



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
January 10, 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), Margaret Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), Margaret Tuomi, (Autism Ontario), Susan. McIlquham (Sault Ste Marie 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: None

Meeting called to order at 12:10 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 (December 6, 2022)

Approval of Agenda. Moved by S. Kitts. Seconded by A. Gauthier. All in favour.

Approval of Minutes. Moved by R. Reid. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.

3. Voting for Chair- Pat Mick nominated and acclaimed as Chair

Voting for Vice Chair- Vice-Chair position remains vacant

4. Correspondence: No correspondence received this month.

5. Member Organization Updates

S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- New Education Manger at Garden River First Nation Education Department, Nicky MacDonald

A. Gauthier (Thrive)

- Smart Hub will be starting up in the next few weeks. This should help ensure parents have easier time accessing support as it will be “one-stop shopping”.

- Stefanie Fetherston leaving her role at Thrive to take on the role of Director of Services with Algoma Family Services.

M. Tuomi, (Autism Ontario),

- Excited to virtually meet with Tanya Jewel and share information.

M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

- CLA is still working on addressing the service wait list
- Planning follow-up regarding the possibility of a five-part learning series as follow-up to the Shelley Moore presentation from October. Sergio Iacoe is scheduled to meet with B. Vallee (ADSB) and F. Lettieri (HSCDSB) about next steps.
- Wondered about children and youth during Pandemic who may have switched to virtual learning but did not actually attend – how did ADSB handle this? B. Vallee stated that as part of the annual summer wellness program that began during the pandemic, our counsellors were tasked with outreach to work to re-engage families that opted for virtual learning but were not engaging. Boards are still mandated to offer a virtual learning option during the current school year but the numbers are drastically reduced from last year.

E. Torresan (Algoma Family Services)

- AFS goal has a goal to help ensure improved pathways for services
- Excited for the opportunity to meet with staff from the Trillium school and discuss program options for students in Sault Ste Marie.

S. McIlquham (Sault Ste Marie Down Syndrome Society)

- Nothing to report this month.

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report this month.

6. Presentation: Special Education Programs and Services B. Vallee

- Due to technical difficulties, this will be postponed to our next meeting.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Workshop on the role of the trustee took place for new and returning trustees
- J. Sarlo acclaimed as Chair of the Board. E Johnstone is the new Vice-Chair. R. Reid will represent the ADSB as an Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) director.
- Many of ADSB's trustees will participate in the annual OPSBA Public Education Symposium scheduled to take place in Toronto Jan 26 to Jan 28

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

- **Transitions:** As we enter the new year, the Kindergarten Transitions process begins again. K. Viita will be meeting with agencies and families this month to begin the process of helping our new students with special education needs transition to the school setting. At this point, meetings have been scheduled for approximately 65 incoming students.
- **Development of the 20203 Special Education Plan/Report:** An overview of the process for developing/amending the 2023 Special Education Plan was distributed to

SEAC members. A parent survey is usually done as part of the feedback process. M. Barbeau asked how many parents complete the survey? B. Vallee responded that it is usually a fairly low number of approximately 30-45 responses each year, but it does provide us with some helpful feedback.

- **December Principal's Meeting:** Our December Principal's Meeting took place just after our December SEAC meeting. The special education topic for the meeting was specialized placements (including specialized programs and specialized classrooms) in the ADSB. Principals were provided with an overview of the models that are in place for specialized programs and specialized classrooms, including information regarding placements, admission criteria, programming focus and locations as well as the process for referring a student for a potential specialized placement was provided. Principals of schools that host one of each specialized program model also provided their colleagues with an overview of what the model looks like in practice at their schools.
- **CAT4/Insight Testing:** Our CAT4/Insight testing was completed during the week of October 24th – 28th. We have submitted the answer booklets for computerized scoring by the Canadian Testing Centre and anticipate that we will have results back by the end of the month. S. Evans wondered about the impact of the pandemic and whether this is reflected in the scores of students participating in Insight/CAT4. B. Vallee responded that Insight is a cognitive assessment and this would not be impacted by pandemic-related changes in schooling. CAT4 (Canadian Achievement Test 4th Edition) does assess achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics, and these scores do reflect impacts on achievement. Part of our process of reviewing the data includes a review of the historical data and it was evident from last year's scores that there was a drop in achievement data following the pandemic. We are eager to see what this year's data will reveal.
- Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Claims:** Thanks to the Special Education Department Staff for their hard work in submitting SIP claims. We have submitted approximately 75 claims for SIP funding. E. Torresan asked about the SIP process. B. Vallee responded that school boards may make a claim for Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding to help cover the costs of supporting students with high health and/or safety needs. The Ministry will grant up a maximum of \$28,803 per student. E. Torresan asked if this is extra money? B. Vallee responded that SIP funding claims are made based on supports that have already been put in place for students.
- **Special Education AQ Subsidy for Educators:** The Ministry has provided subsidy funding for educators wishing to take a special Education Additional Qualifications course. We were very pleased with the number of expressions of interest received from our teachers. All our funding for the 2022-2023 school year has been accessed by staff planning to enroll in winter term courses.

Upcoming Agenda:

- Today's scheduled presentation will be done at our next meeting.

9. Next Meeting: February 14, 2023

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by M Barbeau. Seconded by A. Gauthier.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15