



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 10, 2026
Sugar Maple Room
12:00 Start Time**

Present: P. Mick (Member-At-Large), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), M. Tuomi (Autism Ontario), A. Gauthier (Thrive CDC), V. Simon (Member-at- Large),

Trustees: H. Whitley, S. Evans

Staff: B. Vallee (Superintendent), Kristen Viita (System Administrator), K. Lappage (System Administrator)

Regrets: C. Snider (Algoma Family Services), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

Guests: Tianna Legacy – placement student

Meeting called to order at 12:03 . With Chair Mick attending virtually, Superintendent Vallee will facilitate the remainder of the hybrid meeting.

1. **Welcome** – Welcome to all SEAC members.
2. **Round Table** - Introduction of members, staff, and/or guests.
3. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** –
 - Approval of Agenda. Moved by Margaret Tuomi. Seconded by Heather Whitley. All in favour.
 - Approval of Minutes (January 13 ,2026). Moved by Margaret Tuomi. Seconded by Margaret Barbeau. All in favour.
4. **Correspondence:** No correspondence received this month.
5. **Presentation/Discussion: *EA Allocation Processes in ADSB (Special Education Administration)***
 - B. Vallee and K.Viita provided an overview of the Educational Assistant (EA) Allocation process in the ADSB.

- The presentation covered the role of the EA in needs-based programming, current EA job description, and the allocation process, including some of the key dates that are in place throughout the school year.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)

- Regrets

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Increase in funding which will support additional assessments.
- Transition to schools are still on-going.
- SLP drop-in programs and some March Break drop-in programming is available

Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- A few applications have come in for the Inclusive Education contest.
- New strategic plan and new CEO,
- Currently interviewing for Summer Employment program.
- Life Planning brochure was shared with members

Algoma Family Services (C. Snider)

- Regrets

Autism Ontario (Margaret Tuomi)

- Upcoming workshops for caregivers.
- Celebrate the Spectrum – schools can join to raise funds. M. Tuomi sent a link for schools.
- Photovoice was due to begin during the last week of March but looking to align with World Autism Day. Flag raising at City Hall will still be happening.

Member-At-Large (Velma Simon)

- Sault College halfway through Winter Semester.
- CICE recruiting for fall with information sessions and tours.
- Open House scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Member-At-Large (P. Mick)

- No report this month.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Board of Trustees met in January. Topics included the Director's annual report, initial review of EQAO results, committee appointments for upcoming school year, school year calendar consultation and launch of Kindergarten registration process.
- Some trustees also attended the Public Education Symposium in Toronto the last week of January.

- Moving forward with a workshop session on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

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

- **Professional Development Day:** Professional Development Day took place on Friday, January 30th. Elementary Teachers had this day for the purposes of assessment and reporting, while secondary teachers participated in professional learning focused on school improvement as well as semester turn-around activities. Educational Assistants participated in a half-day of refresher training for Behaviour Management Systems and a follow-up session on Implementing Behaviour Management Plans led by school administrators. Specialized sessions for Math, English and Geography Department Heads, and Ojibway language teachers also took place. Next schedule PD Day takes place on Friday, March 6th.
- **OCASE Virtual Symposium:** Some of our team members had the opportunity to participate in the OCASE (Ontario Council for Administrators of Special Education) virtual symposium on Thursday, January 22nd. Presenter was Ingrid Muschta, Director of Special Projects and Innovation at the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) on the topic of **Inclusion and Employment Awareness: Building Employment Transition Paths for Students Who Have Disabilities**. Ingrid shared her knowledge about employment for students who have disabilities and shared ways to support students and families, discuss barriers and opportunities, shared employment supports in Ontario, and issues around the employment of students with disabilities. Great video entitled [The Hiring Chain performed by Sting](#).

9. **Next Meeting:** March 10, 2026

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.