# Special Education Advisory Committee
# Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2026
**Location:** Lindsey Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

   Introductions were made to welcome new attendees.

2. **Student Voice Video**

   J. Clark shared a report on the summer learning program to share student success, providing the following updates:

   - The program was highly successful, serving 181 students across 10 classrooms in 6 district elementary schools from SK to grade 2.
   - A robust support structure was put in place for the students by hiring 16 teachers (10 teachers and 6 SERTS). A SERT was positioned at each site to ensure small-group and individualized instruction. Furthermore, there were 10 program assistants.
   - The program focused on foundational learning, grounding literacy learning and hands-on learning with indigenous perspectives and environmental stewardship. Instruction was one on one or small group, based on individual student needs.
   - Every student furthered their foundational literacy skills in the 3 weeks of instruction, with a potential reduction of summer learning loss.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

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

4. **Committee Action Items**
   4.1. Approval of the minutes of the June 2 meeting

   Moved by D. Callan, seconded by D. McInerny that the minutes dated June 2, 2026, be approved.
   Carried.

5. **Administrative Updates**
   5.1. System Updates - Superintendent N. Train

N. Train shared the following updates:

- The government chose Edwin as the company to supply resources to teachers, providing them with a common place to acquire resources, and support continuity. These resources are for supplementary areas, not replacing the resources already in place for math and literacy. Staff are going to receive access by the end of September.
- Attendance cards were sent again this year to students that, in the previous year, had high absenteeism. The cards included a personalized message from the school principal welcoming them into the new school year to get them excited about starting.
- Administrators had two full days of learning, and two full days with their teachers, putting them in a great place for start-up this year, having more time to prepare.
- The SEAC election process will open on September 18, 2026, with nominations due October 13, 2026, and Board approval scheduled for November 17, 2026. The first SEAC meeting held with the new Board to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair is scheduled for December 1, 2026.

5.2. Department Updates – District Principals – A. O'Leary and D. Thompson

D. Thompson shared the following updates:

- Our first professional activity day engaged all staff in a professional development session on the topic of inclusion, presented by guest speaker Dr. Shelley Moore via in person and live stream to all schools and board offices. She spoke to her own personal journey within a school system, and her research and work that focuses on helping teachers align responsive, strength-based learning environments.

A. O'Leary shared the following updates:

- Kindergarten classrooms received a supply of resources to support the development of self-regulation skills.
- Prior to school start-up, Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training was delivered to new administrators, educational assistants, and assistant teachers.
- Upcoming learning for the coming weeks includes:
    - New to SERT professional development and a Special Education Leadership Network for special education resources teachers and administrators on the topic of ableism, anti-ableism and inclusion, and
    - Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) workshop delivered by One Kids Place for speech-language pathologists and communicative disorders assistants.

**6. SEAC Projects**

6.1. Classroom Information Placards

N. Train recommended the implementation of information placards to support families. As classes have been renamed, and new ones added, classroom information placards can be provided to families as a take-away with information such as program descriptions, and requirements for accessing. This will be held until December once the committee has been established after elections.

**7. Other Business**

7.1. SEAC Elections

The committee discussed the elections as part of agenda item 5.1 System Updates.

7.2. Association and community news

Amended the approval of the agenda to include community updates.

- A. Rose highlighted an online summit called "The Kids Who Aren't Okay: Reimagining School Support from Reactive to Proactive" with Dr. Ross Greene, taking place November 16 to 19, 2026. Registration is free.
- Five Counties Children's Centre shared that they are having to implement a fee for service structure as the provincial model now provides funding allocations directly to eligible families. They have hired three Speech Language Pathologists to put them at full capacity for speech.
- D. McInerny touched on the presentation delivered by Dr. Greg Wells at the Trillium Lakelands District School Board Summer Conference, where he spoke to optimizing your health and brain performance.
- Community Living South Muskoka has teams in schools, supporting teachers and families with navigating their child's transition into elementary school.
- An update from FASD One focused on FASD Awareness Month, and FASD Awareness Day taking place September 9. Eight monuments are being lit up across the province, including the CN Towner and Niagara Falls, as well as many workshops will be taking place, most on the Introduction of FASD. The London FASD conference is coming up in October, and the FASD One education seminar is September 27, with Karen Huber.

**8. Correspondence**

8.1. TVDSB SEAC Advisory Letter Special Education Funding 2026-2027

The committee discussed a letter from Thames Valley District School Board; the letter was accepted for information.

**9. Next Meeting**

The committee discussed adjusting the upcoming meeting schedule.

Moved by D. McInerny, seconded by B. Reain that the next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be rescheduled from October 6, 2026 to October 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Carried.

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Location: Haliburton Education Centre
Time: 5:00 p.m.

**10. Adjournment**