



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 10, 2025  
Sugar Maple Room/Teams  
12:00 Start Time**

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

**Trustees:** H. Whitley, S. Evans

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

**Regrets:** V. Simon (Member-at- Large)

**Guests:** Joe Santa Maria, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Operations

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 (May 13,2025). Moved by H. Whitley. Seconded by C. Snider. All in favour.

**4. Correspondence:** No correspondence received.

**5. Presentation/Discussion: *Update on 2025-2026 Budget Process* (Joe Santa Maria Associate Director of Corporate Services and Operations)**

- Release of budget information to school boards was delayed by approximately six weeks this year, which has significantly delayed the usual timeline for our budget process. The June Board meeting has been delayed from June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to provide additional time for staff to work through this process.

- Detailed information is available on the Ministry of Education website. [Education Funding for School Boards 2025–2026](#) provides a variety of documents, including a technical guide to explain where funding comes from. Information specific to special education funding is also available on the website. The *ADSB Special Education Plan* also provides an overview of the main components of the Special Education Fund portion of budget/funding information.
- *Special Incidence Portion (SIP)* funding process continues to be under review by the Ministry. A formula-based process continues to be in place while this review is underway, replacing the previous labour-intensive claims-based process. We are also moving into year two of the changes to the Specialized Equipment Allocation (formerly Special Equipment Amount) funding process that were announced last year.
- Education & Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) (also known as section 23 programs) are collaborative partnerships between school boards and government approved facilities such as mental health agencies, youth detention centers etc. School Boards provide the education component and community agencies provide the care, treatment or rehabilitation services. The Ministry has announced the beginning of a modernization process that will provide boards with more flexibility in operating these programs beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
- *Responsive Education Programs (REP)* funding for special programs and initiative also continues to provide funding for specific projects or initiatives each year. REP funding is subject to change each year.
- Potential pressure areas may include **transportation funding**. Changes to Jordan’s Principle funding have also been announced (Note: this is federal funding rather than provincial). ADSB anticipates less of a direct impact than some of the other school boards in our region.
- The ADSB’s Operations and Budget Committee will meet on June 17 to review proposed budget prior to bringing the budget to all trustees at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

## 6. Member Organization Updates

### North Shore Tribal Council (Sherri Kitts)

- Preparing for the graduation celebration, the graduation parade will take place later in June.

### Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- **NEW Signature Series Webinar: Sensory Strategies that Support Participation in Daily Routines at Home with Moira Peña.** Signature Series webinar with Occupational Therapist Moira Peña and moderator Matt Ley to explore how sensory processing impacts daily routines — and what caregivers can do to help. Learn practical, sensory-based strategies using the BEST approach (Body, Emotional, Sensory, Thinking) that you can start using right away to support dressing, eating, transitions, and more. [June 5, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM](#)

### Algoma Family Services (Clint Snider)

- June is Pride month. A Pride prom took place at the Hub, families have been able to take part in many different activities.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> will have a drag show, and vendors will be at site.

### Member-At-Large (Pat Mick)

- Nothing to report

### Thrive (Sarah Burns)

- School Readiness program kicked off this week.
- Thrive has funding for 2 summer students to help provide support for summer camps.
- Parent info session focusing on newly diagnosed children with Autism. The session tonight will have a focus on students who have been identify with Autism families can either meet in person at our Queen Street location or virtually.

### Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- A presentation took place at FH Clergue this morning to honour the Grade 3 class for their entry in the Together We're Better" contest. A second ceremony will take place at CLA later this month for one of the other ADSB winners.
- Sergio Iacoe has been attending Integrated Transition Meetings conducted by the schools.
- CLA staff will be attending the year-end celebration for Project SEARCH at Sault Area Hospital.
- Summer Employment program is underway with the twelve-week placements having begun.

### 7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- May 27, 2025 was the Regular Board Meeting. Trustees received a presentation on the updated Capital Plan, as well as completing policy approvals.
- June Board Meeting has been postponed (now June 24<sup>th</sup>) due to delays in budget information being received. This is the last meeting of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Many trustees will be attending the Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) annual meeting/conference later this week.
- Staff Retirement Dinner: Trustees hosted our annual celebration for staff who are retiring on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 55 staff have notified us of their intent to retire this year and we had 28 in attendance at the dinner. This celebration includes all staff members, regardless of their specific role. Every role is important, and it was great to see staff from all of our employee groups in attendance.

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

- **Special Education Plan:** The 2025-2026 Special Education Plan was brought to the Board of Trustees at the regular board meeting of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The ADSB extends its thanks to all SEAC members for their on-going advice and support regarding special education programs and services in the ADSB. These documents will be posted on the website at the conclusion of the current school year. This is followed by submission of the appropriate documentation to the Ministry of Education.
- **OCASE Symposium (May 15):** B. Vallee participated in the *Ontario Council for Administrators of Special Education (OCASE)* symposium in Mississauga on May 15<sup>th</sup>. OCASE is a sub-group of the *Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)*. Workshop sessions included in the symposium included two legal issues sessions (*Navigating the IPRC Process & Duty to Accommodate, Exclusions*); keynote presentations on *Planning for Safe & Supportive Schools* and *Review & Restructuring of Special Education Services*. Afternoon breakout sessions attended included *Essential Literacy & Numeracy Learning for Modified Learners*, and *Transitions for Blind-Low Vision Students*. Lots of great learning and take-aways from these sessions.
- **Professional Development Day (June 6<sup>th</sup>):** The final Professional Development Day of the school year took place on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. For elementary teachers, the day is set aside for the purposes of assessment and reporting as per the collective bargaining agreement. Secondary school teachers participated in a variety of professional learning topics. Educational Assistants participated in a staffing session during the morning block, followed by virtual workshops related to a variety of topics for the afternoon block. Topics included *Behaviour Management Systems Refresher Training*, *Trauma-Informed Practice*, and self-directed PD options.
- **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Workshop:** The Special Education Department hosted the final parent workshop sponsored by the ADSB PIC committee on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30. The topic for this session was ADSB *Special Education Programs & Services*.

- **Project SEARCH Graduation:** The graduation ceremony for this year's cohort of Project SEARCH interns is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to recognizing the accomplishments of our current interns and having next year's cohort of interns sign their intention to be part of Project SEARCH next year.
- **Special Olympics Provincial Competition Update:** ADSB athletes had the opportunity to participate in provincial Special Olympics competition in Ottawa during the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are thrilled to report that our students performed amazingly well at the games, and our Bocce team has brought home a silver medal! Thanks to Mr. Macdonald, Ms. Muto, and staff members that made this all possible!
- **SEAC Dates 2025-2026:** A list of proposed dates for SEAC meetings during the 2025-2026 school year has been provided.

9. **Next Meeting:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

**Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**