



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
September 13, 2022
Via MS Teams
12:00 Start Time

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

Trustees: S. Evans, S. Myers (Alternate)

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

Regrets: R. Reid (Trustee)

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 (June 7, 2022)

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

3. Correspondence: No correspondence this month.

4. Presentation: Overview of Special Education Programs & Services 2022-2023 (B. Vallee)

Presentation provided an overview of special education programs and services in the ADSB, including definition of programs and services, Universal Design for Learning/Differentiated Instruction, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) including accommodations, modifications and alternative programming, current demographic data, programs & placements available, as well as current special education team members and their respective roles.

Questions:

S. Myers- Do you track Identification data based on individual schools and if so, do we currently have any schools that have zero identified students? B. Vallee responded that yes, we do break down the data by schools internally, and we further break down the data by area (e.g. East, North, Sault/Central). Currently, the lowest number of IEPs in a school is approximately 12-14 in one of our elementary schools while several of our secondary schools have approximately 175 students with an IEP.

S. Meyers – How do we do expectations for students that take alternative programs? B. Vallee responded that alternative program expectations are established in the IEP, including specific goals and progress is reported upon using the Alternative Report Card in addition to the Ontario Report Card.

5. Member Organization Updates

S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Busy with school start-up
- Elders in the classroom program was such a success last year, both boards using this.
- Excited that Garden River Elders were chosen out of 700 applications to represent and present at an Indigenous Conference in Australia this month. S. Evans commented that she would love to hear more about Elders in the Classroom and their experiences in Australia. S. Kitts responded that she could have her manager present at the next SEAC meeting for 10 to 15 mins.

L. Lambert (Thrive - Alternate)

- Extremely busy with start-up
- Excited to bump up support and add more staff
- Working with schools supporting JK & SK transitions into the school setting
- Starting the list for next year (JK/ SK transitions) to begin the process of transition
- Will have another assessment clinic in October and 50 students will be tested.

M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

- Community Living Algoma servicing approximately 300 school-aged children
- Working on creating a brochure to highlight what services that are offered for students/families.
- Working on a Parent Information Night
- Starting up before- and after-school programs
- Excited about Shelly Moore presentation coming up on October 24th.

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report

6. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- First meeting took place Tuesday, Sept 20th, 2022.
- Featured a presentation on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Indigenous Education program that ran at WC Eaket in partnership with York University, as well as updates on summer learning programs.
- Enrollment has increased significantly from our spring projections.
- Updates provided regarding activities taking place on September 30th for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Several Health and Safety policies begun the review cycle.
- Thank you letter received from the town of Hornpayne for allowing use of the school yard during the summer months to replace the helicopter pad for the hospital

- Election year - Trustees are part of the Municipal Election on October 24th.

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

- ***In-Person vs Remote Learning:*** The overwhelming majority of our students are back to in-person learning – approximately 1% have opted for virtual learning. Our board no longer offers a hybrid learning model; we are currently providing two elementary classes (K-4 and alternative programming) and 5-8. Most secondary students are participating in e-learning courses to address individual requirements for remote learning.
- ***Summer Programming:*** The Ministry provided some additional funding again this year to support summer programming, including summer learning & summer school programs, back-to-school transitions, and mental health supports and services. We were able to offer special education supports (e.g. SERT and Specialized Team supports) for both summer school and the summer learning program, as well as providing transition programming to conduct transition activities for students with complex needs during the last two weeks of August. Individual schools made the decision whether to access funding. Our summer wellness line/program also ran this year with one dedicated counsellor, who provided support through the summer wellness line, face-to-face, virtual or audio counselling.
- ***Transitions:*** With transition processes in place for approximately 65 incoming kindergarten students, our special education team spent the first week of the school year on the ground supporting our school teams in transitioning new students into the school setting. Over the next few weeks, schools will be conducting their fall follow-up meetings.
- ***Empower Reading:*** We are pleased that we have continued to increase the number of schools participating in Empower Reading. At present, Gr. 2-5 decoding and spelling programming is in place in 25 of 28 elementary sites. In addition, we are offering the Gr. 6-8 decoding and spelling program in all of our Intermediate School sites, as well as a pilot group in French Immersion (Boreal)
- ***Ongoing SERT Professional Development:*** We have begun our on-going SERT meetings/professional development sessions with a focus on the SERT monthly overview document. This document provides a list of priority and on-going tasks for completion each month.
- ***Formal Assessments:*** We continued our efforts to conduct psychological-educational assessments over the summer months. Approximately 20 assessments were conducted during the month of July and again in August. Report shares for summer testing will take place over the upcoming weeks. We have also begun our assessment process for the 2021-2022 school year, with assessments underway.
- ***Partnership for NAC-funded positions.*** We are looking forward to using some of our Northern Adjustment Category funds this year to implement two positions that will be shared among ADSB and our co-terminus board, Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. We will be sharing a Communicative Disorders Assistant position to provide services in our Eastern Area schools, as well as a shared Counselling position (pending) to provide services in our Northern Area schools.
- ***New SEAC Membership.*** As you know, the term for SEAC members is identical to that of our Trustees and will end with the municipal election scheduled for October 24th. In order to support continued growth of our SEAC committee, B. Vallee will be sending letters to organizations that we work with on an ongoing basis that would be good candidates for membership. Members are reminded that, if they are interested in continuing

to act as the representative for their respective organizations, they will need to have the nomination form completed and submitted to the Superintendent's office to be brought to the board for approval.

8. Next meeting:

- **October 18, 2022.** We will plan to meet in-person for this meeting. S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council) will arrange a short presentation by her manager with regards to the Elders in the Classroom experience at the conference in Australia.

9. Motion to adjourn:

- Moved by. L. Lambert. Seconded by S. Kitts

Meeting adjourned at 1:30p.m.