

Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)

Hybrid Model – December Meeting

November 26, 2025, 5:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Chairperson:	Donna Nielsen, CDSBEO Trustee
Trustee(s):	Karen McAllister, Trustee Representative
Members Present:	Tom Jordan, Family and Children's Services of LLG Amy Malyon, Beyond 21 Jayne Stoddart, Rural FASD, Alternate Carrie Onstein, Career Services of Brockville Ryan Billing, Career Services of Brockville, Alternate
Members Absent:	Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair), Rural FASD Susie Trotter, Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital Anna Lafrance, Easter Seals Nicki Hughes, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario Kaitlyn Bissonnette, CAS SD&G Sue Wilson, Trustee, Alternate Cathie Knapp-Fisher, Family and Children's Services of LLG, Alternate Angela Carson, Beyond 21, Alternate
Board Administration:	Brent Bovaird, Superintendent of School Effectiveness Angela McNamee, Principal of Special Education Sarah Price, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Bovaird

1. Welcome and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

2. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda the additional walk on item(s) to be added under New Business

Moved by: Karen McAllister Carried

3. Calm, Connected & Compassionate: The Impact of Board Wide BMS Training – *Sandy O'Doherty Ph.D., BCBA-D, R.B.A. (Ont.), CDSBEO Lead Behaviour Analyst*

Sandy O'Doherty presented *Calm, Compassionate: The Impact of Board-Wide BMS Training*, providing an overview of Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) and CDSBEO's progress in implementing these practices across the board. She emphasized the critical role of ongoing recertification and professional development in sustaining effective BMS delivery. Sandy outlined next steps for strengthening BMS initiatives in CDSBEO, focusing on de-escalation strategies and

fostering safe, supportive environments. The overall goal is to support students through kindness, compassion, and proactive approaches that promote safety, belonging, and well-being—key elements in helping every child engage in learning and achieve their full potential.

4. Association Updates

a. Career Services, Brockville

Career Services provided an overview of their supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and barriers. Key services include school-to-work transition planning, assistance with ODSP/DSO applications, ID and RDSP guidance, alternative co-op opportunities, and the summerWORK\$ program offering paid work experience and job coaching. Additional programs such as Ready2Learn and School2Work focus on job readiness and connecting students to adult services, fostering independence and successful integration into employment and community life.

b. Rural FASD

The Rural FASD Support Network reported on upcoming initiatives and advocacy efforts. Planning is underway for two 2026 awareness events: a 1K run in Smiths Falls in May and a sanctioned triathlon in Kemptville in August, both aimed at engaging students, youth, and families. The network continues to advocate for increased awareness and education among service providers and educators. Community partnerships remain strong, and monthly caregiver meetings are now held at ConnectWell in Smiths Falls.

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

On the November 28th Professional Development Day, educators and education workers participated in workshops focused on creating inclusive learning environments and ensuring students feel safe and cared for. Highlights included the first session of a three-part ABA workshop series introducing evidence-based strategies to support positive behaviour and enhance learning outcomes. CDSBEO also welcomed Dr. Andrew B. Campbell, who led sessions based on his book Stop the Hate for Goodness Sake, addressing hate, bias, and equity in education. These sessions explored defining hate, recognizing its manifestations in schools, and strategies for fostering safe, equitable classrooms.

Additional training sessions in December include an assistive technology refresher for Special Education Resource Teachers, focusing on tools such as Read-Write, Microsoft Immersive Reader, and Dictate, with plans to extend this training to all education workers in January. The final session of the Mental Health Lit in Action series was also completed, equipping SERTs with strategies to promote identity-affirming mental health, collaborate effectively with families, and access mental health services. Special Education staff continue to work closely with school teams to ensure resources are leveraged to support vulnerable students and families.

6. New Business

a. Member Nomination – Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario Motion

To approve Brandy Shehan's nomination as representative for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario with Nicki Hughes as her alternate.

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

7. Correspondence Received

No correspondence was received.

8. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Absent with notification

- Kaitlyn Bissonnette, representative for CAS SD&G
- Nicki Hughes, representative for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
- Tracy Mertz, representative for Rural FASD
- Susie Trotter, representative for Child and Youth Mental Health Services of Cornwall Community Hospital

Motion

To approve the absences as they were notified.

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

Absent without notification

- Anna Lafrance, representative for Easter Seals. In accordance with Board Committee Terms of Reference, the seat will now be vacant for Easter Seals due to 3 consecutive meetings being missed without notification.

9. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, at 4:30pm

10. Closing Prayer

11. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:44pm

Moved by: Karen McAllister **Carried**

Topics for Presentations 2025-2026

- Wednesday, September 24th, 2025: Best Buddies in CDSBEO Schools
- Wednesday, October 29th, 2025: Mental Health – Parent Information
- Wednesday, November 26th, 2025: 2025-2030 Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Wednesday, November 26th, 2025: Calm, Connected & Compassionate: The Impact of Board Wide BMS Training
- Wednesday, January 28th, 2026: Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
- Wednesday, February 25th, 2026: ABA Strategies
- Wednesday, March 25th, 2026: Beyond 21
- Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026: Supporting Students who are Blind/Low Vision
- Wednesday, May 27th, 2026: Reading Intervention

- June 2026: 2025-2026 CDSBEO Special Education Funding Expenditures