



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: May 6, 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

A video highlighting students with hearing loss was presented.

3. Approval of agenda

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

4. Committee action items

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting

Moved by D. McInerney, seconded by B. Reain that the minutes dated April 8, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

5. Administrative updates

5.1 System updates

N. Train reported that the Special Education Department has completed a rebranding of current system classes. The Practical Academics & Life Skills program (PA&LS) will be renamed to the Foundations for Independence program, and the Academic, Independence & Mental Fitness (AIM) will be renamed to the Social Emotional Strategies, Opportunities, Achievement, Resilience program (SOAR).

N. Train shared that starting next school year, there will be an introduction of a new program for autistic students which will be called the Achievement, Social Skills, Personal growth, Independence, Regulation, Engagement program (ASPIRE). The program goals for students in

this program is to increase levels of independence and communication, self-regulation, and social skills.

N. Train also reported that the EA allocations for schools and staffing for system classes is underway which is determined based on the needs of the students, and that starting next school year mandatory Behaviour Modification Systems (BMS) training will be implemented for all administrators, which was previously voluntary.

5.2 Department updates

M. Lefler provided updates on the recent rollout of the revised speech and language intervention model which includes an oral language checklist for kindergarten students, device training for staff who work with students using communicative assistant devices, and comprehensive assessments will focus on students with complex needs. M. Lefler also reported that the Professional Student Services Personnel and Mental Health Counsellors recently participated in professional development focusing on equity and inclusion.

5.3 Presentation – Special Education Budget

The budget presentation was rescheduled to the upcoming meeting on June 3. Input for next year's budget was discussed, including continued support for release time for in-school team meetings, and building an understanding of barriers to school attendance for students who utilize special education resources.

6. SEAC projects

6.1 Project priorities and work plan

The scripts for the Individual Education Plans (IEP) videos have been accepted by the committee and the Special Education Department will proceed with creating the new IEP videos in collaboration with the Communication Services Department.

7. Other business

7.3 Association and community news

S. Bullock shared updates on Community Living Huntsville Community Living month events occurring this month, peer job coaching, and the 'Pre-K Play and Learn Program'. D. Callan shared that Big Brothers and Big Sisters won the Youth Mentorship Excellence Award from the Lindsay and District Chamber of Commerce. R. McHugh shared that Community Living Trent Highlands is partnering with Five Counties Children's Centre to host 'Transition to School' events which offers parent workshops. J. Balfour provided details on the work between FASD ONE and the Ministry of Education, including writing position papers, and an upcoming presentation focusing on transitioning complex students, including how the support is different with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of FASD.

8. Correspondence

The committee discussed the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario Open Letter to SEACs Across Ontario.

9. Next meeting

Date: June 3, 2025
Location: Haliburton Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Moved by D. McInerny, the meeting was adjourned.