

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 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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B. Presentations and Staff Reports

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- 2. Project SEARCH: L. Pincente, T. Abbruscato
- 3. Parent Reaching Out Grant: Community Supports and Services: L. Pincente

C. Budget

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I. Future Meetings

March 19, 2025

April 23, 2025

May 21, 2025

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

OPENING PRAYER

God our loving Father,
you have loved us from
before our first breath.

You gave up your only
Son for us as a sign of
your love.

May we your children
ever praise you with
devotion.

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.



Student Artist: Thea-St. Bonaventure

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

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

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Superintendent Papaloni called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

2. Opening Prayer - L. Pincente
3. Land Acknowledgment – S. Chambers
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Bruno Iannicca

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, December 11, 2024

Moved by D. Farrace

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, DECEMBER 11, 2024, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business - Nil

7. Terms of Reference: Superintendent Papaloni

Superintendent Papaloni reviewed the Terms of Reference with the committee. The Terms of Reference were approved.

8. Voting for Chair and Vice Chair: Superintendent Papaloni

Superintendent Papaloni requested nominations for Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee. M. Del Rosario nominated Trustee Bruno Iannicca for Chair. Superintendent Papaloni asked for additional nominations. There were no other nominations. Trustee Bruno Iannicca was elected Chair of SEAC. He accepted the position. Superintendent Papaloni requested nominations for Vice Chair. M. Del Rosario nominated Dely Farrace. Superintendent Papaloni asked for additional nominations. There were no other nominations. D. Farrace was elected as Vice Chair of SEAC. D. Farrace accepted the position.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. SEAC Handbook Update: L. Pincente, A. Lawrence, E. Moniz-Baptista

Trustee Bruno Iannicca asked Superintendent Papaloni to introduce the presentation. Superintendent Papaloni introduced L. Pincente, A. Lawrence and E. Moniz-Baptista, Coordinators, Special Education, to share the SEAC Handbook Update. L. Pincente presented the SEAC Membership guidebook. The book will provide committee members with references and guidelines to assist them in their role as a SEAC member. The book was handed out to all in attendance. L. Pincente went over key points in the book.

2. ErinOak Presentation: C. Kyte

Superintendent Papaloni introduced C. Kyte, General Manager, Clinical Services, to present the ErinOak PowerPoint. C. Kyte mentioned that ErinOak works with seven district school boards, covering a large geographical area. She discussed the services provided by ErinOak. Assessments are needed for therapy. Workshops are also provided for caregivers to assist them in supporting students. The students are assisted according to tiers of care required. Some students receive occupational therapy. C. Kyte explained the different tiers of service. The school visit criteria were listed. She reviewed physical and speech therapy services offered.

Committee members voiced concerns about the service provided by ErinOak and asked if a letter could be sent to them regarding these concerns. ErinOak provides good service to children with physical disabilities but not neurological disabilities. Trustee Bruno Iannicca answered that he had not heard from parents that they had this concern. SEAC would need to confirm this before sending out any letters. A survey would need to be sent to parents of children who receive service from ErinOak to investigate. The committee discussed options for conducting the survey. A suggestion was made to work collaboratively with ErinOak to survey parents.

3. Special Education Review Update: L. Pincente

Superintendent Papaloni invited L. Pincente, Coordinator, Special Education, to present. She asked the committee to review the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan. Feedback for input to the 2024-2025 Special Education Plan will be due by February 12, 2025. The final plan will be brought back to the committee before being presented to the Director of Education and the Ministry. L. Pincente added that the survey will be sent following the meeting.

4. Entry Planning and Transition for Students with Differing Abilities Information Session: K. Boily

Superintendent Papaloni introduced K. Boily, Consultant, Special Education to present. K. Boily provided an update on the Entry Planning event. The evening supported parents and students new to Dufferin-Peel with the registration process for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. Special Education Highlights: K. Boily

Superintendent Papaloni introduced K. Boily, Consultant, Special Education. K. Boily highlighted special events during the school year. These events help special needs students

with skills and social connections. Events included a basketball tournament for Raise and Aspire program students, Indigenous activities, small business experiences and other social activities.

When asked how families are informed about these events, Superintendent Papaloni answered that the information is shared with Family of Schools Consultants who take it back to their schools. It is also advertised through the board website. Administrators are also informed, and they share it at their meetings with their special education teachers.

C. Budget - Nil

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that Lizette's daughter Giselle did a presentation at the board meeting this month. He discussed the enrolment numbers for the board, which declined overall by 614. He mentioned the Ministry's moratorium on school closures. These closures would save the board a significant amount of overhead costs. They will approach the Ministry about this again. The Ministry is requiring all students from grades one to three to receive 30 minutes of uninterrupted language instruction. Trustee Bruno Iannicca is asking for the allowance of schools to utilize raffles to help raise funds. He mentioned that there are discussions on purchasing computers centrally. Superintendent Papaloni added that these do not include Special Education equipment and computers, which are funded separately by the Ministry. All students who require assistive technology receive them.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations – Nil

F. Information and Correspondence

1. Letter to the Ministry from SEAC Chair Ottawa Catholic School Board

Superintendent Papaloni asked the committee to review the letter from the Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Ottawa CSB addressed to the Minister. They are asking all Chairs to sign the letter before sending. Trustee Bruno Iannicca requested that the Vice Chair also sign. The letter mentions the shortage of special education staff. Superintendent Papaloni stated that we have a subsidy for teachers to take special education courses, so there is currently no shortage of teaching staff with special education qualifications. The letter also states that there is a shortage of educational assistants. We have already written to the Minister about the shortage of graduates. Committee members mentioned that this might be due to the low wages in these fields.

G. Communication - Nil

H. Questions Asked by Committee Members

M. Del Rosario mentioned a concern regarding the lack of endorsement for the Catholic education system. She asked how this can be protected. Trustee Bruno Iannicca responded that as trustees of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association, that is what he does. They meet regularly and continue to work on this and have provisions to look out for the Catholic Boards.

I. Future Meetings

February 19, 2025

March 19, 2025

April 23, 2025

May 21, 2025

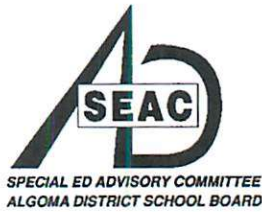
June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

Moved by M. Del Rosario

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.

CARRIED



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Sault Ste. Marie
ON P6A 2K7
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January 21, 2025

Linda Lacroix, Registrar and CEO
Office of the Register
Ontario College of Teachers

Dear Linda Lacroix,

The Algoma District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is writing to support the November 6, 2024 letter sent by the Limestone District School Board SEAC to bring forward concerns related to teacher training in special education at faculties of education across Ontario.

The lack of consistent training in special education during initial teacher education programs is a concern for many school boards. Despite the diversity of learners in Ontario classrooms, many teachers do not receive enough preparation in this area prior to beginning their careers.

Teachers must be well-prepared to address the wide range of needs and abilities that they will encounter in the classroom. Teachers that receive special education training as part of their teacher preparation programming are far better equipped to implement the principles of Universal Design for Learning and differentiate instruction effectively for all students, including those with special education needs. Additionally, training helps to ensure that teachers understand the many diverse needs of our learners, enabling them to develop and implement Individual Education Plans (IEPs) effectively beginning with their first days in our classrooms.

The ADSB SEAC echoes the call of the Limestone DSB SEAC for the College of Teachers, in consultation with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education, to ensure that special education training becomes a required component of all teacher preparation programs in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Pat Mick

Pat Mick,
Chair
Algoma District School Board SEAC