



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
September 17, 2024
DT Walkom/Teams
12:00 Start Time**

Present: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), M. Tuomi, (Autism Ontario), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), Clinton Snider (Algoma Family Services) A. Gauthier (Thrive Child Development Centre), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

Trustees: H. Whitley (Trustee), S. Evans (trustee), Susan Myers

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

Regrets: Velma Simon (Member-at- Large)

Guests: None

Meeting called to order following our reflection. With the approval of Chair Mick, Superintendent Vallee to facilitate the remainder of the hybrid meeting.

1. Welcome

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

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approval of Agenda. Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (June 18, 2024). Moved by C. Snider. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

4. Correspondence: No Correspondence received this month.

5. Presentation: Special Education Programs & Services in ADSB (B Vallee)

The presentation provided an overview/update on special education programs and services in the ADSB. This included an overview of accommodations, modifications and alternative programming as the building blocks of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), pathways to receiving an IEP (e.g. Identification, Placement, Review Committee (IPRC) or IEP only), our current demographic data (e.g. numbers of students identified in each category), placements in

specialized programs & classrooms available in our board, and an overview of our special education team (including our system-wide special education program team, our system-wide multi-disciplinary team, and school-based special education staff).

6. Member Organization Updates

Community Living Algoma (M. Barbeau)

- Families enjoyed a night at the Water tower Inn to network and engage.
- Summer employment program was a great success.
- Project SEARCH was a great success last year - students have developed amazing skills to help them in the work force.
- A BBQ took place in August to involve the community for CLA's 70th anniversary.

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Busy with transition meetings and preparing for the September school start-up.
- Lot of programs and summer camp opportunities for families this year.

Algoma Family Services (Clint Snider)

- Wellness Hub hours are 12- 5. Lots of services being offered on-site including drop-in support by a nurse practitioner, counsellors.
- Planning for groups focused on anxiety and mental health as these are presenting issues for many clients.
- FASD Day (Sept 9, 2024) was celebrated at the Hub.

Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- Busy with back-to-school resources, school readiness and links helping children to transition back to school. [School Collection Resources](#) , [Tips for Collaborating with the School](#) and [Ready-Set-Learn-Playful-Pathways-to-School-Readiness.pdf](#)
- Webinar: *Aligning Communication IEP Goals for Academic Success*: If your child is non-speaking, this webinar will talk about how to use the IEP (Individual Education Plan) to increase your child's participation at school. Date: Thursday, September 26th, 2024, Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)

- Back to school event including a BBQ, fun things for kids to do, free backpack give away, etc. was a great success with over 500 people attending.
- Busy with meeting with schools, principals and families helping to transition into the new school year.

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report this month.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Noah, our guest speaker from last year's SEAC meeting, had a fantastic 5th place finish at the Paralympics.
- First Board Meeting of the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for September 24th

- August was busy with principal's summer session, and training opportunity for all teachers.

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

- **Transitions:** Transitions across many levels (e.g. entry to school, divisional changes, change in school, and/or change in panel).
- **Professional Development Day (September 3rd):** The first Professional Development Day of the 2024-2025 school year took place on Tuesday, September 3rd. Staff participated in a range of operational training (e.g. fire safety, traumatic events response, mental health emergency procedures. A portion of the morning was set aside for professional learning regarding the updated *Safe Practices for Staff Working with Students with High Needs* guideline. Time was also provided for staff to complete Safety Plans and begin working on Behaviour Management Plans
- **Summer Symposium.** Teachers had the opportunity to participate in two days of professional learning on August 28th and 29th. Special Education topics offered during the symposium included Psychological-Educational Assessments and How They Apply to the Classroom, Experience, *Executive Functions*, *Co-Regulation*, *Accessing and Using Classroom Support/Strategies for Students with Exceptionalities*, and *Tier Two Oral Language Intervention*. The Keynote Speaker for Day One was Doctor Jean Clinton who spoke on the topic of *Building Relationships in our K-12 Classrooms*. Day Two Keynote speaker was Dr. Marion Small, who spoke about building mathematical understanding. Approximately 300 teachers participated in the two-day session.
- **Empower Reading Training:** Last week, we welcomed our SickKids trainer, Inga, back to the Soo provided a day of Refresher training (which is mandatory every second year for staff), as well as providing the initial two days of training for staff new to the PRIM program. Training for teachers new to the INTER program was conducted virtually on August 26th and 27th. We were pleased to host staff from Huron-Superior to join us in these training sessions as well.
- **Formal Assessments:** Amanda Naccarato is in the process of completing any remaining from last spring this week. We have also begun our assessment process for the 2024-2025 school year with assessments underway this week. This block of assessments is based on referrals submitted in June. We anticipate providing assessments for this round of referrals by Christmas break. December is generally the intake period for our next round of referrals.
- **SERT Professional Learning:** We hosted a busy day of in-person professional learning for our elementary SERTs on Friday, September 13th. Topics for the day includes whole group sessions on IPRC/IEP development processes, the SERT Yearly Breakdown, an overview/review of Transition Processes, and use of the CAT4/Insight assessment data. Afternoon breakout sessions focused on *Behaviour Management Plans*, *Online Data Tracking* tools, and the *Edsembli Student Information System*.
- **Summer Programming:** A wide range of summer programming took place this year. Our multi-disciplinary team, including Speech-Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants supported the Summer Learning Program. We were also able to provide a two-week school readiness program for some of our incoming JKs that present with high needs during the month of August. This program ran with both a morning group and an afternoon group. Programming focused on developing familiarity with school routines, including a daily bus ride supported by our staff. Several of our specialized classrooms, including DARE, Community Education, and several SLC classes

provided specific transition programs during the last few weeks of August to ease their students into the school year. Individual schools were also able to provide individual transition programming for students with special education needs.

9. **Next Meeting:** October 22, 2024

10. **Motion to adjourn:** Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by H. Whitley.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22