Special Education Advisory Committee
Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by R. McHugh, seconded by D. McInerney that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

3. Committee Action Items

3.1. Approval of the minutes of the June 3 meeting

Moved by K. Irons, seconded by B. Reain that the minutes dated June 3, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

4. Administrative Updates

4.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- Over the summer, the TLDSB implemented a Summer Learning Program, providing targeted support to kindergarten through grade three students to address learning gaps, utilizing supplementary funding from special education. Additionally, a summer online coding initiative was offered to neurodiverse students in grades 4-10. Transition support was also provided to students identified by schools, which included funding staff to facilitate back-to-school visits and meetings between teachers and students.
- To accommodate the increasing number of students diagnosed with autism, two central staff members who will support ABA strategies were recently hired. The Behaviour Intervention Resource Team (BIRT) is being rebranded as the Multidisciplinary Inclusion Team to better reflect a broader, more inclusive multidisciplinary approach. This team will integrate the staff supporting ABA strategies, and resource teachers for students with blind/low vision and deaf/hard of hearing needs, shifting its focus beyond behaviour alone. Furthermore, the Multidisciplinary Inclusion Team will prioritize "Equity of Outcomes for Students", emphasizing individualized support to foster a sense of belonging and success for every child, and

encouraging collaborative efforts across departments such as curriculum, special education, and mental health.

4.2. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

- Summer professional development for staff included mandatory Behavior Management Systems (BMS) training for all administrators to ensure proficiency in proactive and containment strategies. BMS training was also provided to newly hired Educational Assistants. Additionally, system class teachers received training on integration, inclusion, and fostering student independence.
- Upcoming training sessions include "New to SERT" training for Special Education Resource Teachers, focusing on departmental philosophies and foundational principles. A two-day session is also scheduled for elementary and secondary administrators and department heads, concentrating on equitable outcomes for all students and multi-tiered systems of support.

5. SEAC Projects

5.1. Project priorities and work plan

The committee was presented with the draft IEP video and were given an opportunity to provide feedback. The committee was asked to bring any project ideas for this school year to the next meeting.

6. Other Business

6.1. Association and community news

Community Living Huntsville reported a focus on school transitions this month. FASD ONE noted September as FASD Awareness Month, with International FASD Day on September 9 ("Red Shoes Rocks") and the CAN FASD Conference in October.

7. Correspondence

7.1. Response letter from Minister of Education

The committee discussed the response letter and will consider sending another letter to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Location: Haliburton Education Centre

9. Adjournment