

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre

Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.

Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

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A. Routine Matters

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B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Financial Services Presentation: J. Cherepacha; S. Keys, C. Salemi, G. Arangio, D. Santucci
2. Child and Youth Care Practitioners: C. Wigglesworth
3. Updates on Parent Reaching Out Grant Community Supports Event and Employment Supports Fair: T. Abbruscato

C. Budget

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

F. Information and Correspondence

G. Communication

H. Questions Asked by Committee Members

I. Future Meetings

May 21, 2025

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment



OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, seize us with your
power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your
Kingdom of justice, peace, love
and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen

Land Acknowledgement

We are here to pay respect and recognize that this is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations, and we are here because this land was occupied. In recognizing that this space occupies colonized First Nations territories, and out of respect for the rights of Indigenous people, it is our collective responsibility to recognize our colonial histories and present-day implications and honour, protect and sustain this land.



MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee - Chair
	Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi	Alternate Trustee
	Luz del Rosario	Alternate Chair
	Caroline Huxtable	Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative
	Eva Akinsara	Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Representative
	Janice Hatton	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative
	Lisa Papaloni	Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative
	Sheena Tennessee	Member at Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils
Regrets:	Dely Farrace	Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative
	Thomas Thomas	Alternate Trustee
	Airene Cunanan	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative
	Christine Koczmar	Community Living Mississauga - Representative
	Myra Del Rosario	ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative
	Pam Boniferro	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative
	Shanna Walsh	Down Syndrome Assoc. of Peel: Caring Network - Alternative
Staff:	Alexandra Lawrence	Coordinator, Special Education and Learning Services
	Brian Diogo	Superintendent Representative
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Spec Education
	Cristine Pergotski	Association of Professional Student Services Personnel
	Eliane Moniz-Baptista	Coordinator, Special Education and Learning Services
	Gemma Rea	Consultant, Special Education
	Gina Renda	Secondary Principal/VP Representative
	Katherine Cordi	Consultant, Special Education
	Katherine Magee	Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services - Recorder
	Jamie Philip	OECTA Elementary Alternative
	Laura Pincente	Coordinator, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Pina Grosso	Chief of Social Work
	Sandra Roiati	OECTA Secondary - Representative
	Sharon Chambers	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary
	Max Vecchiarino	Associate Director, Instructional

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed the newly appointed Associate Director, Max Vecchiarino.

2. Opening Prayer - S. Tennessee
3. Land Acknowledgment - C. Huxtable
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Janice Hatton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, February 19, 2025

Moved by Eva Akinsara

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, FEBRUARY 19, 2025, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that information will be made more accessible once the board website is updated. M. Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional, discussed the timeline for the revamped website and accessibility issues.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Social Work Month: P. Grosso

P. Grosso presented on Social Work Week (March 3-9). The 2025 theme is Wherever You Are, So Are We. Every year Social Workers and Mental Health Support Workers support approximately 5,000 students and families in Dufferin-Peel Catholic school communities. A key focus of School Social Workers is to work with school communities to promote positive attendance. This is essential because attendance is an important early indicator of student achievement and later academic success. P. Grosso shared a new resource for schools to present to parents during Welcome to Kindergarten events to highlight some pertinent information about the importance of school attendance at a young age and strategies to support positive attendance. Another key focus of School Social Workers is supporting parents, caregivers and families. When families thrive so do their children. Self-care strategies and resources for parents and caregivers were discussed.

2. Itinerant Teachers Presentation: K. Cordi, G. Rea

K. Cordi, Consultant, Special Education, discussed the role of Itinerant Teachers in supporting students. They work alongside Child Youth Care Practitioners to ensure the students' needs are met. The itinerant teacher works directly with students. K. Cordi explained the specific itinerant groups. They are ASD teachers, CYCP, Physical and Medical, Technology, Vision, Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Transition. G. Rea, consultant, Special Education, discussed the roles of each of the itinerant teacher groups.

Committee members asked about the process for students to receive this support. Once the need has been identified, the principal would connect with the Family of Schools Special Education Consultants to initiate this support and other resources. Also, staff confirmed that post-secondary support was provided through Transitions Navigators.

3. Skills Competition: L. Pincente

L. Pincente, Coordinator, Special Education, presented the results of the Dufferin-Peel's Skills Competition in February 2025. The participation was very good, and out of the 275 competitors, 106 students had an IEP. Alternative curriculum events were Job Demonstration, Interview Skills, Coding and Data Input.

4. Upcoming PROGrant Event: L. Pincente

L. Pincente, Coordinator, Special Education, discussed the upcoming Parent Reaching Out Event Community Supports and Services. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025, and is a virtual presentation.

C. Budget - Nil

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Luz del Rosario mentioned that the virtue of the month for March is Kindness. This year, Dufferin-Peel celebrated its first International Women's Day on Thursday, March 6th, 2025. The student conference featured a liturgy and keynote speaker to empower students and was spearheaded by Superintendent Carmel Murphy. Trustee Luz del Rosario mentioned the new Audience Code of Conduct at board meetings. She also encouraged everyone to participate in Down Syndrome's Rock Your Socks Day on March 21st, 2025. Nominations are open for election of a Dufferin-Peel Alumni on April 4th, 2025.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca discussed the new fully online Educational Support Intensive Diploma program at Sheridan College.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

J. Hatton, Autism Ontario mentioned April is Autism Awareness Month, celebrating those on the Autism spectrum and their families.

C. Huxtable, Epilepsy Association, mentioned that March 26th is purple day to raise awareness for epilepsy.

E. Akinsara, Down Syndrome Association of Peel, mentioned that March 21st, 2025 is World Down Syndrome Day, with a photo contest for participants.

F. Information and Correspondence - Nil

G. Communication - Nil

H. Questions Asked by Committee Members - Nil

I. Future Meetings

April 23, 2025

May 21, 2025

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

Moved by Caroline Huxtable

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:57P.M.

CARRIED