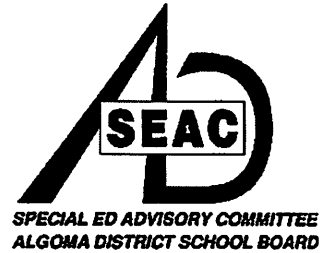


**ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE S.E.A.C**



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

Present

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

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

Trustees: R. Reid, B. McEachren

Regrets: Amanda Gauthier, Marnie Yourchuk

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 Agenda and May Minutes**
 - Agenda approval - Moved by B. McEachren. Seconded by **R. Reid**. All in favour.
 - Minute approval - Moved **L. Graham**. Seconded by **R. Reid**. All in favour.
4. **Presentation –ADSB Special Education Funding and Budget- (Joe Santa Maria)**
 - Superintendent Santa Maria provided SEAC with an overview of Special Education funding and how this relates to the Board budget.
 - 2018-2019 budget will be brought forward at the Board Meeting tonight (June 12),
 - The Finance Department, Director and Trustees started the process in February, preparing for April, when the Ministry provides the amount of money for each school boards. Biggest portion of the budget is designated to special education.
 - Some of the focus areas that are included within the board budget include a focus on Educational Assistant support to help in the classroom (this is often a major pressure area) as well as supports for Autism and assistive technology
 - There is an increase in the individual claim amounts for the Special Incidence Portion (SIP). Funding has increased by 40% which will help with pressures on the budget for supports for high needs children. Maximum funding is now \$38,000 as opposed to \$27,000.
 - Extra funds also included within the GSN for mental health, ASD pilots, and “multi-disciplinary teams”
 - Positive budget for the 2018-2019 school year
 - Ministry of Education Website- all funding documents are available to read including the special education funding memo
 - Ministry will start asking for feedback in December. At this point, boards provide feedback on areas where they are struggling and request money for those areas

Discussion around the presentation included:

- B. McEachren : How long will this budget remain since the election is coming up? J. Santa Maria states that the budget for 2018-2019 was secured prior to election.
- R. Reid: how does this year's budget compare to last year? J. Santa Maria states it is very similar to last year budget.
- P. Mick- Have you heard anything about cuts for next year. J. Santa Maria states that we have heard nothing yet, but once the new government takes over we should begin to hear more about any changes.

5. Member Association Update

Pat Mick– Community Living Algoma:

- Nothing to report.

Linda Graham - Ontario Association for Families with Communication Disorders:

- Nothing to report.

Dan Morgan – Canadian Mental Health Association:

- Nothing to report.

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

- Busy with students transitioning from secondary school to college or university, helping students complete the OSAP forms and make sure accommodations are in place for September.
- The 3 year funding that the Ministry provided will end March 2019, not sure if more grant money will be coming.

Lori Lambert – Infant & Child Development Program:

- Excited to be working with Jordan's Principle funding. Extra money for testing has helped relieve the wait list. Additional sessions were held in January, March, April and June.
- After-School Autism Program at Parkland was a very exciting and amazing opportunity for our JK students with ASD that will start school in September. 7 students were chosen for the session and very pleased that 5 families took part in the after school session. Great partnership working with Algoma District School Board providing a classroom set up with activities that would be in a regular class for the students.

Heather Marshall – NECCAC.

- Busy preparing for September.

6. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Presentation for students (and parents)that participated in the Skilled Trades Completion- Algoma District School Board did very well.
- Indigenous Student Leadership: Presentation from 3 students that took part.
- A number of policies and procedures are in the review process.
- Linda Tombari queried about funding for hands-on learning for students with special needs. B. Vallee responded that we have a number of opportunities including the Field Schools and our secondary teaches are very creative at providing opportunities for individual students as needed (eg. White Pines traveling coffee shop).

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

Brent Vallee, Superintendent of Education

- **Senior Administration:** Our new superintendent of Human Resources & Leadership Development is Frank Palumbo. This is not an additional Superintendent position, but reflects a restructuring of portfolios. Other changes made to the portfolios include J. Maurice (Well-Being and Indigenous Education initiatives) and Marcy Bell (JK-12 Program). B Vallee remains in the Special Education and Mental Health portfolio.
- **PD Day.** This is scheduled for June 15. Elementary teachers focus on assessment and reporting, EAs staffing occurs on this date and secondary schools are working on a variety of improvement and professional development initiatives.
- **School Support Allocations.** Currently we have placed an identical number of Educational Assistants as compared to June of 2017. We review allocations again in August, as there are usually some changes over the summer. Allocations are reviewed periodically throughout the school year.
- **Staffing Process.** The process is almost complete. It looks as though we will be in a hiring position for September of 2018.
- **Special Education Plan** has been updated with suggestions from our previous meeting. The plan will be submitted to the Trustees for approval at tonight's meeting. Once approved, the final version will be sent to members.
- **Alternate Members:** Reminder to provide SEAC alternate members names

Kristen Viita, System Administrator:

- **SERT Meeting:** Mental Health focus. Algoma Family Services presented an overview of their services (both school-based and community-based). Darryl Fillmore (Mental Health Leader) provided an overview of the Mental Health strategy and our next steps. Kaila O'Callaghan and Linda Kirby (Program Team) provided a presentation on *Trauma-Informed Classrooms*.
- **Transitions.** Our team is busy meeting with families to prepare for next year.
- **After School Readiness Program.** Pleased with success of after-school sessions. Students and parents took part in six sessions at Parkland P.S. a typical day in JK was the focus.

8. Ideas for Presentations/Discussion for future SEAC Meetings: - New staff, September roll-out.

8. Next SEAC meeting date: September 25, 2018

9. Motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:10.



Brent Vallee
Superintendent of Education



Pat Mick
Chair