

Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)
Hybrid Model – January Meeting
January 28, 2026, 4:30pm

ATTENDANCE

Chairperson:	Donna Nielsen, CDSBEO Trustee
Trustee(s):	Karen McAllister, Trustee Representative Sue Wilson, Trustee, Alternate
Members Present:	Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair), Rural FASD Jayne Stoddart, Rural FASD, Alternate Tom Jordan, Family and Children’s Services of LLG Susie Trotter, Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital Brandy Sheahan, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario Amy Malyon, Beyond 21 Carrie Onstein, Career Services of Brockville Ryan Billing, Career Services of Brockville, Alternate Kaitlyn Bissonnette, CAS SD&G
Members Absent:	Nicki Hughes, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario, 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, Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm

2. Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer & Connection to the 2025-2030 Multi-Year Strategic Plan

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion

To approve the agenda for our January 28th SEAC meeting as presented.

Moved by: Karen McAllister **Carried**

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, November 26th, 2025.

The minutes from our November & December meetings on November 26th were electronically approved by committee members on December 9th. These minutes are available to the public on the CDSBEO Board website.

5. Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario – Who We Are & How We Help – *Brandy Sheahan, Executive Director of Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario*

The presentation from Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario outlined the organization's four decades of service and its impact on more than 5,500 individuals living with epilepsy in the region. Brandy described the broad range of supports available, including counselling, workplace and school assistance, public education, transportation services (Emily's Fund), and programs like Project UPLIFT, Art of the Heart, Hobscotch and Paces. They also reviewed key information about epilepsy, stressing the importance of seizure first aid and prompt response to status epilepticus. The presentation concluded with an overview of school-related resources such as seizure action plans, classroom presentations, and training for educators.

6. Association Updates

a. Rural FASD Support Network

The Rural FASD Support Network reported that they will be facilitating Mental Health First Aid certifications and highlighted recent caregiver engagement with a presentation from Safe Families Canada Ottawa-Lanark. Planning has begun for two FASD awareness events for 2026, including a student-focused event in Smiths Falls in May and a triathlon in Kemptville in August. Rural FASD Support Network continues to advocate for increased awareness and brain-based supports for students with FASD while strengthening community partnerships to improve service navigation.

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

- Students, school staff, and our professional team continue to work collaboratively to implement targeted interventions that support student achievement in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning.
- Our Early Literacy Consultant and Reading Intervention Team have been facilitating Early Literacy workshops for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Special Education Resource Teachers. These sessions focus on the structured literacy components of the new Kindergarten curriculum and the use of the Acadience Learning Online platform for reading screening and progress monitoring. Reading Intervention Teachers, in collaboration with primary school staff, are preparing to administer the Middle-of-Year screener to all Year 2 Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students.
- Several members of the Special Education Department are currently completing re-certification in Behaviour Management System (BMS) Trainer training.
- Next month, School Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) will participate in in-person professional development focused on removing barriers to learning for students receiving special education services. The day will include sessions on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), transition planning, and behaviour

regulation.

8. Correspondence Received

- a. **Memo – Proposed School Year Calendar 2026-2027**
- b. **Proposed 2026-2027 School Year Calendar**

9. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

All members were present for our January 2026 meeting.

10. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, February 25th, 2026, at 4:30pm

11. Closing Prayer

12. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:54pm

Moved by: Tom Jordan *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: CDSBEO EQAO Results through a Special Education Lens
- Wednesday, March 25th, 2026: Beyond 21
- Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026: Supporting Students who are Blind/Low Vision
- Wednesday, May 27th, 2026: Reading Intervention