



MINUTES OF MEETING  
Tuesday, January 30, 2018  
D.T. Walkom Room  
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Amanda Gauthier, Linda Graham, Dan Morgan, Heather Marshall,  
L. Lambert, Sarah Mansfield

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

Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren,

Regrets: Marnie Yourchuk, Diane Roach

Guest: Heather Hicks

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 November Minutes and January Agenda**
  - Agenda approval - moved by R. McEachren and seconded by L. Graham. All in favour
  - Minute approval - moved by L. Lambert seconded by L. Graham. All in favour
4. **Correspondence:**
  - **Upper Grand District School Board SEAC:** Letter received by Pat Mick in regard to school boards not chosen to participate in Autism pilot projects underway provincially. Brent Vallee informed SEAC that there are two pilot projects underway in the province. One project involves additional training for Educational Assistants, and the second involves the provision of designated space in schools for ABA clinicians to work with clients. Sixteen boards selected across the province to participate, with eleven boards participating in both projects. Algoma District School Board is one of the eleven boards participating in both projects.
  - **Email from H. Scott:** Helen Scott sent an email in November resigning her position as a SEAC member. B. Vallee sent a letter in response, accepting her resignation and thanking her for her service as a SEAC member.
5. **Presentation - Heather Hicks, Children's Services Manager, Community Living Algoma**

Topics covered in the presentation include:

  - H. Hicks shared a video that CLA developed to showcase "*What Inclusion Means to Me*".
  - CLA hosted an Inclusive Education Conference-October 11, 2017. Dr. Gordon Porter, the Direction of *Inclusive Education Canada* and other keynote presenters spoke to a variety of

community partners about Inclusion. B. Vallee, K. Viita and a team from the special education department participated in the conference.

- Community living Algoma's goal is to provide equality for all students, focused on allowing all students go to their neighbourhood schools and be surrounded by their peers. This is based on the belief that when inclusion is done well, all children benefit. Inclusive education lays the foundation of an inclusive society.
- Presentation incorporated information on Community Living Algoma initiatives, as well as successes and challenges regarding Inclusive Education
- CLA has expressed interest in working with community partners (including school boards) towards goals.

Discussion around the presentation included:

- Perceptions of visible vs. invisible disabilities
- Possible effects of EA support (e.g. developing dependence vs. independence)
- Board Model – ADSB uses a 'cascade' model that emphasizes that the regular classroom is always the first option, but recognizes that some of our students may require more support. We provide a variety of support options for those that choose to access them.
- Recognition that there is always room for improvement and we welcome partnerships with all of our community partners to help our students succeed.

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

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

- Next meeting of the CLA Education Committee is scheduled for January 31, 2018

##### **Amanda Gauthier – Thrive:**

- Busy with Transition meetings
- New CEO is in place.

##### **Heather Marshall- NECCAC- North**

- High volume of referrals, approximately 7 month wait time

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Has had excellent success with Northern Heights and Grandview- just finishing up the program
- Excellent connections with parents, lots of phone calls
- Excited the board is offering Office 365 to students, this will provide access at home and in the school setting- the program has a lot of functions and most students are using the programs.
- Concerns that staff in some schools are not well versed in the program and struggle with use.
- At December SERT meeting training on Microsoft 365 was provided. Also recognize that some issues arise as different versions (web-based vs. client-based) have some different features.

##### **L. Lambert- Algoma Public Health, Infant & Child Development Program:**

- January is school transition meeting for our JK's who will be entering school next year.
- Approximately 50 transition meetings have taken place.
- Still likely to have students entering JK or SK with needs that will be a "surprise".

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

- High demands regarding mental health in Sault Ste Marie
- The Walk-In Clinic is located at 386 Queen St E. Algoma Family Services, Algoma Public Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association are partnering together to provide walk-in counselling services to make mental health and addictions counselling more quickly accessible. Offers information, assessment and service referrals if required.
- Shadows of the Mind Film Festival will be running from February 26. to March 4, 2018. A few movies highlighted this year are **Lady Bird, Faces Places, The Square and A Fantastic Woman**
- January 31, 2018- Bell Let's Talk campaign- 5 cents for text, tweet, or posts featuring the hashtag.

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

### **Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education**

- **SIP Claims:** Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claims were due December 15, 2018. Boards may apply for additional funding for students that require support from multiple staff members. Completing the claims is a lengthy process that involves the entire special education team – SERTs, Principals, SEATs, System Administrator and Superintendent.
- **Kindergarten Registration** took place on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Hockey Skills Academy** - Algoma District School Board is partnering with Hockey Canada to offer ADSB Hockey Skills Academy. Two programs – one program is for Gr. 7/8 students in the Intermediate programs, second program is for students in Gr. 9 & 10. Elementary teacher will be Mark Matier (former Greyhound & Professional Player) player. Mike Cowan (Coach and Personal Trainer for many local professional players) will be the secondary teacher. Various coaches/instructors with professional background/experience have also been secured to help provide instruction
- **Instrumental Music (Intermediate Programs)** - Also excited to offer an Instrumental music program to our Intermediate schools beginning next fall.
- **School/Option Selection** - Grade 8 students are currently in the process of selecting school and programs for next year.
- **Reach- Ahead** – Reach-Ahead programs are running in four secondary schools. This allows students that meet criteria to complete their Grade 9 math credit in second semester of their Grade 8 year.
- **Ministry Pilot Project for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders** (see Correspondence). We have begun the final selection process for the Educational Assistants that will be participating in the on-line training component.
- **Principal Retirements/Appointments:**
  - Debbie King- System Administrator (Elementary Program) retired as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
  - Stephen Bell (Anna Mcrae Public School Principal) retired December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Welcome to Shari Kingston, who has accepted the position of principal at Anna McRae. Shari was most recently a Student Achievement Officer, and has previous principal experience in the Superior-Greenstone Board.
  - Brenda Butler-McTaggart (Principal Echo Bay PS) Retiring as of January 31, 2018- Congratulations to Erin Hemsworth (VP-Tarentorus) who will be the Acting Principal at Echo Bay until the end of the school year.

Kristen Viita, System Administrator

- **Developmental Services Ontario:** Presentation to Secondary School SERTs took place on February 6<sup>th</sup> regarding process for students to transition to adult services
- **Principal's Meeting (December)** - Special Education PD focused on providing a review of the ADSB Special Education Plan on Special Education. Principals participated in a "scavenger hunt" activity to find various pieces of information.
- **Transition meetings** for JK/ SK took place in January. Thanks to our partners from Thrive and Algoma Public Health. Follow-up meetings scheduled for May.
- **SERT Meeting (December).** Thanks to Child Community Resources for coming to speak to us about their services and the transition to the Ontario Autism Program. Other topics included a technology focus on Microsoft 365 and Skype. Participants also self-selected from a number of topics for workshop sessions.
- **SERT Meeting (January)** - Maxine Orr from Thrive provided our Community Partner presentation. Other topics of discussion included running effective meetings, and self-selected sessions from the topic list\
- **Principal's Meeting (January)** – Spec. Ed. PD focus was on the IPRC process and included case study exercise.

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

- **School Year Calendar** –Calendars must be 194 days, tentative draft schedule (including PD Days, etc.)has been posted for feedback.
- **JK/ SK Enrolment Update** – anticipated for tonight's meeting
- **Celebrating 20 Years** – December meeting was the 20 year anniversary of the first meeting of the Algoma District School Board
- **Hockey Skills Academy** - Excited to offer ADSB/Hockey Canada Skills Academy- Coming September 2018. Male and female students attending a 7-12 setting (White Pines, Korah, and Superior Heights) are eligible to apply.

**8. Ideas for Presentations/Discussion for future SEAC Meetings:**

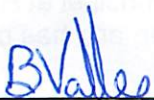
- JK/ SK transition meetings and the process.

**9. Next SEAC meeting date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**10. Motion to adjourn**

- Moved by B.McEachren, Seconded by R. Reid. All in favour.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:15**



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Brent Vallee  
Superintendent of Education



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Pat Mick  
Chair