

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 4:34pm - 5:14pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	October 29 th , 2025
Donna Nielsen (Chair) <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair) <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	Present
Karen McAllister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Absent with notification
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>	Absent without notification
Nicki Hughes <i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario</i>	Absent with notification
Amy Malyon <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	Present
Kaitlyn Bissonnette <i>CAS SD&G</i>	Absent with notification
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>	Present
Angela Carson <i>Beyond 21 Foundation</i>	x
SEAC Quorum	5/9 – Quorum Achieved

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Agenda

Motion

To approve the agenda for our October 29th SEAC meeting as presented.

Moved by: Susie Trotter

Carried

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

The minutes from our September meeting were electronically approved by committee members on October 2nd. These minutes are available to the public on the CDSBEO Board website.

5. Mental Health Supports and Resources for Parents – *Selina Mackie, Mental Health Lead Strategist*

The presentation highlights the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's (CDSBEO) commitment to fostering safe and supportive learning environments through mental health initiatives guided by Ministry of Education policies, School Mental Health Ontario, and the CDSBEO Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Key strategies include family engagement via resources, workshops, and programs like safeTALK and By Your Side. Upcoming safeTALK workshops and online resources aim to strengthen school-family partnerships and address topics like stress management, substance use prevention, and digital wellness.



By Your Side Resource



Register for remaining safeTalk workshops

6. Association Updates

a. Family and Children's Services of LLG

This month, FCSLLG highlighted several initiatives supporting families and promoting community well-being:

- International Day of Non-Violence (Oct 2): Observed globally to spread the message of peace and tolerance, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy.
- Family Portrait Sessions: Partnering with Lanark County Camera Club to provide families with professional portraits and digital copies.
- ROOTS Consultations: Launching a process to offer preventative strategies and build caregiver capacity through anonymous and child/youth-specific consultations.
- Dress Purple Day (Oct 16): Raising awareness about the role communities play in supporting children, youth, and families, and advocating for stronger social infrastructure.
- Holiday Support: Angel Tree forms are being collected until Oct 31, and a Snowsuit Distribution Day will take place on Nov 8 at the Smiths Falls office.

b. Rural FASD

The Rural FASD Association recently presented its Logic Model at the CanFASD Conference in Toronto and met with MPPs at Queen's Park to advocate for FASD awareness and support. The association has joined the Lanark County Children and Youth collaboration to strengthen community partnerships. October's caregiver meeting featured lawyer Kenneth C. Pope discussing disability tax credits and related topics, with a

follow-up session planned for November. Caregiver meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday at 88 Cornelia St. W., Smiths Falls, Unit A4.

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

- Important Dates

- Week of October 13: Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for all elementary and secondary students were distributed to families.
- Fall 2025: Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings are underway. These meetings bring families and school teams together to set goals and plan pathways for student success.

- Behaviour Management Systems Training

- Education workers completed certification and re-certification in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) Practitioner Training, which equips staff with strategies for:
 - Recognizing and responding to verbal and non-verbal cues
 - Applying verbal and non-physical de-escalation techniques
 - Implementing crisis intervention strategies for safety
- CDSBEO administrators will also undergo BMS re-certification in the coming weeks.

- Early Literacy Workshops

- Kindergarten to Grade 3 educators, alongside the Reading Intervention team, explored literacy intervention practices and resources.
- Administrators and Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) were introduced to the Acadience Learning Online (ALO) platform, enabling school teams to identify students needing targeted support and implement interventions to improve outcomes.

8. New Business

a. Member Nomination – Career Services

Motion

To approve Carrie Onstein's nomination as representative for Career Services, Brockville with Ryan Billing's as her alternate.

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

9. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Absent with notification

- Nicki Hughes, representative for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
- Kaitlyn Bissonnette, representative for CAS SD&G
- Karen McAllister, CDSBEO Trustee

Motion

To approve the below absences as they were notified.

Moved by: Sue Wilson **Carried**

Absent without notification

- Anna Lafrance, representative for Easter Seals

10. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, November 26th, 2025

11. Questions/Comments

Request for information from Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds & Grenville in relation to the CDSBEO/YMCA Brockville Back to Track Program.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Sue Wilson

Carried

Topics for Presentations for 2025-2026 school year

TOPIC	DATE
<i>Best Buddies in CDSBEO Schools</i>	Wednesday, September 24 th , 2025
<i>Mental Health – Parent Information</i>	Wednesday, October 29 th , 2025
<i>2025-2030 Multi-Year Strategic Plan</i>	Wednesday, November 26 th , 2026 (Double Meeting)
<i>Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario</i>	Wednesday, January 28 th , 2026
<i>ABA Strategies</i>	Wednesday, February 25 th , 2026
<i>Beyond 21</i>	Wednesday, March 25 th , 2026
<i>Support Students who are Blind/Low Vision</i>	Wednesday, April 22 nd , 2026
<i>Reading Intervention</i>	Wednesday, May 27 th , 2026
<i>2025-2026 CDSBEO Special Education Funding Expenditures</i>	June 2026 - TBD