

AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 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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A. Routine Matters

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B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Social Work Month: P. Grosso
2. Itinerant Teachers Presentation: K. Cordj, G. Rea
3. Skills Competition: L. Pincente
4. Upcoming PROGrant Event: L. Pincente

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

April 23, 2025

May 21, 2025

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we wish to be keen and devoted servants.

By your grace, help us to nurture the lonely with our companionship, feed the hungry and clothe the poor with our relative richness; and seek out and include all those who yearn for acceptance.

We ask this through Jesus your son.

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

Attendees:	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee - Chair
	Dely Farrace	Brampton Caledon Community Living - Vice Chair - Representative
	Luz del Rosario	Alternate Chair
	Caroline Huxtable	Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative
	Christine Koczmar	Community Living Mississauga - Representative
	Eva Akinsara	Down Syndrome Association of Peel: Caring Network - Representative
	Janice Hatton	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Representative
	Lisa Papaloni	Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative
	Myra Del Rosario	ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative
	Sheena Tennessee	Member at Large, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils
Regrets:	Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi	Alternate Trustee
	Thomas Thomas	Alternate Trustee
	Airene Cunanan	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative
	Jamie Philip	OECTA Elementary Alternative
	Pam Boniferro	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers' Association - Alternative
	Shanna Walsh	Down Syndrome Association 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
	Felicia De Berardinis	OECTA Elementary Representative
	Gina Renda	Secondary Principal/VP Representative
	Jacqueline Toste	Consultant, Diverse Learning Needs
	Joanne Dean	Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision
	Katherine Magee	Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services - Recorder
	Laura Pincente	Coordinator, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Ruba Jeorgy	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers Association - Representative
	Sharon Chambers	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary
	Teresa Abbruscato	Consultant, Special Education
	Tanya Galway	Chief, Psychology

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair of SEAC, Bruno Iannicca, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer - L. Pincente
3. Land Acknowledgment - K. Magee
4. Approval of Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, January 22, 2025

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 22, 2025, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business

Trustee Bruno Iannicca discussed the letter from the January SEAC meeting from the Ottawa CSB SEAC. The original letter was revised to broaden the scope of special education needs in schools. The committee had a chance to review it and agreed to have the chair of SEAC sign as well.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Psychology Month: T. Galway

Superintendent Papaloni introduced T. Galway, Chief of Psychology, to present Psychology Month. February is Psychology Month. T. Galway explained the services provided by psychology staff in the Dufferin-Peel CDSB to support the students. She thanked them for the important work that they do. The psychology department at Dufferin-Peel has created a resource list for staff, students and parents. She explained how to find the resources on the board website. When asked how this information is shared with parents, C. Kyte answered that it is shared by the SERTs, also through System Weekly Unit and on the website. Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that perhaps families can be notified directly through mass emails. He also mentioned that the website is being updated to make it more accessible.

2. Project SEARCH: L. Pincente, T. Abbruscato

Superintendent Papaloni introduced T. Abbruscato, Consultant, Special Education to present Project SEARCH. T. Abbruscato detailed the launch of the Project Search site in September 2025. This initiative will help students with disabilities to build employment skills. The students are matched with employers and receive work experience and feedback. They must provide their own transportation to the facility. There will be an information session in the spring for families. Committee members inquired about supports. T. Abbruscato explained that there will be a teacher on site to support the students and the business will also provide mentors. This is separate from other coop opportunities. Approximately ten students can participate currently since this is a new initiative and students will need to apply and be assessed for qualifications.

3. Parent Reaching Out Grant: Community Supports and Services: L. Pincente

Superintendent Papaloni introduced L. Pincente to present the Parent Reaching Out Grant. L. Pincente announced the PROGrant Community Supports and Services. The event will be held virtually on March 26th to provide information to families with students with disabilities about support options available.

C. Budget - Nil

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Luz del Rosario discussed some highlights for February. The virtue of the month is Respect. It is also Black History Month. Our schools are hosting events such as Black Futures Speakers Series, author read-alouds and workshops. February is also Psychology Month to recognize staff supporting student learning, behaviours and mental health. Trustee Luz del Rosario explained that Dufferin-Peel provides professional development to enable teachers to provide literacy instruction at all tiers of intervention. Also, Dufferin-Peel is committed to advancing AI initiatives to transform educational practices, and to help promote equity, integrity and innovation. She mentioned the upcoming Secondary Skills Competition at St. Augustine CSS. Students with differing abilities will be participating in coding, data input and job skills.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

E. Akinsara shared a flyer with the community from Project 321. She mentioned that they will be raising the flag at the Mississauga town hall for Down Syndrome. D. Farrace mentioned that it is Inclusive Education Month. She shared information showing that students achieve greater happiness in inclusive classrooms.

F. Information and Correspondence

1. Letter from Algoma District School Board SEAC to the Minister

Trustee Bruno Iannicca presented the letter from the Algoma DSB SEAC regarding teacher training.

G. Communication - Nil

H. Questions Asked by Committee Members

Committee Members raised questions from the community to be reviewed.

I. Future Meetings

March 19, 2025

April 23, 2025

May 21, 2025

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

Moved by S. Tennessee

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:08P.M.

CARRIED