

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 from 5:00 – 5:51pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	April 29 th , 2025
Donna Nielsen (Chair) <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair) <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	x
Karen McAllister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tom Jordan <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	Present
Susie Trotter <i>Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital</i>	Present
Anna Lafrance <i>Easter Seals</i>	Present
Christina Lord <i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario</i>	Present
Amy Malyon <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	x
Kaitlyn Bissonnette <i>CAS SD&G</i>	x
SEAC Member Alternates	
Cathie Knapp-Fisher <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	x
Sue Wilson <i>CDSBEO Trustee, Alternate</i>	x
Judith Peak <i>Rural FASD Support Network, Alternate</i>	Present
Nicki Hughes <i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario, Alternate</i>	x
Angela Carson <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	x
Board Resource Staff	
Brent Bovaird <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	Present
Angela McNamee <i>Principal of Special Education</i>	Present
Sarah Price <i>Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Bovaird</i>	Present
SEAC Quorum	7/9 – Quorum Achieved

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION

To approve the Agenda for the April 29th SEAC meeting as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan

Carried

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, March 26th, 2025, SEAC Meeting.

The minutes from our March meeting were electronically approved by committee members on April 7th, 2025.

5. LD at School with *Martin Smit, Educational Consultant for LD@School*

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) is a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities. LDAO offers many resources, services, information, venues, and products designed to help people with LDs and ADHD, as well as parents, teachers, and other professionals.

Martin provided useful information and resources from [LDAO](#) and about [LD@School](#) and [LD@Home](#).

[LD@School](#) is a project of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) and includes a website as well as the Educators' Institute (summer conference).

- Has developed resources for educators which are researchable by various traits (topic, grade, type, etc.).
- Resources include podcasts, webinars, self-directed learning modules, and more which are all free to use.
- The LD@school website features resources and professional development material in a variety of formats. LD@school highlights evidence-based, evidence-informed, and practice-informed approaches, practices, and strategies that can be put directly to use in the classroom.

LD@Home was created to help bring resources to Ontario households impacted by learning disabilities.

- Provides information and resources that are geared towards families including podcasts, visuals and transcripts. All resources are free to use.
- Builds connections and provides information on local LD chapters and partner organizations

6. Association Updates

a. Rural FASD

Rural FASD continues to focus on accessibility, AODA compliance and hidden disabilities and works with the local councils and community groups to present and spread awareness of FASD and what Rural FASD is.

We continue to partner with local agencies and work on community outreach to build relationships with a number of organizations such as Lanark County Community Justice, Lanark County Mental Health Team, Lanark County Situation Table, Mississippi Mills Town Council, etc.,

Upcoming Events hosted by Rural FASD, all are welcome:

- Mental Health First Aid Training (Virtual): May 22nd, 2025
- Red Shoes Run Family Fun Day at Lower Reach Park in Smiths Falls on June 2nd, 2025, from 10:15am to 1:30pm with plenty of food, games and activities. [Register Here](#).
 - o There will be a raffle to go along with the Family Fun Day. First prize is two roundtrip tickets on WestJet anywhere they fly. Second prize is two Redblacks tickets. Tickets for the Raffle are \$20 for 1 ticket; \$50 for 3 tickets; \$100 for 7 tickets; \$200 for 15 tickets. To buy tickets contact Tanya at info@ruralfasd.ca.
- Red Shoes Run in Johnstown on July 5th, 2025, from 8:00am to 1:00pm with a 5km run and 1km fun run, cost of registration is \$50. [Register Here](#).
- Red Shoes Run Triathlon in Kemptville on August 17th, 2025, registration begins at 6:00am with the run starting at 7:00am. There are a number of different runs for all ages. [Register Here](#).
- Care-giver Meetings on the third Saturday of each month at 15 Beech Street in Smiths Falls.

If you or someone in your community suspects a youth could have this diagnosis of FASD please reach out to pc@ruralfasd.ca and they can assist in supporting this individual and their caregivers.

7. Special Education Department Update – Angie McNamee, Principal of Special Education

Spring is a busy time a year with one foot ensuring schools and students are on track and well supported until the end of June, while the other foot is in the planning process for next year – reviewing needs, supporting student transitions and analyzing resource allocation for September.

Beginning now and leading into May, School administrators gather to review the board's multiyear strategic plan and the improvement plan to help support the revision of their schools' annual improvement and achievement plan. These sessions include discussions to better the programming, accommodation and delivery of curriculum and social skills learning, in order to improve student engagement, inclusion and achievement.

At the end of this month, we have seventy-two CDSBEO students participating in the weeklong mini-course program at Carleton University and University of Ottawa. This initiative provides

students with a glimpse of different post-secondary program opportunities and programs and informs their future decision making with course selection and future pathways.

8. New Business

a. CDSBEO Special Education Annual Report – Sections 9, 11 & 12

Reviewed changes and updates that have been made to sections 9, 11 & 12 of the 2024-2025 Special Education Annual Report.

9. Correspondence Received

a. Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

- i. LDAO Policy Statement – Educational Inclusion
- ii. LDAO SEAC Motions Webinar Transcript
- iii. LDAO SEAC Circular Apr 2025
- iv. LDAO SEAC Circular Feb 2025
- v. LDAO SEAC Letter Mar 2025

Correspondence were distributed to all members for their review and reference.

10. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Amy Malyon, Representative for Beyond 21 and Angela Carson, Alternative Representative for Beyond 21 notified of their absence via email.

Tracy Mertz, Vice-Chair and Representative of Rural FASD notified of her absence via email with her alternate Judith is attending the meeting in her place.

MOTION

To approve these absences as presented.

Moved by: Susie Trotter

Carried

Kaitlyn Bissonnette, representative for CAS SD&G was absent without notification.

MOTION

To approve this absence as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan

Carried

11. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, May 28th, 2025, at 5:00pm

The presentation may be CDSBEO's 2024-2025 Special Education Funding Expenditures and the final review of the Special Education Annual report, including sections 15, 2, 8 & 10 may take place.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

MOTION

Moved by: Karen McAllister

Carried

Topics for Presentations for 2024-2025 school year:

TOPIC	DATE
Reading Intervention & Supporting Student Gains	Wednesday, August 28 th , 2024
2025-2030 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Timeline	Wednesday, September 25 th , 2024
Empower Reading	Wednesday, October 30 th , 2024
Inspiring Behaviour Change: Making a Difference Each Day	Wednesday, November 27 th , 2024
Supporting Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Wednesday, January 29 th , 2025
Mental Health and Supports	Wednesday, February 26 th , 2025
Making Math Count	Wednesday, March 26 th , 2025
LD at School with Martin Smit	Tuesday, April 29 th , 2025
2024-2025 CDSBEO Special Education Funding Expenditures & Final Annual Report Review	Wednesday, May 28 th , 2025
Best Buddies in CDSBEO Schools	Wednesday, June 18 th , 2025