

MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, May 21, 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
	Airene Cunanan	Autism Ontario, Peel Chapter - Alternative
	Caroline Huxtable	Epilepsy South Central Ontario - Representative
	Christine Koczmar	Community Living Mississauga - Representative
	Eva Akinsara	Down Syndrome Association of Peel - Representative
	Lisa Papaloni	Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region - Representative
	Myra Del Rosario	ABC Association for Bright Children - Representative
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
	Jamie Philip	OECTA Elementary Alternative
	Joanne Dean	Chief, Speech/Language/Hearing/Vision
	Katherine Cordi	Consultant, Special Education
	Katherine Magee	Executive Assistant, Special Education and Learning Services - Recorder
	Laura Pincen	Coordinator, Secondary Transitions and Diverse Learners
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Ruba Jeorgy	Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers Association - Representative
	Sandra Roiati	OECTA Secondary - Representative
	Sharon Chambers	Principal, Vice Principal Association, Elementary

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

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

2. Opening Prayer - E. Akinsara
3. Land Acknowledgment - A. Cunanan
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Christine Koczmara

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 23, 2025

Moved by Myra Del Rosario

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 23, 2025, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Previous Business: C. Kyte

Superintendent Papaloni introduced C. Kyte, General Manager, Clinical Services, to update the committee on discussions with ErinoakKids regarding School Based Rehabilitation Services. ErinoakKids is working on improvements to their website with respect to gathering parent feedback. SEAC requested data from ErinoakKids regarding waiting lists, service volumes, and the primary areas of need that are being addressed by the services. Staff will continue consultation with ErinoakKids to determine what data is available and how parents can best provide feedback about services.

B. Presentations and Staff Reports

1. Speech and Hearing Month: J. Dean

Superintendent Papaloni introduced J. Dean, Chief, Speech, Language, Hearing and Vision, to present information on Speech and Hearing Month. J. Dean discussed resources provided by the speech, language, hearing and vision services. The month of May is Speech and Hearing month, acknowledging the wonderful work provided by Speech Language pathologists and Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

2. Special Education Plan 2024-2025 Review: L. Pincente

Superintendent Papaloni introduced L. Pincente, Coordinator, Special Education. L. Pincente discussed the Special Education Plan, reviewing updates in the plan for 2024-2025, including the new program names, the transition navigator role and staff development. After the presentation, training for staff was discussed.

3. Employment Supports Fair: L. Pincente

L. Pincente presented the next Parent Reaching Out Grant Event, Employment Supports Fair, taking place on Wednesday, May 28th at St. Marcellinus CSS. This event supports students with an IEP to facilitate finding employment through agency resources.

4. Crisis in the Classroom: Superintendent Papaloni

Trustee Bruno Iannicca introduced Superintendent Papaloni to discuss the article Crisis in the Classroom, from Community Living in partnership with the University of Ottawa.

Superintendent Papaloni reviewed the report, noting the very small sampling, less than 1% of the Special Education student population. The sampling was taken from remote locations with limited diversity. Many of the recommendations given are already in place in Dufferin-Peel. Staff at Dufferin-Peel receive regular training. After the presentation, hiring practices were discussed, noting that Dufferin-Peel posts Special Education positions every year to ensure that teachers are choosing those positions actively. C. Koczmara mentioned some suggestions Community Living Mississauga received from parents to help support children, such as more staff development, more educational events for families and more awareness campaigns.

C. Budget - Nil

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

Trustee Luz del Rosario mentioned celebrations for Catholic Education Week. Trustee Bruno added that the Special Education students participated in this event, and the plays they put on were amazing. Trustee Luz del Rosario discussed the Puratos baking school which will be implemented into Dufferin-Peel's curriculum for students, including Special Education students. She also mentioned Project SEARCH, an opportunity for Special Education students to participate in job training to transition from high school. Trustee Bruno Iannicca mentioned that he will be attending a prom on May 30th for children who learn differently. He discussed ongoing issues such as LTD, as well as loss of subsidies from lower student numbers.

E. Information/Reports from Community Associations

C. Koczmara, Community Living, mentioned the Tim Hortons Smile Campaign.

F. Information and Correspondence - Nil

G. Communication – Nil

H. Questions Asked by Committee Members

Lisa Papaloni asked why questions were not taken at the end of the virtual PROGrant session. Superintendent Papaloni said that the questions were taken before the virtual session and incorporated into the presentation to manage timelines. The recommendation to also allow questions after the virtual session will be taken back for consideration.

E. Akinsara thanked Trustee Bruno Iannicca for attending all the plays.

C. Koczmaro mentioned that Superintendent Papaloni's role as a Superintendent seems to be at a much higher level and encompasses way more responsibilities than the other Superintendents.

I. Future Meetings

June 11, 2025

J. Adjournment

Moved by Eva Akinsara

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:31PM.

CARRIED