



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

Present

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

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

Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren,

Regrets: Marnie Yourchuk, Diane Roach, Amanda Gauthier,

Guests: Sarah Bates (Thrive), Priscilla Southwind (North Shore Tribal Council)

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 January Minutes and February Agenda**
 - Agenda approval - moved by R McEachren and seconded by S. Mansfield - All in favour
 - Minute approval - moved by R. McEachren and seconded by S. Mansfield - All in favour
4. **Correspondence:**
 - **Conseil Scolaire Catholique- Franco-Nord- letter:** The letter was written to highlight CSCFN's concerns regarding the Special Needs Strategy, and to ask the government ministries involved to review the Strategy, including both the service coordination component and the integration of rehabilitation services component.
 - **Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD)** Letter written to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services in regard to the Special Needs Strategy. The letter focused on the unification of speech and language services and the delivery of speech-language pathology services by school boards. The letter highlighted OAFCCD's concerns with system navigation and gaps in services. A position paper regarding OAFCCD's stance on speech and language services highlighted areas in which the organization would like to see a re-evaluation.
5. **Presentation – Lori Lambert (Algoma Public Health), Sarah Bates (THRIVE), Kristen Viita (ADSB): Transition to Kindergarten:**

Topics covered in the presentation included:

- In 2007 a committee was formed to assist JK students and their families with the process of transitioning to school.
- Algoma Public Health - Infant and Child Development Program, Community Living Algoma, THRIVE, CCRCA, Algoma District School Board, and Huron Superior Catholic District School Board came together to work on how to support students who require further transition opportunities.
- Transition to school planning is created for students who need further support in school readiness which begins 2 years before entry to school.
- An Individual Support Plan contained in the Early Learning Resource is created which includes information gathering on students in the years prior to entry into JK. Examples include student triggers, strategies on how to help students self-regulate, etc. The goal is to try to make the experience of school entry both seamless and successful for both students and parents.
- There is still room for improvement in the planning, e.g. the classroom teacher may not be able to attend the meeting and/or doesn't get the information on the student, schools may not have the opportunity to see the child in the daycare setting.
- K. Viita spoke about how staffing is sometimes not completed until after June and more opportunities to will discuss and plan for students will be built into the process for principals, teachers and SERTs.
- In preparation for the 2018-2019 school year, K. Viita has participated in approximately 45 transition meetings hosted by our community partners with follow-up meetings planned in May at the receiving school. We realize that this total does not include students without a connection to an agency/daycare and will come to school in September without any prior services. For these students, transition meetings will occur as they are needed at the start of the year.

6. Member Association Update

Pat Mick- Community Living Algoma:

- Last meeting of the CLA Education Committee took place on January 31, 2018 without quorum.
- P. Mick asked if any SEAC members would like to take part in the Community Living Algoma Education Committee.
- Wonderful turn out for the *Breakfast of Champions*, which was a follow-up from last fall's *Inclusive Education Conference*. The session included a short presentation, followed by break-out group discussions on topics related to inclusion.

Heather Marshall- NECCAC- North:

- Status Quo for service provision maintained for current year; will be re-visited by April 2019 to see if changes are required.
- H. Marshall spoke about how difficult it is for to find space in our schools for her staff to work with children. B. Vallee stated that this is an ongoing concern for all of our third-party service providers, but will address this concern related to the need for confidentiality/privacy at the next Principal's meeting.

Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders:

- Linda forwarded a letter and position paper concerning speech-language pathology services (see Correspondence)

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

- Busy the past few weeks working with students on a one-to-one basis.
- May 8th she is excited to have a guest speaker coming in and would like to have one of our high schools host the presentation.

- Information is available regarding scholarship and bursaries for students identified with learning differences.

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

- Special Needs Strategy, working with community partners to help parents with mental health, complex cases to get the services they require. Working with parents and helping them with the process of having a high needs child.
- March will have another psych clinic.

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:

- Nothing to report

Pricilla Southwind: North Shore Tribal Council

- Nothing to report

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

Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education

- ***Mental Health Assist:*** Superintendents and Mental Health Leads met in Toronto for the winter session in February. This session focused on substance abuse and addictions. Survey information regarding substance use/abuse among students from Gr. 7-12 (e.g. what substances are used, frequency, attitudes, associated risk behaviours). Other topics included updates from Mental Health Assist and the Ministry of Education.
- ***Everyday Mental Health in the Classroom:*** Beginning March 2, 2018, ADSB participating in piloting a new project where classroom teachers can access a variety of short lessons regarding social-emotional learning and mental health promotion. This project is the result of a partnership between ASSIST and ETFO. Discussions are currently underway with ASSIST and OSSTF to develop a similar resource for use in secondary schools. As part of their participation, teachers will be asked to complete a survey after using the lessons.
- ***Autism Pilot Project:*** B. Vallee and K. Horton travelled to Toronto to take part in an update meeting regarding the Autism Pilot Project. It was a great opportunity for the boards who are taking place in the pilot project to meet and discuss successes and issues. Discussions also took place with various Ministry groups and a research firm that is working with the pilot project.
- ***Northern Support Initiative:*** This funding initiative required boards to submit collaborative proposals. Algoma District School Board and Huron Superior Catholic District School Board have been working together the past 6 months on a proposal to provide additional mental health supports to students in our district. We are now in the process of negotiating a final agreement with several of our community partners for services.
- ***February 2nd PD Day:*** Educational Assistants participating in the Autism Pilot Project training met with K. Horton to review the project parameters and complete initial training modules. A session was also offered to provide BMS Training for Educational Assistants that had not participated in a prior training session. Upcoming PD days will focus on providing BMS training for all teachers in grades 4-8 and all staff at our Northern School sites.

Kristen Viita, System Administrator

- ***Pink Shirt Day:*** Pink Shirt Day takes place tomorrow (February 28, 2018). Please wear pink to support the conversation to combat bullying.
- ***Special Olympics:*** Special Olympics / Elementary Sports Festival is scheduled to take place at Superior Heights on March 5th 2018
- ***Rides for Kids:*** On February 22nd, Sault Search and Rescue, City Police, OPP and many more community partners provided snow machine rides for students for many of our special education

classes. This is a great opportunity for students who would not normally have the opportunity to go on a snow machine ride. This has become an annual event over the past few years.

- **Developmental Services Ontario:** On February 6th, Developmental Services Ontario spoke to our secondary SERTs regarding transitions from child services to adult services. Topics included eligibility for services, provision of assessments, and access to services.

8. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- **Kairos Blanket Exercise** – all trustees and senior admin participated in the Kairos Blanket exercise in February. This was an eye-opening night for everybody.
- **Budget Process:** The process of developing the 2018-2019 budget has begun.

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

- No suggestions for next meeting. B. Vallee to arrange presentation.

9. Next SEAC meeting date: March 27, 2018

10. Motion to adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15



Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair