

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025
5:00 – 5:45pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	February 26 th , 2025
Donna Nielsen (Chair) <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair) <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	Present
Karen McAllister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tom Jordan <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	x
Susie Trotter <i>Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital</i>	x
Anna Lafrance <i>Easter Seals</i>	x
Christina Lord <i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario</i>	x
Amy Malyon <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	x
SEAC Member Alternates	
Cathie Knapp-Fisher <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	x
Sue Wilson <i>CDSBEO Trustee, Alternate</i>	Present
Judith Peak <i>Rural FASD Support Network, Alternate</i>	x
Nicki Hughes <i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario, Alternate</i>	Present
Angela Carson <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	Present
Board Resource Staff	
Brent Bovaird <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	Present
Angela McNamee <i>Principal of Special Education</i>	Present
Sarah Price <i>Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Bovaird</i>	Present
SEAC Quorum	5/8 – Quorum Achieved

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Donna Nielsen added a walk-on item to the agenda concerning the letter received from School Board's SEACs regarding Special Education in Ontario being sent to the Ministry of Education.

Moved by: Tracy Mertz *Carried*

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, SEAC Meeting.

The minutes from our January meeting were approved electronically by committee members on February 6th, 2025.

5. Mental Health and Supports – Selina Mackie, Mental Health Lead Strategist

Selina Mackie, the Mental Health Lead Strategist at CDSBEO, delivered an insightful presentation to SEAC members on the CDSBEO Mental Health framework. She reviewed resources available through the partnership with School Mental Health Ontario, outlined the roles and positions within the Mental Health team, explained the service delivery model at CDSBEO, and shared the initiatives planned for the 2024-2025 school year.

6. Association Updates

a. Rural FASD Support Network

Rural FASD is in the planning stages of several 2025 events around FASD awareness and fundraising. In particular, we will have three Red Shoes Run events this summer.

- Red Shoes Run Family Fun Day at Lower Reach Park in Smiths Falls on Monday, May 26th, 2025, from 10:15am – 1:30pm with food, games, music and a 1km fun run.
- 5km Red Shoes Run in Johnstown on Saturday, July 5th, 2025, from 8:00am – 1:00pm
- Red Shoes Run Triathlon – more information to come.

We continue with community outreach and relationship building with a number of organizations such as Lanark County Community Justice and Lanark County Mental Health's Mobile Crisis Response Team. We also continue to have our monthly caregiver meetings that have on-site childcare on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00am on 15 Beech Street in Smiths Falls

If you someone in your community suspects a youth could have this diagnosis of FASD please reach out to pc@ruralfasd.ca that we may assist in supporting this individual and their caregivers.

7. Special Education Department Update – Angie McNamee, Principal of Special Education

Special Education staff are continuing to assist schools with student programming and transition planning. This involves gathering information from schools about their High Needs Support Schedules for students with complex care needs to prepare for support and planning for the upcoming school year.

Our Reading Intervention Teachers have started the mid-year reading screening for students who scored below the reading benchmark in the fall. The RITS continue to collaborate with classroom teachers to develop intervention plans aimed at closing decoding gaps for students.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open and schools are hosting numerous open houses. Special Education staff are also beginning the initial stages of supporting schools with future CDSBEO registrations and transition planning meetings.

8. New Business

a. CDSBEO Special Education Annual Report

Review of changes and updates made to sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 and 14 of the 2024-2025 Special Education Annual Report,

b. Member Resignation – Marie-Josée Menard, CAS SD&G

Motion

To accept Marie-Josée's resignation as representative of CAS SD&G

Moved by: Tracy Mertz *Carried*

c. Member Nomination – Kaitlyn Bissonnette, CAS SD&G

Motion

To accept Kaitlyn Bissonnette's nomination as a representative of CAS SD&G.

Moved by: Karen McAllister *Carried*

d. Date Change: April 2025

Motion

To change our April 2025 SEAC date from Wednesday, April 30th to Tuesday, April 29th.

Moved by: Karen McAllister *Carried*

9. Correspondence Received

a. Algoma District School Board – SEAC Letter to Ontario College of Teachers

b. Ottawa Catholic District School Board – Ontario SEAC Advocacy Letter

c. Letter to the Ministry of Education – Special Education in Ontario – School Board SEAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Correspondence were distributed to all members for their reference and review.

10. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Susie Trotter, representative for Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital notified of her absence via email.

Christina Lord, representative for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario notified of her absence via email. Her alternate, Nikki Hughes is attending in her place.

Amy Malyon, representative for Beyond 21 notified of her absence via email. Her alternate, Angela Carson is attending in her place.

Tom Jordan, representative of Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville notified of his absence via email.

Anna Lafrance, representative for Easter Seals was absent without notification.

Motion

To approve these absences as presented

Moved by: Nicki Hughes *Carried*

11. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 at 5:00pm

The presentation for this meeting will be “Making Math Count” and the Special Education Annual Report Sections for review are 4 & 6.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Karen McAllister *Carried*

Topics for Presentations for 2024-2025 school year:

TOPIC	DATE
Reading Intervention & Supporting Student Gains	Wednesday, August 28 th , 2024
2025-2030 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Timeline	Wednesday, September 25 th , 2024
Empower Reading	Wednesday, October 30 th , 2024
Inspiring Behaviour Change: Making a Difference Each Day	Wednesday, November 27 th , 2024
Supporting Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Wednesday, January 29 th , 2025
Mental Health and Supports	Wednesday, February 26 th , 2025
Making Math Count	Wednesday, March 26 th , 2025
LD at School with Martin Smit	Wednesday, April 29 th , 2025
2024-2025 CDSBEO Special Education Funding Expenditures	Wednesday, May 28 th , 2025
Final Annual Report Review	Monday, June 2 nd , 2025