



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 13, 2024
DT Walkom/Teams
12:00 Start Time**

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

Trustees: S. Myers (Trustee - Alternate), H. Whitley (Trustee)

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

Regrets: S. Evans (Trustee)

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 guests.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approval of Agenda. Moved by S. Myers. Seconded by C. Snider. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (January 9, 2024). Moved by M. Barbeau. Seconded by S. Kitts, All in favour,

4. Correspondence:

Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland, and Clarington Catholic School Board

- Letter expressing concerns about various matters related to special education. These included funding formula, transportation, supervision, and Special Incidence Portion (SIP).

5. Presentation/Discussion: Specialized Classrooms/Programs (Amanda Naccarato S.E. Assignment Teacher and Tara Lappage S.E. Lead)

- Explained differences between specialized programs (Withdrawal Model) and specialized classrooms (Fully Self-Contained or Partial Integration Model).
- Specialized classroom model: Students are registered in a special education class assigned to a special education classroom teacher for most programming. Programming focuses on functional academics (literacy, numeracy) and alternative programming expectations. Students may be integrated into an age-appropriate classroom for specific subjects (e.g. arts, phys ed for at least one period) or other classroom activities. Examples: *Structured Learning Classroom, Practical Learning Classroom*
- Specialized program model: Students are registered in a regular classroom assigned to a regular classroom teacher. They receive academic programming in the regular classroom for at least 50% of the school day. Students also receive withdrawal supports in specific areas of need (e.g. modified academics, social skills, self-regulation) from a Specialized Program Teacher. Examples: *Integrated Support Program (ISP), Learning Support Program (LSP), Learning for Enhanced Achievement Programming (LEAP)*
- The first option is the least restrictive environment which is usually the student's age-appropriate class at their home school. Students are considered for specialized programs or specialized classrooms when appropriate if this option aligns with the parent/guardian's wishes.
- Data collection and communication with community partners, parents/guardians and school- and system-based team is an important part of both models.

6. Member Organization Updates

S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

- Big focus since September has been spent on behaviors in the classroom.
- Parent conferences are on-going,

Velma Simon (Member-at-Large)

- Excited to be here, this is a great connection.
- Lead for the *Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE)* program. *CICE* is a fully integrated 2-year certificate program designed to provide students with learning challenges opportunities to enhance their academic, vocational, and social skills.
- Program highlights- hands on learning, academic support, field placements and fully integrated into classrooms and labs.
- Many areas of study are offered.

A. Gauthier (Thrive Child Development Centre)

- Flyer has come out about the Entry-to-School program.
- Parent coffee break programs are currently running.
- Talks underway about possible expansion to house all Thrive employees at one location (Johnson Ave)

M. Tuomi (Autism Ontario)

- *Celebrate the Spectrum*- Celebration of World Autism Day takes place April 2, 2024. Materials are available to be sent to schools.

- Fly your Flag groups and links.
- Webinars to support parents are on-going e.g. Paperwork parties- this is very helpful for parents to figure out the many paperwork requirements
- Awesome Moms is a monthly group
- Exploring Autism webinar upcoming at the end of February
- Monthly Webinar group for dads

P. Mick (Member- At-Large)

- Nothing to report this month.

M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma)

- *Together We're Better* contest" has opened for JK-12 students. Tell us or show us how your classroom and extracurricular program supports the inclusion of students with an intellectual or developmental disability. Contest closes February 29, 2024.
- Reminder that application for Summer Employment program is now open. Opportunities are available for students with an intellectual or developmental disability to apply for summer employment. A 'job coach' (another summer student) is also provided to help support the employment. This program is available for students ages 15 and up. Students can apply for job placements of either 8 weeks or 16 weeks. Applications will close March 1, 2024.
- Beginning the process of transition for September students from grade 8 and secondary school graduates into the work force.

Clint Snider (Algoma Family Services)

- Excited to introduce new Director of Services, Brian Kelly. He will help support Stephanie Fetherston and programs will be divided between the 2.
- Focus groups on anxiety for children between 8- 12 and depression/ anxiety for students between 13 and 18.
- Youth Wellness Hub is up and running and will present a movie and have conversation on human trafficking.
- Looking to work with community partners on creating a café where an employment opportunity would be provided.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Presentation at last meeting- Re-Thinking Recess. This is a leadership opportunity for Grade 5 to 6 students at pilot schools. Students run games and recess programming for younger students. Focus on building conflict resolution skills and learning new games. Always looking for kids that need to be included - look for the bright pink tuques. *Always room for one more!* is the Re-Thinking Recess slogan.
- Mama Mia! Presentation from the cast of Mama Mia, which is the Korah Collegiate musical this year.

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

- **Professional Development Day (February 2nd):** Professional Development Day took place on February 2nd. Elementary Teachers completed activities related to assessment and reporting as per the collective bargaining agreement while secondary teachers participated in professional learning and semester turn-around activities. The special education department provided professional learning for educational assistants. A day of in-person learning took place at Boreal with Educational Assistants rotating through five different workshops, including *Bringing Words to Life*, *Optimizing*

Student Success, Using Read & Write for Chrome to Support All Learners, Tips for Successful Student Interactions, and the Universal Supports Café. Our team also provided Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training for elementary vice-principals as well as a group of educational assistants/early childhood educators that were not able to complete training at previous sessions.

- **Kindergarten Registration Begins.** Kindergarten registration continues for students born in 2020, as well as those born in 2019 that may not have attended school this year. Very helpful to have families register as early as possible as this certainly helps with preliminary planning for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **SERT/SPT Professional Learning:** On January 26th, we hosted an in-person learning day for our Special Education Resource Teachers. Topics included an overview of school improvement work through the special education lens, including a focus on *UDL, DI, and Tiered Approaches to Intervention, Inter-Panel Transition* processes from elementary to secondary, *Charting the Path* program, and a dive into some of the available mental health resources including the *Mind-up* curriculum and the School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder. SERTs also participated in a video conference on February 9th focused on Individual Education Plan (IEP) development. Next in-person session for our SERTs is scheduled for February 23rd.
- **Shelley Moore Sessions (February 13th and 28th):** Tonight is the second of the five-part learning sessions provided by Shelley Moore. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for February 28th, March 19th and May 30th.
- **Provincial Special Education S.O. Teleconference:** B. Vallee will be participating in a provincial discussion group for Superintendents with the Special Education portfolio that will be hosted by the *Ontario Public Supervisory Officers Association*. This takes place on Wednesday, February 14th.
- **Questions:** Question came up about the eclipse and if we are changing the PD Day? BV responded that this has been a “hot topic” and many boards have changed the PD Day. At this time, there are no plans to change ours.

9. Next Meeting: March 19, 2024

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:00