

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 24, 2018

D.T. Walkom Room

12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Linda Graham, Amanda Gauthier, Hannele Dionisi

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

Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren,

Regrets: Marnie Yourchuk, Heather Marshall, Dan Morgan, L. Lambert, Sarah Mansfield

**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 the April Agenda and March Minutes**

- Agenda approval - Moved by L. Graham, Seconded by R. Reid. All in favour.
- Minute approval - Moved R. Reid. Seconded by L. Graham. All in favour.

**4. Correspondence:**

**a) Bluewater District School Board letter:**

- Bluewater District School Board passed a motion on March 20<sup>th</sup>, requesting that a letter be written to the Minister of Education supporting the establishment of a "Provincial Think Tank." Letter written for informational purposes, no response required.

**b) Conseil Scolaire Catholique du Nouvel- Ontario Letter**

- Letter to the Minister of Education in regard to supports that will be available for francophone students under the Special Needs Strategy. Letter written for informational purposes; no response required.

**5. Presentation: *Process for Review of the ADSB Special Education Plan 2018-2019***

- B.Vallee provided a handout outlining the process and timelines for review and revision of the ADSB Special Education Plan. As part of our consultation process, a survey will be conducted with SEAC members, Administrators, Special Education Resource Teachers, and Special Education classroom teachers.

## 6. Member Association Update

### Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:

- Nothing to share at this time

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

- Nothing to share at this time.

### H. Dionsi- Algoma Public Health, Preschool Speech and Language or Infant Child Development Programs

- Have started preparing for the school readiness program which runs in the summer
- *Bridges to Poverty- Inspiring Action for Change-* addressing the challenge of poverty May 16, 2018
- Three sites will be hosting sessions on Understanding Infant and Early Mental Health. These sessions will focus on why early relationships influence later outcomes. Sites include Wawa on June 12, 2018, Sault Ste Marie on June 13, 2018 (Grand Gardens) and Blind River on June 13, 2018.
- Have hired an additional staff member

### Amanda Gauthier – Thrive-

- Excited to have hired a staff member to focus on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- CLA and Thrive will be hiring summer students (6) to support special need students to take part in summer programs.

## 7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- **JK/ SK Registration** information was shared at the March Board meeting.
- **Elementary and Secondary Organization:** Organization was approved and staffing is currently underway. This is a lengthy process that runs from April through June.
- **School Effectiveness Visits:** District Review Committee members include principals, vice-principals, superintendents, Union president or vice-president. Seventeen schools are being visited this spring.
- **Construction at Boreal-** looks like everything is currently running on schedule.

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

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

- **Northern Support Initiative:** The Ministry announced available funding for collaborative services among northern school boards last year. After a lengthy process, Algoma District School Board and Huron Superior Catholic School Board have reached an agreement with Algoma Family Services to provide additional mental health services to students. This will consist of a Mental Health and Addictions Counselor to provide additional services to students in our northern area, as well as an *Intensive Treatment Services* position based out of in Sault Ste Marie. We continue to have discussions in regard to additional services in the east.
- **Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training:**
  - April 20, 2018 PD Day. Session held for teachers of Gr. 4-8 (approximately 150 staff) in the SSM and Central Algoma areas. An additional session provided in the east at WC. Eaket. Entire school staff (teachers, EAs, etc. participated in training at Hornepayne

- March 6, 2018: the School and Attendance Counsellors, Mental Health Lead and Math Learning Partners were also trained.
- **OSSLT (April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018):** The Grade Ten literacy test continued to be a “paper and pencil” test with assistive technology options available for students with IEP’s. EQAO also made a few adjustments to their policy by allowing all students to receive extra time and quiet space accommodations regardless of whether they have an IEP or not.
- **EQAO Primary and Junior Testing:** Testing for students in grades three and six is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> –through June 4<sup>th</sup>. School staff continue to work to ensure that accommodations listed on the IEP are available for students to “demonstrate their best” during the testing.
- **ASET Conference (Niagara Falls):** This conference specifically focuses on the use of Universal Design for Learning and 21st century instructional technologies to support diverse learners. We were able to send two staff members to this conference, who will present their learning for all of our staff.
- **LDAO Conference:** At the last SEAC meeting, Sarah Mansfield had asked about a secondary school to host Angie De Marco as a speaker on May 9, 2018 as part of LDAO’s conference. Superior Heights & C. V.S will be hosting this presentation.

**Kristen Viita, System Administrator:**

- **JK Transition Meetings:** Our second set of meetings is scheduled for the first 3 weeks of May. K Viita has already been in contact with schools to provide information about the students who will be attending next year. The focus of this round of meetings is to allow staff, parents and the student to meet in the school environment.
- **CCR Parent Transition Meetings.** CCR has parent sessions scheduled for May 17th, 24th, and 31<sup>st</sup>. The first session is focused on students entering school, the second for parents who have students who are transitioning from grade to grade and the third on grade 8 students heading to the high school setting.
- **Algoma Public Health PD Session:** APH has invited us to make a presentation to their staff about some of the policies, procedures, and programs that regulate the education system. K Viita will be presenting during their June meeting. This is a great opportunity to develop mutual understanding. Algoma District School Board would love to work with and present to any of our community partners.
- **Mental Health Symposium:** Held in Toronto, April 11-13, 2018. Some of the topics presented included services for young children (ages 3-6), fentanyl crisis, and approaches to crisis intervention.

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

- Initial draft of the Special Education Plan will be shared.


**10. Next SEAC meeting date:**

- **May 29, 2018**

**11. Motion to adjourn**

- Moved by B.McEachren. Seconded by L. Graham. All in favour.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:55**



Brent Vallee  
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick  
Chair