Special Education Advisory Committee
Minutes

Date: Monday, December 1, 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 S. Bullock that the agenda be approved.
Carried.

4. Committee Action Items

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the November 4 meeting

Moved by K. Irons, seconded by S. Bullock that the minutes dated November 4, 2025 be approved.
Carried.

5. Administrative Updates

5.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- A recent professional development day focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools as a tool for teachers (e.g., for lesson planning). School improvement planning is underway with goals set in literacy, math, and attendance, using internal data due to a delay in EQAO results.
- Strategies to improve reading for secondary students include an emphasis on early intervention, alignment of pedagogy through a grade seven to 10 professional development series, adoption of the REWARDS reading program for intermediate and secondary students, and flexible support planning for students with special education needs who also have mental health or attendance issues.
- To support student attendance, principals are reaching out with personalized letters to families whose children have been absent frequently, and classroom teachers are encouraged to connect directly with these families.

5.2. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

M. Lefler shared the following updates:

- The After-School Skills Development Program (Lego, Board Games, Coding) is expanding to include new sites at Cardiff Elementary School, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, J.D. Hodgson Elementary School, and Stuart Baker Elementary School to increase accessibility for outlying families.
- Staff changes are occurring within the multi-disciplinary inclusion team, including the replacement of itinerant EAs and a teacher, and the hiring of a new Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA).
- Special education consultants will be attending the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, which is focusing on independence for students with special education needs.

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 shared that leading up to the holidays they are hosting a 'sponsor a family drive'. Community Living South Muskoka shared that they again partnered with the Gravenhurst High School hospitality class to make 140 holiday meals for families in December. FASD ONE presented on the topic of parent engagement to the Chiefs of Ontario Education Conference. Discussions at the conferences highlighted concerns about the impact of changes to Jordan's Principle on funding for Educational Assistants in First Nation schools, and a push for an Ontario-specific approach to the principle.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

9. Adjournment