

Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)
Hybrid Model – February Meeting
February 25, 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 Tom Jordan, Family and Children’s Services of LLG Brandy Sheahan, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario Amy Malyon, Beyond 21 Carrie Onstein, Career Services of Brockville Kaitlyn Bissonnette, CAS SD&G
Members Absent:	Susie Trotter, Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital Jayne Stoddart, Rural FASD, Alternate Nicki Hughes, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario, Alternate Cathie Knapp-Fisher, Family and Children’s Services of LLG, Alternate Angela Carson, Beyond 21, Alternate Ryan Billing, Career Services of Brockville, 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 & 2025-2030 CDSBEO MYSP Connection

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion

To approve the agenda for our February 25th meeting with the addition of the walk-on item to be added under correspondence received.

Moved by: Tracy Mertz *Carried*

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, January 28th, 2026.

The minutes from our January 28th meeting were electronically approved by committee members on February 6th. These minutes are available to the public on the CDSBEO Board website.

5. Exploring EQAO Results Through a Special Education Lens – *Julia Graydon, CDSBEO Superintendent of School Effectiveness & Brenda Reil, Principal of Curriculum & Student Success, CDSBEO*

The Special Education Advisory Committee received a presentation on CDSBEO EQAO results (2024–25) through a special education lens, drawing on four years of consistent online assessment data to examine student achievement and trends over time. The presentation highlighted the use of EQAO approved accommodations aligned with students' IEPs, as well as outlined exemption criteria. EQAO and OSSLT results for students with IEPs across Grades 3, 6, 9, and Grade 10 were reviewed, demonstrating overall stability over time, strengths in literacy, and outcomes that are generally aligned with provincial results. Various interventions, resources and professional development opportunities were described as ways school teams are supporting students' future achievement.

6. Association Updates

a. Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario

Epilepsy Awareness Month begins in March – to support in the awareness of Epilepsy, join us in celebrating Purple Day on Thursday, March 26th. We welcome schools to participate by wearing purple. We also welcome all CDSBEO classes to participate in the optional **“Step into Purple” classroom door-decorating contest**, decorate your classroom door this March to help raise awareness for Epilepsy and submit your entry to shannan@epilepsyresource.org by March 31st. Pictures will be shared to ESEO social media and voted on by the community, the winning classroom will be informed on April 1st and will win a prize for your class!

Purple Day Resources: [Purple Day in Your Class - Epilepsy Ontario](#)

For more information about Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario school presentations, please contact brandy@epilepsyresource.org or shannan@epilepsyresource.org

b. Beyond 21

Beyond 21 is hosting a Disability Information Evening scheduled for March 5, 2026, in Cornwall. The event will bring together multiple service providers to share information about local supports and services available to individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, educators, and community members. The session is intended to support transition planning and increase awareness of community resources.

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

- The Early Literacy Consultant and Reading Intervention Team, in collaboration with primary classroom teachers and Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs), are

administering the Middle-of-Year literacy screener to all Year 2 Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students, with screening continuing through to March Break.

- Earlier this month, SERTs and Special Education Classroom Teachers (SECTs) participated in in-person professional development focused on removing barriers to learning, including sessions on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), transition planning, and behaviour regulation strategies.
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for elementary and secondary students were sent home to families, with parents and guardians encouraged to contact school staff with questions or concerns in mid- February. Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to the teacher or SERT with any questions or concerns.
- St. Luke's Mini-Clinics are taking place on April 1 and 2. The mini-clinics provide students the opportunity to explore and experience St. Lukes unique programming and emphasis on hands on learning. St. Matt's secondary school have already started their individual transition meetings with families.
- Revised sections of the Special Education Annual Report will be reviewed at our SEAC meetings from February-June.

8. New Business

a. CDSBEO Special Education Annual Report

Review of updates made to sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 and 14 of the 2025-2026 Special Education Annual Report

9. Correspondence Received

- a. Durham District School Board SEAC Support for School Board Trustees

10. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Absent with notification

- Susie Trotter, representative for Child and Youth Mental Health Services of Cornwall Community Hospital

Motion

To approve the absence(s) as notified.

Moved by: Tracy Mertz **Carried**

11. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, March 25th, 2026, at 4:30pm

12. Closing Prayer

13. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:22pm

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