

## Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)

Hybrid Model – Wednesday, March 25, 2026

### ATTENDANCE

Chairperson:	Donna Nielsen, CDSBEO Trustee
Trustee(s):	Karen McAllister, Trustee Representative Sue Wilson, Trustee, Alternate
Members Present:	Jayne Stoddart, Rural FASD, Alternate Tom Jordan, Family and Children's Services of LLG Amy Malyon, Beyond 21 Carrie Onstein, Career Services of Brockville Ryan Billing, Career Services of Brockville, Alternate Kaitlyn Bissonnette, CAS SD&G Susie Trotter, Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital
Members Absent:	Tracy Mertz (Vice-Chair), Rural FASD Brandy Sheahan, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario 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 4:31pm.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer & MYSP Connection

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

##### Motion

To approve the agenda for our March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented.

**Moved by: Amy Malyon** **Carried**

#### 4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The minutes from our February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were electronically approved by committee members on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. These minutes are available to the public on the CDSBEO Board website.

**5. Beyond 21 – Amy Malyon, Executive Director of Beyond 21**

The committee received a presentation from Beyond 21, not-for-profit organization that has provided supports in the community for over 15 years. Beyond 21 is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and delivers inclusive, community-based programming for adults aged 21 and over with developmental disabilities and transition programs for adults aged 18+ with developmental disabilities across Cornwall, SDG, and surrounding areas. The presentation highlighted the organization's role in supporting the transition from school to adult life, providing structure, connection, and continued learning opportunities for individuals as they transition to or have exited the school system. Beyond 21 also supports families as they navigate next steps following graduation. The organization currently serves more than 80 participants weekly, with increasing demand, and operates a main location in Cornwall, with a satellite location in Iroquois opening April 1, 2026. As a non-profit organization, Beyond 21 relies on multiple fundraising initiatives and donations to sustain and grow its programming. In addition, Beyond 21 shared that they are in the planning stages of implementing an adaptable STEM lab, which will provide accessible, hands-on STEM learning opportunities for current and future participants.

**6. Association Updates**

**a. Rural FASD Support Network**

- Mental Health First Aid Training: a 6 hour essentials course and 12 hour certification course. This training builds capacity to recognize, respond to, and support individuals experiencing mental health challenges.
- 2026 FASD Awareness Events
  - o May 25, 2026: We will be hosting a 1km run in support of FASD awareness. We invite local schools and community members to participate.
  - o August 2026: We will be hosting a sanctioned triathlon to support FASD awareness among the youth and families participating.
- As part of the Trillium Grow grant, two youth living with FASD have been engaged as YouthAccessibility Leaders. In this position they will audit websites, workshops and other deliverables and make sure they are accessible, inclusive and follow AODA guidelines.
- Our monthly Caregiver meetings are on the third Saturday of each month at our new location, ConnectWell – 88 Cornelia Street West, Smiths Falls, Unit A4.

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

The Special Education Department reported ongoing work to ensure data accuracy for OnSIS reporting, continued transition planning with schools and families, and preparation for the upcoming school year. Updates included upcoming Transition to Kindergarten collaboration and revisions to the Special Education Parent Guide to better support families. The department is also reviewing and updating the Special Education Annual Report, with chapters to be shared with SEAC at future meetings.

**8. New Business**

- a. CDSBEO Special Education Annual Report

Review of updates made to sections 2 and 6 of the 2025-2026 Special Education Annual Report

**9. Correspondence Received**

- a. Durham District School Board SEACs Letter to the Minister re: Provincial Proposal to Replace Trustees with Provincially Appointed Supervisors

**10. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received**

Absent with notification

- Brandy Sheahan & Nicki Hughes, representative and alternative representative for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
- Tracy Mertz, representative for Rural FASD

**Motion**

To approve the absence(s) as notified.

**Moved by: Tom Jordan** **Carried**

**11. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 4:30pm**

**12. Closing Prayer**

**13. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:27pm

**Moved by: Karen McAllister** **Carried**

**Topics for Presentations 2025-2026**

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