



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Student Voice Video

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Committee Action Items

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the October 7 meeting

Moved by A. Rose, seconded by S. Bullock that the minutes dated October 7, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

5. Administrative Updates

5.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- EQAO results are still pending, with an expected release this month.
- TLDSB superintendents attended an AI conference, where discussions focused on the role of AI in schools. A key point was AI's potential to support special education students.
- The board has partnered with LEARNstyle Ltd. to provide students with training on Braille keyboards and other assistive technologies. Funding has also been secured to offer Additional Qualification special education courses for teaching staff and courses focused on supporting students with autism for classroom staff.
- Tier 1 and explicit instruction, particularly the "I do, we do, you do" model, was discussed. This direct teaching approach, involving teacher demonstration, joint practice, and independent application, emphasizes that children need explicit teaching.

5.2. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

- The in-person professional activity day for Educational Assistants was met with positive feedback. Guest speakers Maddy Dever, who spoke on autistic perspectives, and Jack Veitch, who addressed mental health and wellness, were featured. Information sessions covering sensory information, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, and strategies to address behaviour concerns were also well-received.
- Professional development session was held for secondary school student success teams, guidance counselors, special education department heads, and administrators to discuss inclusive education roles and strategies for supporting all learners with special education learning needs.
- Speech and language pathologists have launched online modules for teachers, educational assistants, and early childhood educators to provide equitable background knowledge on AAC equipment for students.
- The curriculum team is introducing UFLI lessons, a reading tool for teachers. The aim is to strengthen educators' skills in analyzing data and planning instruction effectively.

6. SEAC Projects

6.1. Project priorities and work plan

The committee provided feedback on the updated IEP video.

7. Other Business

7.1. Association and community news

Community Living Huntsville highlighted the success of a video made by their Self Advocate Advisory Committee high school students and is seeking year-round funding for their youth employment program application. It was also reported that The Children Youth Planning Table's data collaborative is actively gathering data on the health and well-being of children and youth across Muskoka, Nipissing, and Parry Sound. Community Living South Muskoka also created a video for Disability Employment Month, which featured supported individuals in employment roles. An update from FASD One focused on research from the Canada FASD 2025 conference, noting several challenges: a low diagnosis rate in Ontario, the negative consequences of misdiagnosis, and a lack of adequate FASD training for teachers at the university level.

7.2. Community Living Feature Story

Community Living in Ontario is in the early stages of seeking a researcher for special education policy recommendations, focusing on educator training and exclusions.

8. Correspondence

8.1. LDAO SEAC Circular – November 2025

8.2. 8.2. LDAO Open Statement on Bill 33: Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

9. Next Meeting

Date: Monday, December 1, 2025

Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

10. Adjournment