



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
November 22, 2022
DT Walkom/Teams
12:00 Start Time

Present: S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), L. Lambert (Thrive Child Development Centre) P. Mick (Member-At-Large), Margaret Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

Trustees: S. Evans, R. Reid

Staff: B. Vallee (Superintendent), C. Phillips (Recording Secretary), K. Viita (System Administrator)

Regrets: N/A

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m. With the approval of Chair Mick, Superintendent Vallee to facilitate the remainder of the Teams meeting.

1. Round Table - Introduction of members, staff, and guests.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (October 18, 2022)

- Agenda approval. Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes. Moved by S. Evans. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.

3. Correspondence: no correspondence this month

4. Presentation: Update on Elders in the Classroom presentation (Sherri Kitts)- postponed

5. Member Organization Updates

S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Attending a lot of meetings this year at the schools – seems to be an uptick in behaviour concerns.
- Busy with transition meetings as well.
- Completing another round of assessments funded through Jordan's Principle
- Still working on a new building for the land-based learning program. There are currently 31 students attending the program, including approximately 11 from Sault Ste. Marie and 20 from Garden River. The program is school is focused on land-based learning as well as literacy and numeracy.
- S. Kitts attended a conference in London. Excellent workshop focused on interpreting formal assessment reports.

M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

- New brochure from CLA was distributed to SEAC members.
- Fantastic presentation by Shelly Moore. Approximately 400 in-person attendees and 200 virtual. Thanks to the school boards for supporting. B. Vallee shared that Sergio Iacoe (Manager of Inclusion) has reached out to follow up and a meeting is set for next week.
- Currently a waitlist of approximately 137 students. Trying to fill in the gaps without duplicating services.
- Wondering about students who are not in school that needs transition support by CLA

Lori Lambert (Thrive)

- Community meeting took place regarding plans for Transition process for next year.
- Beginning of the school year was a bit rough this year for a variety of reasons (e.g. illness) but most students have now settled in and made a positive transition.
- Looking at scheduling an In-person parenting skills workshop.
- Christmas party is scheduled for December with a drive through format again this year
- *Entry to School* program is slated to begin again in March for the next group of participants (September 2023).

3 P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report

6. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Inaugural meeting took place on November 15, 2022
- We welcomed four new trustees, including Debbie Shamas (Blind River), Heather Whitley (Central Algoma), Sara McCleary (SSM Ward 4) and Nick Apostle (SSM Ward 5). Welcome back to Russell Reid (North), Sheryl Evans (Prince & Unorganized Townships), Jennifer Sarlo (Ward 1), Susan Myers (Ward 2), Greg Bowman (Ward 3), and Marie Murphy-Foran (Elliot Lake). Elaine Johnstone also returns as the First Nations Trustee.
- Jennifer Sarlo was acclaimed as Chair. This will be Jennifer's 11th year as the chair. Elaine Johnstone was elected as Vice-Chair.
- First regular meeting of the new Board is November 29th, followed by a governance workshop on December 6th.

7. Report from Administration (B. Vallee & K. Viita)

- **CUPE Tentative Agreement.** CUPE has reached a tentative agreement with the province. In our Board, this includes custodial staff, and cafeteria staff in our Sault Ste. Marie schools. This differs from board to board, for example, in our co-terminus board, CUPE staff includes a variety of employee groups including educational assistants, early childhood educators, clerical and custodial staff. SEAC members may have seen different messaging in the media as to why individual Boards respond differently in the event of job action. We are very pleased that a tentative agreement has been reached and the job action planned for November 21st was averted. M. Barbeau stated that on the TV news channels there have been conversations from upset CUPE members threatening to quit their jobs. Is this something that has occurred with our school board? B. Vallee responded that there are some differences in how the settlement will

impact different employee groups, but is not aware of any of our staff that have voiced a desire to quit because of the settlement.

- **Professional Development Day (October 24th):** Activities taking place on the October 24th PD Day included a focus on school improvement work in the morning. The afternoon was allocated for all staff that are members of the Ontario College of Teachers to complete the mandatory Sexual Abuse Prevention Program. Educational Assistants, Vice-Principals, and the Special Education Team had the opportunity to attend the Shelley Moore presentation on Inclusion for the afternoon as well.
- **October Principal's Meeting:** Similar to the session at the Vice-Principal's Meeting at the beginning of the month, our special education focus for the October Principal's Meeting was on *Applying a Tiered Support Approach to Developing Student Support Plans (SSPs)*. Our student support plans consist of two components – a Behaviour Support Plan (which includes a student profile) and a Safety/Crisis Management Plan which is needed if a student demonstrates “risk-of-injury” behaviours. Following a review of documents and requirements, principals had the opportunity to work on some of their school-based plans for supporting students.
- **Professional Development Day (November 18th):** The November 18th PD Day was an eclectic mix of activities. Elementary staff participated in a one-hour webinar on the use of the Edsempi IEP engine as we are continuing our process of opening up the engine to be accessible for all elementary classroom teachers. Other activities included school improvement work, a webinar on cyber-security, review of the updated document on selecting resources through an equity lens (secondary), and a virtual guest speaker on human trafficking.
- **November Principal's Meeting:** Our special education focus for the November Principal's Meeting was a half-day session on “*Putting the “I” into IEP*”. The included an overview of the required components for Individual Education Plans, as well as an opportunity to use a student profile/assessment to develop an IEP.
- **CAT4/Insight Testing:** Was completed during the week of October 24th – 28th. We have submitted booklets for computerized scoring by the CTC and anticipate that we will have results back in January.
- **Special Incidence Portion Claims:** Work is underway to complete Individual SIP claims with a due date of December 16th.
- **SEAC Membership:** We have received updated applications from most of our existing members and requests from three organizations not currently represented. Members are reminded that members must be appointed by the Board. A Board item will be put forward at the November 29th meeting, which means that applications need to be in as quickly as possible in order to be appointed at this meeting. B. Vallee proposed that we provide an orientation session for both new members and returnees as our December 6th meeting, followed by the first regular meeting of the new SEAC on January 10th.

8. Next Meeting: December 6, 2022

- Orientation to SEAC.
- Welcome new members.

9. Motion to adjourn: Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by L. Lambert.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm