



MINUTES OF MEETING  
Tuesday, October 24, 2017  
D.T. Walkom Room  
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Linda Graham, Sarah Mansfield, Dan Morgan, Helen Scott, L. Lambert,  
Staff: K. Viita, B. Vallee, C. Phillips  
Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren  
Regrets: Amanda Gauthier, Marnie Yourchuk, D. Roach, Heather Marshall

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 B. McEachren. All in favour
  - Minute approval moved by L. Graham and seconded by D. Morgan. All in favour
4. **Correspondence- Ministry request for input from the Committee re: Governance Consultation**
  - Letter from the Ministry asking SEAC members to provide input regarding consultations on governance issues. Topics include:
    - Integrity Commissioner and Trustee Code of Conduct;
    - Trustee Honoraria;
    - Electronic Participation in Board and Committee Meetings;
    - Student Trustee Term of Office and Election Process ; and
    - Broadening the director of education qualifications.
  - R. Reid commented that we have been keeping up to date and have a number of these policies in place already.
  - H. Scott stated that she would be providing input and offered to submit input of other members if they wished. Anyone who wishes to do so could provide their input to Helen by Nov 10, 2017.
5. **Presentations: Every Day Counts: Attendance Toolkit for Administrators ( Darryl Fillmore, Mental Health Leader)**
  - Darryl Fillmore and Brent Vallee shared a new resource that the board will be using to promote improvements in attendance. A pdf of the presentation slides is attached.

## 6. Member Association Update

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

- In October, CLA hosted a two-day inclusive education conference entitled *Creating Welcoming Communities: The Journey to Inclusion Begins at School*.
- The event was sponsored by Community Living Algoma (CLA) in partnership with Inclusive Education Canada
- Conference took place October 11-12, 2017 at the Water tower Inn.
- Community Living Algoma is focusing on moving along the path to inclusion in schools by working closely with local school boards. They welcomed teachers and school leaders to join with parents, family members and agency staff to be part of the conference.
- The conference program featured a number of speakers/presenters from Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. The opening night saw John Policicchio, CLA Executive Director, set the mandate for the conference and the objectives set by the association.
- Speakers included:
  - Stephanie Vucko, who is an education leader from the Montreal area;
  - Luke Reid, a lawyer at ARCH Disability Law Centre,
  - Amy Kipfer who is an inclusive education specialist with the Avon Maitland District School Board in Ontario; and
  - Sophie Pitre-Boudreau, an administrator from a Francophone school in North-Est New Brunswick and a former provincial inclusion coordinator with the NB Ministry of Education.
  - CLA pleased with turnout and information sharing.

### **Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders:**

- Linda shared that her association has sent a letter to Michael Coteau (Minister of Children & Youth Services) in regard to the status of the Special Needs Strategy
- Concern that strategy is ‘on hold” and speech/language services are remaining separate at this time.
- B. Vallee provided an update on the local steering committee – local focus for Integrated Rehabilitative Services was Speech/Language services. Current status is that school board services remain unchanged; however transition of children’s services (OT, PT, Speech) continue to transition from the LHIN to Children’s Treatment Services. Waiting for further direction at the provincial level to clarify the work moving forward.

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

- Lori also shared updates on the Special Needs Strategy from the coordination of services orientation
- Excited with the new Diagnostic hub; partnership with Thrive, Algoma Public Health. For children that don’t need a full assessment this will be speed up the process for students who are waiting with the hope of reducing wait times.
- Pilot project that helps parents who struggle with mental health of high needs of kids, working together with agencies to help parents navigate the system

### **Helen Scott – Association for Bright Children:**

- ABC provincially has been focused on the release of Toronto District School Board’s report from their *Enhancing Equity Task Force*
- Report was released on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.
- ABC has concerns about some of the recommendations in the report - regarding eliminating or reducing specialized programs, de-streaming Grade 9 and 10 programs, eliminating gifted programming, and not providing additional resources or funds to train teachers to work with students that will be in their mainstream classes.

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

- No report.

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

- Lots of work happening in our schools. For example, Sarah is beginning five different programs this week (e.g. Grand View Public School focusing on the journey to success and social skills).
- October was LD awareness month. LDAO had a number of activities underway. Flags placed at library to reflect number of students with a learning disability locally (approx. 2000), movie night, and presentations

**7. Reports from Administration B. Vallee and K. Viita**

**Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education**

**Professional Development:**

- **BMS Training:** Our 4 existing trainers were certified and three additional trainers certified to provide Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training. These staff will continue the work of providing this training to staff across our system including teachers, administrators and support staff.
- **Special Education Program Teachers.** Our goal is to bring teachers of special education programs (*Supported Learning Classrooms, Communication Classrooms, and Integrated Behaviour Program*) teachers together for half-day sessions every six-eight weeks. Good feedback from our initial sessions in October. Teachers and Educational Assistants from these programs will also be together on the October and November PD Days for focused work on targeted improvement areas.
- **World Sight Day** was celebrated at Algoma District School Board on October 12, 2017. Amy Lawson, Specialist Teacher for Blind/ Low Vision provided Education Centre staff with a presentation (including simulations) on the challenges that our BLV students face, and some of the strategies that are in place to assist with these. Simulation activities included having attendees put on goggles modified to mimic what Blind/Low Vision student would be able to see and asking them to complete a variety of everyday tasks.
- **Deafblind Training:** Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (Lindsay Bisailon) and 2 Interpreters (Erin Ferlaino & Dawn Munroe) travelled to W. Ross McDonald Provincial Demonstration School for the Blind to take part in a 2 day session on working with Deafblind students.
- **Inclusive Education Conference:** Five program team staff attended the Community Living Algoma conference (B. Vallee, K. Viita, A Lawson, L Bissailon, M. Morin-Strom)

**October Special Education Numbers:**

- B. Vallee stated that the department does an update of our 'numbers' for special education in October and May.
- When we compare our numbers to look for trends (e.g. increases/decreases), we generally compare October to October and May to May in successive years
- This practice reflects the observation that we always anticipate a reduction in numbers from May to October. Students graduate and leave our system in June, leading to a drop in numbers, which gradually increase again over the course of the year.

|           | October 2017 | October 2016 | Difference |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Behaviour | 266          | 224          | +42        |

|                          |             |             |            |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Speech & Language        | 180         | 190         | -10        |
| Autism                   | 290         | 271         | +19        |
| Learning Disability      | 554         | 572         | -18        |
| Gifted                   | 19          | 23          | -4         |
| Mild Intellectual Delay  | 82          | 82          | Nil        |
| Developmental Disability | 80          | 89          | -9         |
| Physical                 | 15          | 16          | -1         |
| Blind/Low Vision         | 10          | 7           | +3         |
| Deaf/H-Of Hearing        | 13          | 12          | +1         |
| Multiple                 | 20          | 25          | -5         |
| <b>Total IPRC</b>        | <b>1529</b> | <b>1511</b> | <b>+18</b> |
| Non-Exceptional          | 276         | 313         | -36        |
| <b>Total IEP</b>         | <b>1805</b> | <b>1824</b> | <b>-19</b> |

#### System Administrator K. Viita

- **Osgoode Professional Development Session (Issues in Special Education Law)** B. Vallee and K Viita attended this conference in Toronto. Topics of presentations included Child Protection, Human Rights Challenges, Youth Mental Health, and Mindfulness practices.
- **PD Day Session:** PD Day was on October 27, 2017, we invited Special Education classroom teachers and educational assistants for a full day of professional development. Sessions included *Working with Adult Learners, Pathways, Prompt Levels, Behavior Tracking, and Strategies for Working with Autistic Learners*. *Child Care Resources (Community Partner)* also provided training on methods for data collection and tracking.
- **SERT Meeting/Professional Development Session:** October SERT meeting took place on October 20, 2017. Highlights included a presentation from the Infant Child Development Program (Algoma Public Health - Lori Lambert) as our Community Partner presentation, Insight/CAT4 training, Facilitating Effective Meetings, Developing Alternative Expectations, and a Technology Update.
- **G7- FASD:** Amazing guest speakers, great training on various elements of working with individuals with FASD.

#### 8. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- OPSBA (Ontario Public School Board's Association) Northern Regional Meeting took place recently.
- D. Fillmore presented Attendance Toolkit at past Board meeting as well
- Next Board Meeting is scheduled for tonight (October 24<sup>th</sup>)

#### 8. Ideas or Presentations for Upcoming SEAC :

- B. Vallee reiterated request that members provide further input as to topics, areas of interest and ideas they would like to see included in upcoming SEAC meeting presentations, discussions, etc.
- P. Mick would like to have Heather Hicks from CLA present in regard to Inclusive Education
- H. Scott would like to have information about Identification of Gifted students.

Next SEAC meeting date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

**Motion to adjourn**

- Moved by B. McEachern , Seconded by D. Morgan. All in favour.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00**



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Brent Vallee  
Superintendent of Education



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Pat Mick  
Chair