



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 7, 2026
Sugar Maple Room
12:00 Start Time**

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

Trustees: H. Whitley, S. Evans

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

Regrets: C. Snider (Algoma Family Services), P. Mick (Member-At-Large)

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 12:07 p.m. With Chair Mick unable to attend, 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 V. Simon Seconded by S. Kitts. All in favour.
 - Approval of Minutes (March 10, 2026). Moved by S. Evans. Seconded by H. Whitley. All in favour.
4. **Correspondence:** *TDSB SEAC Chair to Minister Calendra
KPR SEAC re: Trustees
TVDSB SEAC re: Trustees*
5. **Presentation/Discussion:** *Draft ADSB Special Education Plan – Content Changes (B. Vallee)*
 - B. Vallee provided some background information on our usual process for SEAC to review the Special Education Plan. We usually begin our review process at the April meeting by examining suggested changes to the content of the Plan. This allows time for feedback and revision to take place, followed by further review at the May meeting.

Historically, we use May 1st as the official “count date” to update any of the numbers in the document to ensure consistency from year to year, so these are so these updates are also examined at the May meeting as well as any changes that have been made based on feedback received prior to the meeting.

- B. Vallee also shared that the Special Education Plan is based on the Ministry “Standards”. We have re-structured the document using each “standard” as an individual section of the plan. Sections have been re-ordered to create as as much “flow” as possible.
- B. Vallee provided SEAC members with an overview of potential changes to the Special Education Plan content for 2026 – 2027 for questions and discussion. SEAC members were provided with a tracking document and a current draft of the plan that reflects the suggested changes. Information highlighted in gold is information that has been updated or adjusted.
- Updated drafts are emailed to the committee as they are completed. The final copy of the plan goes to the board of trustees as soon as it is finalized – usually the May or June meeting. The final document must be posted on the Board website by the end of July 2026, and a “checklist” is submitted to the Ministry at this time.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)

- Garden River First nation has hired additional 3 ASWs for a total of 9 ASWs across the school boards.
- Another driver was hired and new vans have been purchased.
- Marnie Yorchuk is no longer Director of Education Unit of the NSTC. S. Kitts will find out further information.
- Leanne Pine has been hired as Education Department manager at Garden River First Nation.

Thrive (A. Gauthier)

- Thrive completed 103 ASD assessments as part of their new role as a diagnostic hub. Currently, about a 1-year waitlist exists for diagnosis.
- Thrive has an Intern working with them that has created a new caregiver project. The hope is to have parents as mentors.
- OAP Entry to School program has begun.

Community Living Algoma (M. Barbeau)

- Contest Winners for Together We are Better have been selected.
- Project SEARCH is ongoing with the Skills Assessment Day scheduled for April. Graduation Day has tentatively been set as June 17 at SAH.
- Integrated Transition Meetings are taking place through the spring. School staff to reach out to CLA to participate in these meetings.
- Summer Employment Program has had about 70 applications with Job Coaches being interviewed.
- New CEO search is underway. Jennifer Wiwchar is currently the Acting CEO.

Algoma Family Services (C. Snider)

- Regrets.

Autism Ontario (M. Tuomi)

- Local celebration for World Autism Acceptance Day. Day started with a Flag Raising at City Hall with a locally designed flag created by a neuro-divergent youth.
- Autism Ontario sponsored activities at the Hub with a tie-dye station, and other community partners hosting stations.
- Photovoice project has been launched. 10 youth have signed up to be a part of the Photovoice project.

Member-At-Large (Velma Simon)

- Close to end of the year with a finish on April 17.
- April 11th is an Open House at Sault College. V. Simon looking at individuals who are interested in College and the CICE program.
- Preparations are already underway for next year.

Member-At-Large (P. Mick)

- Regrets.

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- Policy Review continues.
- Decision to maintain current Trustee Distribution for the upcoming election.
- Great progress at Three Rivers (Blind River). Existing schools have been declared surplus for the upcoming school year.
- H. Whitley discussed an affinity group from Western University regarding Developmental Language Disorders.

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

- **Professional Development Day:** Our next professional Development Day will take place on April 17th. The public agenda will be posted on the ADSB website today.
- **Early Development Instrument (EDI):** All boards across the province of Ontario participated in data collection for the Early Development Instrument. Our SERTs supported our Kindergarten teachers by providing coverage to allow completion of the survey questionnaires during the week of March 23rd-27th.
- **RISE Software Training:** K. Lappage and several of our implementation team offered a full-day training session for our northern area SERTs in Wawa last week. All of our SERTs have now received training in the new platform and are in the process of working with their school-specific data during the spring in preparation for implementation in September.
- **North Regional CTEP Session.** The Ministry of Education hosted a session on CTEP/ECPP programs intended to discuss issues that have arisen over the course of the year during the “phase-in” of potential changes to the program model.
- **SERT Session:** Virtual SERT meeting took place on the afternoon of Friday, March 27th to cover some operational pieces as we move into the spring months. Topics of discussion include Transitions (Entry to School, Junior to Intermediate School, and

Elementary to Secondary), placement processes for specialized programs and classrooms, formal assessment referrals, and RISE implementation.

9. Next Meeting: May 5th, 2026.

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by A. Gauthier. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.