



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
May 16, 2023
DT Walkom/Teams
12:00 Start Time

Present: S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), A. Gauthier (Thrive Child Development Centre) P. Mick (Member-At-Large), M. Tuomi, (Autism Ontario) S. McIlquham (Down Syndrome Society), E. Torresan (Algoma Family Services)

Trustees: S. Evans, R. Reid

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

Regrets: M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

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

1. Welcome

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

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (April 18, 2023)

Approval of Agenda. Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

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

4. Correspondence: Currently no correspondence

1. Presentation/Discussion: Autism Programs & Services (Carolyn Nadeau, Laura Austin – ASD Resource Facilitators, Debbie Iozzo – Behaviour Coach)

- ASD Resource Facilitators have school groupings that they visit on a regular rotation (based on schools needs) to provide consultation, coaching and resources to help schools support students with ASD and challenging behaviour.
- Resource Facilitators also facilitate learning opportunities for school staff to promote awareness of practices, strategies, and interventions to support students with ASD, as well as supporting schools in assisting students and their families to navigate systems, programs, and services available inside and outside of the school system.

- Behaviour coach will follow up (when necessary) to support schools with implementation by modelling and practicing the use of appropriate practices, strategies and interventions suggested by the resource facilitator.
- Our Behaviour Analyst focuses on providing classroom focused consultation and coaching in our specialized classrooms and with a smaller group of higher-needs students to support school staff in developing and implementing appropriate practices, strategies, and interventions to support students with self-regulation, social, and behavioral needs. This usually involves conducting and/or interpreting informal and formal assessments (e.g., ABLLS) to assist school staff in developing programming that utilizes ABA principles in a manner appropriate to an educational setting.
- The ASD/Behaviour Team also helps to support school staff with the development, implementation, and monitoring of IEPs and Student Support Plans
- Involved with after-school skill-building programming. Partnership with Learnstyle for virtual delivery of their Robotics and Coding camps. Approximately 12 groups of students from grades 3-10 have participated over the past few years.
- The team has also piloted the use of Robots for Autism over the past year. We have two robots – Milo and Veda – who are facially expressive humanoid robots designed to engage students in 4 key areas (emotions, conversation, situational, and calm/down/self-regulation).
- Teaching is sequential and calculated based on the student's responses. The programming used evidence-based practices and technology-aided instruction to help students with Autism improve their social skills.

Questions related to the presentation.

- S. Kitts asked if both Milo and Veda have the same programming and what type of classroom setting would the robots work in? B. Vallee responded that yes, the robots follow the same programming. Milo and Veda have been introduced to specialized classrooms such as the Structured Learning Classroom and Community Education. A great video on the robots is available at [Robokind Video](#)

5. Member Organization Updates

S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Excited to have Connie Traves as the Education manager for Garden River Education Unit.
- Still conducting lots of meetings focused on behaviour.

E. Torresan, (Algoma Family Services)

- Excited that the new treatment centre has opened at the former Holder House site in Sault Ste. Marie. Currently 2 youth have started the live-in program with the capacity of 8 beds in total. Programming includes mental health assessment and treatment plans to assist families experiencing high levels of conflict, wanting assistance with reunification or have youth experiencing behavioural difficulties at home, at school or community.

S. McIlquham, (Down Syndrome Society)

- The Down Syndrome Society met this month with guest speaker Diane Morrell, who is the Accessibility Coordinator for the City of Sault Ste Marie.
- Working on the 2024 calendar
- 50/50 Draw hosted by Royal Purple Lodge #155 - proceeds to Sault Ste Marie Down Syndrome Society...Sales End May 31, 2023

M.Tuomi, (Autism Ontario)

- Nothing to report.

A. Gauthier (Thrive)

- Flyer from last month provided information on groups and presentations being offered via the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Reminder that if there are any questions about Family Foundational Services, please contact 705-759-1131 Ext 514.

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report this month.

6. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Committee of the Whole (COW) took place last week
- Great presentation highlighting some of the leadership development work that has been ongoing. Principals, Vice-Principals and staff in system-level positions have been participating in Mentor-Coaching training and trustees had the opportunity to participate in a presentation by our trainers.
- Lots of policy review work at our last meeting. Large number of policies that were up for discussion. We continue to look at reviewing our existing policies on a regular cycle. -
- ADSB School Dress Code Guidelines have been developed and feedback has been requested from our stakeholder groups.
- Trustees will also be hosting the annual Retirement Dinner on June 5
- Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 8- 11. Many of our trustees will be participating.
- Shout-out to Neveah Pine, our Indigenous Student Trustee, who placed first in the Speaker's Voice competition!

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

- **Development of the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan/Report:** B. Vallee presented the draft of the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan with proposed changes. An overview of all proposed changes was provided to SEAC members for their review and feedback. No concerns with any proposed changes. S. Evans thanked the team for their support of our students with special education needs.
- **Transition Meetings:** The second phase of our Transition process is underway with school-based transitions taking place this week for 65 incoming kindergarten students. At this stage, our special education team helps to facilitate meetings with the school-based team, who will now take over the transition process.
- **Organization/Staffing:** A major focus over the past six weeks has been the Organization and Staffing process. This is a huge amount of work over the spring months across the board.
- **EQAO:** Annual EQAO testing of Primary (Gr.3) and Junior (Gr.6) students is scheduled to take place between May 10th and June 14th, although most schools will conduct

testing closer to the closing date. Schools now have the option of booking a time slot within the designated window. EQAO mathematics testing for Gr. 9 students will take place between June 7th and June 28th. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) took place earlier in the spring.

- **Northern Adjustment Category Meeting:** B. Vallee participated in the annual North-Eastern Regional review of Northern Adjustment Category funding. This funding encompasses the former *Northern Support Initiative*, and the former *Integrated Services for Northern Children* funding. NAC funding is currently allocated to member boards based on a formula of a 30% base allocation amount with the other 70% being allocated based on student enrollment. Boards are encouraged to participate in “collective” services with co-terminus boards as much as possible, while also recognizing that each board has its own unique needs and pressures.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Joe Santa Maria invited to review Budget/Special Education Funding. Additional review/discussion of the draft Special Education Plan.

9. Next Meeting: June 6, 2023

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by A. Gauthier. Seconded by R. Reid.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15