



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 11, 2025
Sugar Maple Room/Teams
12:00 Start Time**

Present: M. Tuomi, (Autism Ontario), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), A. Gauthier (Thrive CDC), P. Mick (Member-At-Large), V. Simon (Member-at- Large) S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

Trustees: H. Whitley

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

Regrets: C Snider (AFS), S. Evans (Trustee), S. Meyers (Trustee-Alternate)

Guests: Colleen Esposti (Special Education Assignment Teacher)

Meeting called to order. 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 V. Simon. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (January 21, 2025). Moved by. M. Tuomi. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.

4. Correspondence: Response letter from the Ontario College of Teachers re: Letter sent by ADSB SEAC in support of Limestone DSB SEAC.

5. Presentation: *The Individual Education Plan: An Overview* (Colleen Esposti, Special Education Assignment Teacher)

- C. Esposti provided an overview of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Some of the topics covered included what an IEP is (and what it isn't), why a student would have an

IEP, what information appears on an IEP (e.g. the Standards), and an overview of each page of the ADSB IEP template – what appears on each page and why.

- The Individual Education plan (IEP) is a written plan describing the special education programs and/or services required by a student. It includes a list of accommodations provided for the student and may include modified and/or alternative learning expectations as applicable.
- The first page of the IEP includes demographic information, staff involved in the development of the IEP, sources consulted, and assessment data that was used
- Page 2 includes areas of strength and need, subjects, courses or alternative programs to which the IEP applies, exemptions/substitutions that may be in place, how evaluation/reporting will happen (e.g. provincial report card, alternative report card) and provincial assessment data (including accommodations or exemptions) for students that are in a provincial assessment year.
- Page 3 includes human resource supports, specialized health services (if applicable) individualized equipment (if applicable) and the instructional, environmental, and assessment accommodations that are specific to that student (e.g. as opposed to those that may be provided to the entire class).
- Page 4 focuses on transition planning and the consultation log, while page 5 is the “sign-off” page.
- Individual program pages are also developed for students that are working on modified or alternative programming.

Questions arising from the presentation:

- *If a student is in care, who signs the IEP?* For children in care, the legal guardian (e.g. Children’s Aid Society) is responsible for signing official documents as opposed to the foster parent, although this may vary a bit depending on individual circumstances.
- *What happens to students who are on the “wait list” for testing to confirm the child’s diagnosis?* Our expectation is that schools have a non-exceptional IEP in place for the student prior to a referral for formal testing to ensure that programming support is being provided.
- *How does it work for students who are from different school boards and have IEP’s?* Ministry standards outline the categories and definitions for identification, and the standards for the IEP document, but individual school boards are responsible for the Identification, Placement and Review process, as well establishing an IEP that outlines programs and services. An identification and/or IEP does not automatically follow a student from one board to another, so it is important to ask these questions when students come to us from a different school board.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (Sherri Kitts)

- Lots of attendance issues; larger number of elementary students who simply refusing to attend school. Working hard to re-engage lots of these students.
- Jordan’s Principle Funding is “on hold” in many cases.

Community Living Algoma (M. Barbeau)

- *Together We're Better* contest is underway. This is open to all school boards to participate. Excited that 2 applications for the contest have been submitted already!
- Information/postings for the *Summer Employment Program* are available on the CLA website.

Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- The deadline to order flags, bracelets or charms for *Celebrate the Spectrum* is March 19, 2025 in order to have them arrive before World Autism Day on April 2, 2025.
- Mind Matters: Supporting Mental Health. <https://www.autismontario.com/news/mind-matters-supporting-mental-health>.

Member-At-Large (Pat Mick)

- Nothing to report

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Two March break camps available. These include *Games with Friends* or *Kids in the Kitchen*. OAP funding may be used to access these camps.
- Applications are open from February 1 to February 15 application for summer student positions
- “*Sibshop*” workshop for parents and siblings of Thrive clients running on March 4, 2025.

Member-at-Large (Velma Simon)

- High school tours provide an opportunity to try out the CICE program.
- Lori Crossman is now Dean
- Hoping to reach out to Guidance Counsellors to share information about programs to help improve understanding of what CICE is and what it offers.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Many Trustees participated in the OPSBA *Public Education Symposium* in January. Some great workshops and panels. Encouraged to see a panel discussion with representatives from all political parties to talk about issues such as funding in a productive manner.

8. Report from Administration (B. Vallee, K. Viita, K Lappage)

- ***Change to Upcoming PD Day:*** The next PD Day was originally scheduled for March 28th; however, due to the provincial election and the significant security/logistical concerns that come with schools being used as polling stations that are open to all, we have moved the PD Day to February 27th.
- ***Kindergarten Registration Continues.*** Kindergarten registration continues for children born in 2021, as well as those born in 2020 that may not have attended school during the current school year. Very helpful to have families register as early as possible as this certainly helps with preliminary planning for the 2025-2026 school year.
- ***ADSB “Alliance Academy”:*** Building upon the strength and success of ADSB’s Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA), we will be expanding our ADSB academy

from hockey to three additional sports - basketball, football and soccer - for September 2025 in Sault Ste. Marie. This ADSB Alliance Academy is a cross-city opportunity for all genders entering Grades 9 and 10, who attend our three secondary schools in Sault Ste Marie (Korah, Superior Heights and White Pines). Students will access eligible bus routes in the morning to take them to the Alliance Academy of their choice. Students will then be transported back to their home school for the afternoon via an ADSB lunch-time shuttle.

- ***SERT Professional Learning:*** Our Elementary SERT session for the month of February will take place February 14th (Friday). This will be a deep dive into the “nitty-gritty” of the IEP front matter, as well as an update on transition processes, and scheduling for the upcoming intervention block.
- ***Professional Development Day (January 31st):*** A Professional Development Day took place on Friday, January 31st. Elementary Teachers had this day for the purposes of assessment and reporting, while secondary teachers participated in professional learning that included a virtual keynote session with Dr. Jean Clinton, as well as semester turn-around activities. There were also specialized sessions for teachers delivering the updated mental health modules, a session for the counselling/re-engagement team, and a session for Early Childhood Educators. Educational Assistants participated in two half-day sessions entitled *Declarative Language and Beyond* and *Trauma-Informed Practice*.
- ***Upcoming Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Workshop:*** The next parent workshop sponsored by the ADSB PIC will take place on February 24th from 6:30-7:30. The topic for this session is *Attendance and Re-Engagement*. Link will be available through the ADSB website.

9. **Next Meeting:** March 18, 2025

10. **Motion to adjourn:** Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by M. Tuomi.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.