothly.
- First board meeting takes place tonight.

8. Ideas or Presentations for 2017/2018 SEAC :

- B. Vallee requested that members provide input as to what topics, interest and ideas they would like to see included in SEAC meeting presentations, discussions, etc.

Next SEAC meeting date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017

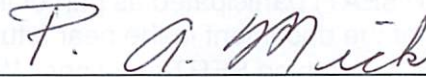
Motion to adjourn

- Moved by L. Graham, Seconded by H, Marshall. All in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00



Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair