



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Location: Virtual (due to inclement weather)

Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Student Voice Video

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B. Reain, seconded by D. McInerney that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

4. Committee Action Items

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the December 1 meeting

Moved by S. Bullock, seconded by B. Reain that the minutes dated December 1, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

5. Administrative Updates

5.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- Superintendent Jay MacJanet has been appointed as the new Director at Near North District School Board. Jen Clark will serve as his temporary replacement starting January 12.
- Using surplus funds, the board has purchased "My Math Path" textbooks for all students in grades 2–8. The special education department has also procured the "REWARDS" program for reading intervention in system classes.
- TLDSB students performed above the provincial average in grade 3 and grade 6 reading, writing, and math. Performance in grade 9 math and grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) were slightly below provincial averages.
- Students who use special education resources significantly exceeded provincial averages in grade 3 and grade 6. Grade 6 and grade 9 math remain priority areas for targeted intervention.

5.2. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

M. Lefler shared the following updates:

- The Professional Activity Day on January 30 will include Behaviour Management System (BMS) training for around 30 new Educational Assistants (EAs). Online modules for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) will be provided for EAs attending the professional activity day in their assigned school.
- Recent system class professional development focused on ensuring smooth transitions into and out of the system class programs (ASPIRE, Foundations for Independence, and SOAR programs).
- A principal mentorship program is launching to ensure best practices and consistency for Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings across the board, utilizing a family-approved video as an example for training.
- The After-School Skills Development Program is set to begin this month following upcoming staff training.

6. SEAC Projects

6.1. Project priorities and work plan

The committee provided final approval for the "Individual Education Plans" video. The video will be shared publicly on the board website.

7. Other Business

7.1. Association and community news

Community Living Huntsville shared that the 'Angel Tree' program sponsored approximately 30 families in need over the holidays. They also secured United Way funding for a cooking program for low-income caregivers experiencing food insecurity. Community Living South Muskoka shared that they partnered with the Gravenhurst High School hospitality class to deliver 150 holiday dinners for families in need over the holidays. Community Living Trent-Highlands shared that they supported over 80 people through their 'Angel Tree' program across three communities. They also shared that they have partnered with SEARCH program to support parenting and transitions into child care. Also noted the ongoing bargaining that could result in a labour disruption which would affect programming. FASD ONE has been working with the provincial government to organize a meeting of leaders to update the FASD strategy which was originally passed ten years ago and the Canada FASD strategy has passed its second reading and is with the new Senate technology committee for review.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

9. Adjournment