



Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Monday, March 2, 2026

Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

Time: 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Student Voice Video

3. Approval of Agenda

Amendment required to include the Durham District School Board Letter in the 'Other Business' section.

Moved by D. McNerney, seconded by S. Bullock that the agenda be approved, contingent upon the completion of the amendment.

Carried.

4. Committee Action Items

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the February 3 meeting

Amendment required to correct the meeting location from virtual to in person.

Moved by B. Reain, seconded by D. McNerney that the minutes dated February 3, 2026, contingent upon the completion of the amendment.

Carried.

5. Administrative Updates

5.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- Schools have completed the midyear EQAO practice assessments. They are now participating in moderated marking sessions to analyze the results and formulate strategies aimed at improving student performance in reading, writing, and math before the Ministry EQAO assessments occur.

- Given the overwhelming interest, the Behaviour Management System (BMS) training, which heavily emphasizes proactive strategies, will be scheduled for additional sessions in the coming months for classroom teachers and Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECE).
- Planning for the next school year is underway for students transitioning in the system. Kindergarten meetings are scheduled for incoming students who require additional support. Furthermore, Grade 8 to 9 transition activities are taking place, which includes meetings between new students and Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs).

5.2. Department Updates - District Principal M. Lefler

M. Lefler shared the following updates:

- The After School Skills Development Lego program is finishing up, and the Board Game skills development program is set to start in early April. Both programs offer social skills learning opportunities for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- The recent Special Education Leadership Network meeting focused on strategies for supporting student behavior alongside academic achievement.
- The recent Professional Development Day concentrated on enhancing Educational Assistants' (EAs) understanding of diverse student learning profiles, specifically covering topics such as developmental disabilities and executive functioning. The training also provided EAs with practical teaching strategies to support these varied learning needs.

6. SEAC Projects

6.1. Special Education Plan Review – Sections 1-5

The committee reviewed the first five sections of the Special Education Plan, proposing several additions and clarifications for future updates.

7. Other Business

7.1. Durham District School Board Letter

The committee discussed a letter from the Durham District School Board regarding the provincial government's actions toward elected trustees. The committee accepted the letter for information only.

7.2. Association and community news

The Five Counties Children Centre is moving to address the extended wait times for autism services by introducing a new private, fee-for-service option in mid-April. This initiative aims to enable rural families to utilize their Ontario Autism Program (OAP) funding, which they risk losing due to a scarcity of local private providers. A primary focus for the agency is delivering timely ASD diagnoses, a necessary step for children to qualify for the entry-to-school program.

Community Living Huntsville is developing a proposal for a new program, in collaboration with Huntsville High School. The initiative aims to support youth transitioning into adulthood, focusing on employment and life skills, beginning in Grade 9.

Community Living South Muskoka shared that grade 3 students from Monk Public School participated in two full days of outdoor education at Morrison Meadows. Activities included outdoor cooking, fire starting, tubing, and snowshoeing.

FASD ONE shared a key update regarding their work to support the implementation of Bill S-234, the proposed legislation for a national Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) framework. As part of this preparation, they are scheduling educational webinars. The core aim of this initiative is to cultivate a consistent, well-informed national strategy for FASD prevention, diagnosis, and support for affected individuals and their families.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre

9. Adjournment