



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 8, 2025
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to order

Chair J. Balfour called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. Student Voice Video

Videos highlighting students with Autism were presented.

3. Approval of agenda

Moved by S. Bullock, seconded by D. McInerney that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

4. Committee action items

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the March 4, 2025, meeting

Moved by D. Callan, seconded by K. Irons that the minutes dated March 4, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

5. Administrative updates

5.1 System updates

N. Train shared updates on select professional development cancellations due to inclement weather, prioritizing in-class student learning, the conclusion of the "Truth About Reading" video series which focused on research-based reading strategies, and the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) assessment for students seeking a French language certification.

N. Train also reported that recent attendance data indicates students with special education needs have lower attendance rates than their peers, particularly in secondary schools. It was noted that transportation cancellations are one factor affecting attendance (and are marked as excused absences). The Special Education Department is planning further investigation into the barriers contributing to lower attendance rates.

5.2 Department updates

M. Lefler provided updates on secondary math professional development with a focus on programming for students with learning disabilities, and the IPRC (Individual Placement Review Committee) work, with a focus on appropriate student placements and integration.

5.3 Presentation – Multi-year accessibility plan

T. Hubbert presented the multi-year accessibility plan, outlining its four key components: identifying, removing, and preventing barriers for people with disabilities. T. Hubbert emphasized the plan's focus on addressing architectural, physical, information and communications, attitude and awareness, technological, and organizational barriers. The plan incorporates feedback from a Ministry audit and input from staff with disabilities.

6. SEAC projects

6.1 Project priorities and work plan

Feedback on the IEP video script was requested, to be provided before the next meeting. A draft response letter addressing insufficient special education training for new teachers was reviewed and finalized, to be sent to the Ontario College of Teachers, the Ministry of Education, and Special Education Advisory Committee chairs from other school boards.

7. Other business

7.3 Association and community news

D. Callan shared information from Five Counties Children's Centre about upcoming family engagement activities, including coffee chats, a spring symposium, and a "Ready for School" event. S. Bullock from Community Living Huntsville provided updates on Community Living Month events in May and the Canada Summer Jobs grant application for the summer peer coach program. J. Balfour presented on the FASD ONE program's plans for the upcoming year and its transition from current funding to national strategy funding, which will allow for an expanded focus beyond the current 0-to-6 age group. Upcoming events were also highlighted, including the Canada FASD national conference in October and the release of five FASD training modules for the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP). K. Irons shared information from Community Living South Muskoka about upcoming community engagement initiatives for May, their summer camp for children aged 5-12, and block parties designed to engage children and families in local communities with community partners.

8. Next meeting

Date: May 6, 2025
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. McNerny, the meeting was adjourned.