



MINUTES OF MEETING
May 29, 2018
D.T. Walkom Room
12:00 Noon

Present

Members: Pat Mick, Linda Graham, Sarah Mansfield, Marnie Yourchuk, Dan Morgan

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

Trustees: R. Reid, G. Wiggins

Regrets: Heather Marshall, L. Lambert, Amanda Gauthier

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 May Agenda and April Minutes

- Agenda approval - Moved by **R. Reid**. Seconded by **D. Morgan**. All in favour
- Minute approval - Moved by **L. Graham**. Seconded by **R. Reid**. All in favour

4. Correspondence:

- **Thames Valley District School Board:** Letter was written to the Ministry with concerns about development of the Special Needs Strategy. SEAC members from the Thames Valley District School Board had an opportunity to have a presentation from the Thames Valley Children's Centre regarding the school therapy services for OT, PT and SLP. TVDSB SEAC Members raised their concerns and frustrations with the length of the current wait list related to the transition of services from the LHIN and noted that many essential needs and services for these students are delayed.
- **Peterborough Victoria, Northumberland, and Clarington CDSB:** Letter in support of the Auditor General of Ontario's Annual Report that there should be a review of the funding formula. The auditor general found that the benchmarks in the funding formula amount are based on out-of-date census data.

5. Presentation –ADSB Special Education Plan 2018-2019: Overview of Updates and Changes

- This year, the process incorporated an online survey for SEAC members, Administrators, SERTs and Special Education Classroom Teachers. A copy of the survey questions will be included as an appendix in the report.
- B. Vallee shared the survey results with SEAC members and discussed how the department will utilize the results and suggestions moving forward.

- Next year, our plan is to open up the survey to include parents as the feedback was very valuable.
- B. Vallee also provided SEAC members with an overview of the proposed changes to the plan. These included date changes, statistical changes (e.g. IEP/IPRC numbers, testing statistics, visits and consultations). There were also language changes made in several sections to reflect updated practices, professional development opportunities, and special projects under way.
- As discussed, some graphical/layout changes will continue to take place over the next few weeks.
- Budget process continues. Superintendent of Business Joe Santa Maria has been invited to the June SEAC meeting to discuss the budget for Special Education.
- 2018-2019 Special Education Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the June 12th meeting.

Discussion and follow-up questions included:

- G. Wiggins asked about students that present with more than one diagnosis - do we include them in different categories? B. Vallee responded that the current ADSB practice is to identify a student under the category of greatest need, but the student's IEP would be the key in addressing any co-morbid needs. In some boards, the practice is to include such students under the "Multiple" category; however, we do not do this as our criteria for identification in the "Multiple" category is a bit more specific.
- S. Anich commented that she is happy to hear that SERT's are getting more PD on the Special Education Plan and the Parent Guide as they use these documents with parents.

6. Member Association Update

Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:

- Annual general meeting will be held June 27 at the Water Tower Inn.

Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders:

- No report

Marnie Yourchuk (North Shore Tribal Council)

- No report

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:

- No report

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

- Very busy month with the conference and presentations taking place- very well attended.
- Busy with IPRC, case conference time and preparing for next year.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- A number of policy updates took place at the last Board meeting.
- Budget process is underway.

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

Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education

- **May 18th PD Day:** PD Day focused on roll-out of the Edsby software platform. Edsby provides a number of features to support ongoing communication with parents, quick and easy tracking of what is happening in the classroom, a news feed, as well as an online portfolio component. The platform was piloted at FHC and WCE this year, and will be implemented more widely across the system beginning in September. The Special Education department also provided BMS training in Chapleau and Wawa.
- **School Effectiveness Framework District Review Visits:** The District Review Process continues with the final District Review Visit taking place today. Over the past two months, a total of seventeen schools have received team visits and feedback in regard to their school improvement work. Each school will also receive a written report from the Superintendent.
- **EQAO:** EQAO Primary and Junior Testing (Gr. 3 & 6) is currently underway. This is the second week of testing with very few glitches reported to date. We have spent a great deal of time this year reviewing accommodations and working with our SERTs to emphasize the importance of accommodations for all forms of assessment.
- **SERT Session (May 4th):** Our May SERT meeting featured a presentation from *Community Living Algoma* as our community partner presenter. The focus presentation of our meeting was on different types of transitions. Possible transitions may include starting school, between grades, between panels, between boards, moving into (or out of) specialized programs, Mental Health transitions process, and transitions for students with medical or high needs. Other areas of focus included a presentation on different apps that can be used with our students, interpreting CAT4/Insight results, developing alternative programming expectations, and an Intensive focus on Transitions. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 8th.
- **Communication Class Teachers:** Our final session for Communication Class teachers took place on May 17th. Staff provided feedback regarding a resource (STAR) that they have been implementing in their classes this year. STAR is a structured program used for teaching students with developmental delays.
- **School Support Allocation Process:** Process of allocating Educational Assistants to schools is underway. Schools were asked to submit a profile of students requiring EA support. These profiles were reviewed by a committee of P/VPs. The committee makes recommendations regarding the number of EAs allocated to an individual school. Recommendations are then reviewed by the Superintendent prior to being finalized. Once initial allocations are made, the Human Resources department begins the staffing process. Allocations continue to be reviewed throughout the school year.

Kristen Viita, System Administrator:

- **After-School Skills Building Program-** Incoming JK students are participating in weekly sessions at Parkland Public School. Students attend with a parent and participates in a readiness program that follows a number of routines that will be encountered in a typical school day. Amanda Naccarato (SEAT) is teaching the program, with support from Diana Lauszus

(ABA Support) and an Educational Assistant. Our partners from Algoma Public Health have been supporting the program as well.

- **CTCC (Care, Treatment Closed Custody) Teachers:** Professional development session took place on the May 18th PD day. Focus on some new programs developed Cecil Facer. Similar to what you would get in an e-learning course, but with restricted general internet access as this is not available for students that are in a closed custody facility

8. Ideas for Presentations/Discussion for future SEAC Meetings: Superintendent Santa Maria will join us at the June 12th meeting to discuss budget and funding.

9. Next SEAC meeting date: June 12, 2018

10. Motion to adjourn.

- Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by L. Tombari. All in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10



Brent Vallee
Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Pat Mick
Chair