



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

MINUTES OF MEETING
December 9, 2025
Sugar Maple Room
12:00 Start Time

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

Guests: L. Vezeau (SLP), J Carlucci (CDA), M Caputo (CDA), J Nicholson (CDA)

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 V. Simon. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.
- Approval of Minutes (November 4 ,2025). Moved by H. Whitley. Seconded by M. Tuomi. All in favour.

4. **Correspondence: *DDSB SEAC to Minister of Education P. Calandra re: Timing of Release of Ed. Funding.*** Letter commenting about the lateness of the release of information on Core Education Funding, including the Special Education Grant and encouraging the MOE to go back to releasing this information in March to allow boards appropriate time for budgeting.

- 5. Presentation/Discussion: Language Services (L. Vezeau, J. Carlucci, J. Nicholson, M Caputo)**
- Presentation provided an overview of how the Story Champs resource is used with tier two language intervention groups.
 - Story Champs is an evidence-based narrative language intervention program.
 - Multi-tiered program using icons, visuals and actions
 - The team included a video presentation demonstrating what the resource looks like in action.

6. Member Organization Updates

North Shore Tribal Council (S. Kitts)

- Dealing with behaviours, working closely with Secondary Liaison. Hired a 5th van driver.

Thrive (Amanda Gauthier)

- Kids Christmas party, Groups are running including an SLP drop-in offering 30 minute sessions. New position: Family Engagement will work with Family Advisory Committee with hopes of creating a resource for families.

Community Living Algoma (Margaret Barbeau)

- Education Meeting. *Promoting Together We Are Better* contest. Educational Resources around Inclusion. Transition planning for Sept 2026.

Autism Ontario (Margaret Tuomi)

- Youth Wellness Hub – Holiday party. Approximately 35 children. Included food, games and gingerbread houses. In new year, Autism Ontario along with other partners including Queens’s University will engage in a research project using PhotoVoice. Project will be in response to urgent gaps in Northern Ontario and Indigenous Communities. Target a very specific group of youth. Looking at a March start-up date. Some links to share with schools.

Member-At-Large (Velma Simon)

- Sault College – End of Semester 1. In January, a lot of applicant intake. Lots of interest. Keeping numbers a little low because of transitions within the College

7. Report from the Board (Trustees)

- ADSB Alliance Academy Update including expansion highlights – 165% enrollment, attendance has improved for some students. Approval of capital projects and financial statements Last Board meeting took place on October 28th

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

- **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Ontario Conference.** B. Vallee, K. Viita and K. Lappage, and Special Education Assignment Teachers attended the annual CEC Ontario Conference on Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th. Conference Agenda featured a keynote address from G. Flett on the topic of “Belonging”. Attendees were also able to choose five separate workshops on a broad range of topics related to special education.

- **Professional Development Day:** Professional Development Day took place on Friday, November 7th. All staff participated in a virtual keynote address from Kevin Lamoureux on the topic of Trauma-Informed Schools: Supporting Reconciliation, Relationships and Belonging for All Students, followed by a session on Supporting Trauma-Informed Schools prepared by the Well-Being team. A variety of training sessions for specific staff were also provided on the PD Day. Public agendas for all PD Days are posted on the ADSB website (Professional Development under the “About Us” tab) two weeks in advance for any SEAC members that would like to review the work taking place on any PD Day.
- **Resource Teacher Professional Learning:** Our Resource Teachers (including Special Education Resource Teachers, Specialized Programming Teachers, and Learning Support Teachers) participated in half-day learning sessions on November 12th and 13th. Topics included a presentation on Needs-Based Programming: Strategies, Supports and Resources, by B. Vallee, an overview of Specialized Secondary School programs by M. Morin-Strom (SHCVS SERT), a presentation on Course Selection for Grade 8s focused on locally developed courses, as well as general operational updates.
- **OCASE Virtual Symposium:** K. Viita had the opportunity to attend the fall virtual symposium for the Ontario Council of Administrators of Special Education (which is a subdivision of the Council for Exceptional Children) on November 20th. Topics included a Ministry update on Special Education in Ontario, a “Legal Corner” focused on issues related to special education legislation and regulation, and a presentation from School Mental Health Ontario on their new course for Special Education Resource Teachers.
- **Collaboration with Lakehead DSB:** B. Vallee and K. Viita participated in a virtual discussion with Superintendent and System Administrator from Lakehead DSB (Thunder Bay Area) on topics included special education programs and classrooms, staffing, and funding. It was a great opportunity to share information about different approaches and strategies that are underway in both boards.

9. Next Meeting: January 6th 2026 meeting has been bumped to January 13th, 2026.

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by M. Tuomi. Seconded by S. Kitts.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.