



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
November 19, 2024
Sugar Maple Room/Teams
12:00 Start Time**

Present: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), M. Tuomi, (Autism Ontario), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), S. Burns (Thrive CDC - Alternate),

Trustees: H. Whitley (Trustee), S. Evans (Trustee),

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

Regrets: Velma Simon (Member-at- Large), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), Clinton Snider (Algoma Family Services); Amanda Gauthier (Thrive CDC)

Guests:

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 M. Barbeau Seconded by H. Whitley. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (November 19, 2024). Moved by. S. Burns. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

4. Correspondence: No Correspondence received this month.

5. Presentation: *Review of the Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan* - K Lappage

- We are required to update our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan every five years. The Accessibility Committee has met to discuss updates to the plan. Board staff have developed a draft of the updated January 2025-December 2029 plan. The draft MYAP is always

brought to SEAC for review and feedback. Following this, the Accessibility committee will meet again for further updates prior to bringing the plan to the Board of Trustees.

- K Lappage reviewed all of the components of the plan with SEAC, including the board profile, including definitions, ADSB profile, Accessibility Committee, Strategy for Prevention and Removal of Barriers, including Barrier Identification methodologies and recent barrier removal achievements, on-going initiatives, review and monitoring processes, and communication & feedback.
- An Accessibility “check-list” has also been developed to support principals in looking for accessibility issues during their formal Health & Safety walkthroughs.
- Much of the on-going capital work in our schools has helped to create more accessible spaces, although we still have some older buildings that were ill-designed for accessibility. Thessalon Public School is an example, which is partly why it has been part of our capital priority list for the Ministry for a new school building.
- SEAC members are also welcome to send along further feedback following the meeting.

6. Member Organization Updates

Thrive (Sarah Burns)

- Family Christmas party will be held on November 29, 2024, between 5:30 pm- 7:30pm @ Northland Adult learning Center for movie/ PJ night.
- Winter social skills program through the Ontario Autism Program will be running in January (January 16, 2024 to March 2, 2025, 5 pm -6:30pm) for children who are between 8- to 14-year-old. The focus is social skills, turn-taking, sharing through games. Cost is \$1250.00 per participant and help for funding is available.

Community Living Algoma (M. Barbeau)

- CLA participated in the Transition to School follow-up meeting in October
- Education Committee meeting took place in November
- Second “Job Path” employment training program took place this fall with 9 participants. Focus is on developing job readiness skills and employment opportunities.

Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- Nothing to report this month
- Provincially, continued emphasis on training and resources for SEAC members

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report this month.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for November 12th was cancelled. The Board meets again on November 26th.

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

- **Professional Development Day (November 8th):** A Professional Development Day took place on Friday, November 8th. All staff participated in a virtual session *on Cultivating and Sustaining Intentional Spaces of Belonging*. School-based staff also

participated in sessions on “*Distractions to Learning (Vaping and Cell Phone Use)*” as well as *Classroom/School Improvement Planning*. Educational Assistants participated in a session with Lianne Vezeau (SLP) on using *Declarative Language*, as well as an *Autism Awareness Refresher* session with Carolyn Nadeau and Laura Austin (ASD Resource Facilitators). Our school counsellors, re-engagement coaches and Indigenous Grade coaches participated in a session on *Attendance & Re-Engagement*, and NSL teachers participated in a full day on mentoring, curriculum implementation and planning.

- **Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Professional Learning:** Following our last SEAC meeting, a half-day session took place with our secondary SERTs on Friday, November 15. Secondary SERTs discussed course selection pathways, EQAO (Gr. 9 Math/OSSLT), scheduling of the SERT blocks, Procedures for IPRC, IEP, and Integrated Transition meetings. We will be meeting with our elementary SERTs this coming Friday (November 22nd)
- **OCASE Virtual Symposium.** B. Vallee participated in the Ontario Council for Administrators of Special Education (OCASE) virtual symposium on Thursday, November 14th. The focus of the symposium was on legal issues related to special education. Topics included Human Rights legislation (including competing rights issues), Work Refusal, Exclusions, and the IPRC process.
- **Empower Day 3 Training:** Several of our new Empower teachers have reached the point in program delivery where they are required to complete their next formal training day (Day 3 of 4 total days of training). These sessions, facilitated by SickKids take place virtually with staff from around the province. Day 3 training for some of our teachers began this month and will continue through to the holiday break in December.
- **Progress Reports:** Progress reports for elementary students were sent home during the week of November 11th to the 15th. All students receive a progress report regardless of whether they are in a specialized class or a specialized program. This includes a general update on learning skills as well as progress in applicable subject areas. Secondary progress reports have been sent home this week.

9. **Next Meeting:** December 10, 2024

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm