



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
October 7, 2025
Sugar Maple Room
12:00 Start Time**

Present: A. Gauthier (Thrive CDC), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council), M. Barbeau (Community Living Algoma), M. Tuomi (Autism Ontario)

Trustees: H. Whitley

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

Regrets: V. Simon (Member-at- Large) C. Snider (Algoma Family Services) P. Mick (Member-At- Large), S. Evans (Trustee), S. Myers (Trustee-Alternate), K. Lappage (System Administrator),

Guests:

Meeting called to order. With the absence of Chair Mick, Superintendent Vallee will facilitate the remainder of the hybrid meeting.

1. **Welcome** – Welcome to all SEAC members. Reminder that today’s meeting is being live streamed.
2. **Round Table** - Introduction of members, staff, and/or guests.
3. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**
 - Approval of Agenda. Moved by M. Tuomi. Seconded by S. Kitts. All in favour.
 - Approval of Minutes (September 9 ,2025). Moved by H. Whitley. Seconded by M. Barbeau. All in favour.
4. **Correspondence:** No correspondence received.
5. **Presentation/Discussion: Charting the Path** (Sarah Anich-Mansfield, LD Resource Facilitator)
 - S. Mansfield provided an overview of the *Charting the Path* program.
 - The purpose of *Charting the Path* is to help build effective self-advocacy skills and prepare students with learning differences for the transition to secondary school.

- Some of the program goals are to increase self-confidence, highlight awareness of personal strengths and areas of need, facilitate knowledge and understanding of accommodations and educational support systems available in elementary and high school, and to help students understand their learning style and explore beneficial learning strategies.
- The program consists of 8-10 session, including a presentation on celebrating neuro-diversity that can be done at the whole-class level, and culminates in the creation of a self-advocacy card to be shared with their secondary school.
- Participants include students that are in grade eight, have an IEP (exceptional or non-exceptional), present with cognitive scores in the average to above average range, and would benefit from this program. Note: There are different transition processes for students presenting with an MID or DD profile. Students do NOT need to have had a psychoeducational assessment, although students who have not had a psycho-educational assessment typically skip session 2. Both the Parent/Guardian and the student must agree to the student's participation in the program.
- An example of a completed self-advocacy card, program statistics, and some feedback from students, parents and receiving teachers was also shared.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (Sherri Kitts)

- Visiting schools to update lists as the education department believes there are still children that are not yet registered to attend school.
- In addition to registering at the school, families also need to register with the education unit to ensure that they are on the list.

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Staff are back in schools providing school-based rehabilitative services.

Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- CLA Education Committee Meeting took place last week. Topics included child and youth transitions conducted in the spring, Project SEARCH, busing in relation to start/end times and the Summer Employment program

Autism Ontario (Margaret Tuomi)

- Resources provided to be shared with schools. Available webinars include topics such as navigating special education, strategies for connecting home and school, collaboration with school teams, and so on. Autism Ontario has been focusing on asynchronous online resources that parents can fit into their schedule.
- Autism Ontario would like to do a presentation for SEAC. We have done this in the past with our member organizations, although we try to keep this to a minimum as the intention of SEAC meetings is to discuss board programs and services. M. Tuomi and B. Vallee will discuss potential dates to see if this can be worked out.

Algoma Family Services (Margaret Tuomi updated on news from the Hub)

- C. Snider sent regrets for today, but M. Tuomi provided some updated information from the Hub. The Hub is hosting a flu vaccine clinic on Monday, October 20th from 10:00-12:00 where anyone can drop in to receive a vaccine. M. Tuomi will send out the flyer
- FASD month took place in September. Two workshops were well received. It was very special to have the DARE students and program team participate in these events.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Regular Board Meeting took place on September 23rd.
- Trustees were provided with an overview of Summer Learning programs. These programs were very well attended. It was exciting to see a bridge for kids to keep up their learning over the summer months.
- Trustees were provided with an update on enrolment. We are in very good shape as enrolment numbers are significantly higher than spring projections.
- The 25 Year Recognition Reception takes place tonight, with trustees hosting a reception to celebrate staff who have completed 25 years of service.
- Also, Developmental Language Disorders are recognized this month on October 17th.

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

- **Professional Development Day (September 26th):** A busy day of professional development took place on Friday, September 26th. The agenda for the day included the following topics:
 - Most teaching staff were engaged in using evidence of student learning collected during the month of September to develop their classroom improvement plans for the first cycle (September – November) in relation to the school's achievement priority.
 - Teachers new to Kindergarten-Grade 2 classrooms and teachers of Grade 3 students were engaged in an Acadience Reading Workshop to provide introductory training for the Acadience screening tool, including foundations, administration and scoring.
 - Teachers working in specialized classrooms or specialized program settings participated in a half-day of Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) refresher training to renew their knowledge and skills.
 - Educational assistants took part in a virtual presentation provided by the special education team focused on the role of educators as a resource to implement and build student independence in implementing supports and strategies required to address student needs, as well as selecting options for self-directed web-based learning on topics including an introduction to learning disabilities, an in-depth look at executive function, supporting students with LDs by integrating technology into classroom instruction, behaviour (four one-hour modules), and anxiety & ASD. Based on the needs of the school and classroom, educational assistants were also allocated time to prepare individualized resources required to support programming for students (e.g. visual schedules, learning bins).

- All staff members participated in a principal-led session on creating supportive classrooms that focused on strategies, including Tier 1 Mental Health Supports, to support belonging and reinforce positive school learning environments that are supportive of all learners.
- **September Resource Teacher Sessions (Sept 18/19):** September meetings with our elementary SERTs took place on September 18th and 19th. Elementary SERTs are broken into three learning teams so that we can maximize participation in learning. The agenda for our September session included an overview of our Resource Teacher site in Edsby (which includes a wide range of resources) discussion around IEP development and IPRC structures, as well as an overview of our school- and system-based resources and priorities. A discussion around processes for the Language Development, the Specialized Equipment Allocation process, and the Charting the Path program also took place.
- **Empower Reading Training:** Empower training sessions for participating resource teachers (e.g. SERTs, SPTs, LSTs) have now concluded. The program is underway in most of our sites, with a few of our teachers new to Empower finishing up pre-testing prior to beginning the program.

9. Next Meeting: November 4th, 2025.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.