Special Education Advisory Committee
Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Location: Haliburton Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to remove the correspondence from the agenda. Moved by D. McInerney, seconded by A. Rose that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

3. Committee Action Items

3.1. Approval of the minutes of the September 2 meeting

Moved by D. McInerney, seconded by A. Rose that the minutes dated September 2, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

4. Administrative Updates

4.1. System Updates – Director W. Hahn

W. Hahn shared the following updates:

- The senior team is committed to embedding equity and addressing disproportionality among marginalized students in the region.
- Key initiatives include addressing the negative impact of social media on youth, transforming the intermediate division, and focusing on attendance through a pilot project that identified various reasons for absenteeism, including social and separation anxiety.
- An outdoor education center is also nearing approval, and there's a strong emphasis on community engagement and supporting families, especially those with special education needs.

4.2. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- Data was shared regarding attendance rates for students with special education needs, both identified and non-identified. While slightly lower than students without an IEP, the difference was not as drastic as anticipated, considering appointments and therapies. Explained absences are higher in elementary, while unexplained absences are higher in secondary.
- The importance of engaging with families and building a supportive community around schools was emphasized, especially for families struggling with attendance. Initiatives include postcards to families with attendance concerns and teachers making contact with families.
- Currently the SEAC Handbook requires the meeting minutes be forwarded to TLDSB Board along with the Trustee Administrative report. A motion was passed to approve changing the practice to align with all other board committees. Currently all other board committees bring a verbal and written administrative report via the committee Trustee to each board meeting; minutes are posted publicly on tldsb.ca/committees/. SEAC will be adopting similar practice moving forward.

The following motion was passed by the SEAC committee:

Moved by A. Rose, and seconded by S. Bullock,
To align with other board committee practice, the TLDSB Special Education Advisory Committee Handbook will be updated to remove the requirement that the committee forward the meeting minutes as part of the TLDSB board reports. Minutes will be uploaded to the public website following ratification by the committee.
Carried.

4.3. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

- Various PD opportunities were highlighted, including a session on explicit teaching and routines, with an upcoming in-person professional development day for educational assistants focused on inclusion and autism, as well as upcoming professional development for system class teachers.

5. SEAC Projects

5.1. Project priorities and work plan

At the November meeting, the committee will present feedback on the updated IEP video.

6. Other Business

6.1. Association and community news

The challenges of accessing community agencies due to transportation issues were discussed, and information was shared about upcoming conferences related to FASD and education.

7. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

8. Adjournment