



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
March 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), C. Snider (Algoma Family Services), S. Kitts (North Shore Tribal Council)

Trustees: H. Whitley, S. Evans

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

Regrets: None

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m. 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 S. Kitts. Seconded by S. Evans. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (February 10, 2026). Moved by M. Barbeau. Seconded by S. Evans. All in favour.

4. **Correspondence:** *Durham DSB SEAC re Trustees*

5. **Presentation/Discussion:** *Secondary Specialized Programs & Services (K. Viita)*

- K. Viita provided an overview of special education programs currently in place for students of secondary school age in the ADSB. This includes the START (Students at Risk Today), LEAD (Learning for Emotional and Academic Development), DARE

(Developing Alternative Realistic Expectations) and Community Education programs. Additional information on all programs is available in the ADSB Special Education Plan.

- K. Viita also reviewed each of our Care & Treatment Education Programs (CTEP), providing an overview of the program model and the partnerships that are in place through Section 23 to provide the program. This includes two re-engagement programs - Mino Mikaaning at White Pines in partnership with Indigenous Friendship Centre, and CASS Fresh Start (CASS 180) partnered with Thessalon First Nation. There is also a care and treatment- focused program currently housed at Kina Awiiya in partnership with Algoma Family Services, and the Non-Residential Attendance Centre program for students on probation that is offered in partnership with Algoma Family Services at the Hub.
- ADSB also provides an Education & Community Partnership Program (ECP) in partnership with MCCSS at the Donald Doucet Youth Centre for youth in custody.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)

- Meetings continue regarding attendance and behaviours

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Nothing to report this month

Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- N/A

Algoma Family Services (C. Snider)

- An Elder is now on staff
- Youth transitional housing program in place
- ITS (Intensive Treatment Services) is being renamed Multi Systems Approach to Parenting (MAPS)
- Offering TRAILS- delivered to small groups over 10 weeks

Autism Ontario (Margaret Tuomi)

- World Autism Acceptance Day with a flag raising at the Civic Centre and related activities hosted at the Hub.
- Launching the Photovoice project (partnership with Queen's University) on the same day

Member-At-Large (Velma Simon)

- CICE program will finish on April 17
- Preparations for the fall are underway.

- Scholarship and Awards night taking place on March 10

Member-At-Large (P. Mick)

- No report this month.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Approved several policies as part of the ongoing policy review cycle.
- Introduction of the new student trustees who will begin their role in August 2026. The student trustees are now elected in February of the year that they begin, which allows for mentoring from the current student trustees.
- Approval of the 2026-2027 school year calendar
- Review of Trustee Distribution in preparation for the fall election.

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

- **Professional Development Day:** Professional Development Day took place on Friday, March 6th. Topics included classroom and school improvement planning, Behaviour Management Systems refresher training for EAs that did not complete the refresher on January 30th, and a learning session for NSL teachers. Half of the day was set aside for system-wide learning on the importance of creating supportive classrooms free of discrimination in any form to equip participants with the knowledge they need to promote and uphold human rights as required under the Ontario Human Rights Code and address discriminatory policies and practices.
- **RISE Software Training:** We are in the process of adopting a new special education software platform. RISE is described as a user-friendly and customizable cloud-based platform that streamlines the creation and management of IEP's along with all student related support services such as Medical Plans of Care, Assistive Technology management, and more. All our SSM/Central and Eastern area SERTS participated in initial training in the software platform over the past two weeks in preparation for implementation in the fall of 2026, with training upcoming for Northern area SERTS.
- **Principal's Learning Session:** As part of the monthly Principal's Learning session, the special education team provided a series of eight learning carousels on various topics of interest, including *Psychological-Educational Assessments, Kindergarten Transitions, Specialized Classes and Programs, Special Equipment Allocation (SEA), Empower Reading, and Executive Function*. Principals participated in two carousels at the February meeting and will rotate through the other carousels at their April and June meetings.
- **New Special Education Special Assignment Teacher:** We are pleased to welcome Heather Coulter as our new Special Education Special Assignment Teacher. Heather began her new role during the last week of February. Welcome aboard!

9. Next Meeting: April 7th, 2026

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by V. Simon. Seconded by C. Snider.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.