



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 13, 2025
Sugar Maple Room/Teams
12:00 Start Time**

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

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

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

Regrets:

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 S. Kitts. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (April 25, 2025). Moved by C. Snider. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

4. Correspondence: No correspondence received.

5. Presentation/Discussion: *Review of Draft of ADSB Special Education Plan 2025-2026*

- Updated draft of the *2025-2026 Special Education Plan* was distributed to SEAC members electronically prior to the meeting. A hard copy of the draft document, as well as a “tracking document” of proposed changes, was also provided to SEAC members to support discussion and feedback.

- SEAC discussed proposed “content changes” (e.g. re-wording or re-phrasing throughout the document to increase clarity, re-writes completed in specific sections (e.g. sections regarding IPRC review meetings, the section focused on specialized classrooms and programs) at our April meeting.
- Updates to the “numbers” in the special education plan were provided for review. May 1st is always used as our “count date” for the numerical data. This ensures consistency if/when comparing changes in our data. Numerical data discussed include tracking changes (e.g. assessments, consultations) as well as demographic data (e.g. categories and exceptionalities). An updated copy of the “tracking document” was provided to support discussion and feedback. B. Vallee reviewed the changes to numerical data that will be included in the plan.
- Questions/discussion focused on increases in assessments, statistics for behaviour identification, incoming kindergarten transition numbers, and the potential impact of the changes to Jordan’s Principle funding that have been announced.
- Thanks to the special education team for their work in updating and revising the plan!

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (Sherri Kitts)

- Student behaviour issues continue to be a regular subject of meetings.
- Preparing for the graduation celebration, the parade will take place later in June.

Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- ***One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund.*** The *One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund* is available to Ontario families of children or youth with autism who retain the services of a one-to-one worker to accompany their child to a camp or program or out on community outings. Maximum reimbursements of \$600, per child or youth, (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services between July and August. Applications must be received between May 1, and May 31, 2025. <https://www.autismontario.com/camp>
- ***Understanding Special Education: Workshop for Caregivers of Autistic Learners.***
[May 20, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)
[June 4, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)
- ***Navigating a New Diagnosis- Information Session for Parents and Caregivers of Autistic Children Over 5.*** [May 22, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)

Algoma Family Services (Clint Snider)

- Pride Prom at the Hub coming up in June
- Excited to have the opportunity to have police officers from the downtown location join the youth at the Hub to play games and enjoy time together.
- Adventure-Based Learning Day Camp is planned for children aged 10-12 between August 18-22
- Free Parenting session entitled *Embrace Togetherness* is being provided for parents and caregivers. This session took place on May 3, 2025 at the Hub on Dennis Street.

Member-at-Large (Velma Simon)

- We are putting forward an increased focus on recruiting and getting out information on the “CICE” program.

- An information session is scheduled for May 22 (3:00-5:00) for staff that work with potential students (e.g. guidance, SERTs). A session for families and potential students is planned for May 29th.

Member-At-Large (Pat Mick)

- Nothing to report.

Thrive (Amanada Gauthier)

- Thrive is in the process of hiring a summer student to support children/youth with special needs that attend summer camps in the community
- Further to the discussion on Jordan's Principle funding, Thrive is receiving lots of calls from families related to funding changes and potential loss of services. At present, wait lists are long.

Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- *Together We're Better* Contest received 7 submissions. Winners have been announced and received their prizes.
- CLA staff participated in the skills assessment that took place at White Pines on April 16th for potential Project SEARCH Interns for September 2025. Staff that help support Project SEARCH will attend the graduate celebration coming up in June for this year's cohort.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- The last board meeting took place on April 29th. This included the election of our OPSBA representative (Jennifer Sarlo) as well as updates on immunization of pupils and various committee reports.
- OPSBA General Meeting is scheduled to take place in June. We have several trustees running for positions with OPSBA.
- Several of our trustees took part in the Labour Relations symposium in Toronto.
- Our next meeting is the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for tonight (May 13th).

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

- ***SERT Professional Learning:*** Our April session was re-scheduled for May 8th. SERTs took part in a half-day session focused on the process for Identification, Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Initial Meetings and Review Meetings, sharing of best practices around transitions as well as an overview of some of the special education professional learning that was to take place on the May 9th PD Day.
- ***Professional Development Day (May 9th):*** Professional Development Day took place on Friday, May 9th. The morning session was focused on school-based improvement work, while the afternoon included a session on well-being and a session on special education. Our special education component included a presentation on *Learning for All: Using Tiered Approaches to embody UDL and DI to Support Student Achievement and Well-Being*. UDL is an acronym for *Universal Design for Learning* and DI is *Differentiated Instruction*. Following the narrated presentation, staff reviewed one of Shelley Moore's *Five Moore Minutes* videos and then participated in an application activity focused on differentiating an upcoming lesson based on student readiness level.
- ***Sonderly Professional Learning Opportunities:*** We have been in the process of using up our "bank" of Ministry-funded training courses provided through Sonderly, which is the professional learning arm of the Geneva Centre for Autism. Over the past weeks, we have

had 39 Educational Assistants begin the *ADHD in the Classroom Course*, 40 Early Childhood Educators have begun the *Supporting Play-Based Learning for Kids with ASD* course, and 35 teachers have begun the *Core Strategies for Autistic Students* course.

- **SEA/SIP Compliance Monitoring Process:** Every board in the province is scheduled to participate in the SEA/SIP Compliance Monitoring process over a four-year cycle that began in the 2023-2024 school year. Along with our co-terminus board, ADSB was one of the boards that were included in the review process this year. Following a virtual pre-visit meeting on April 17th, Ministry staff visited Isabel Fletcher and Ben R. McMullin schools on April 28th to review and discuss SEA/SIP processes and “follow the funding” to the classroom. Following the visit, a “wrap-up” meeting took place on May 5th. Ministry staff indicated that the visit was very successful – lots of great work in place! Thanks to our Admin teams and SERTs from Ben R. McMullin and Isabel Fletcher, as well as our system team for all of their hard work on this process.
- **Upcoming Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Workshop:** The final parent workshop sponsored by the ADSB PIC is scheduled for Monday, May 26th from 6:30-7:30. The topic for this session is *Special Education Programs & Services*. The link will be available through the ADSB website. If you are interested in attending, we will see that you get the link.

9. Next Meeting: June 10, 2025

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.