

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)

Hybrid Model – Wednesday, May 27, 2026

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 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:	Amy Malyon, Beyond 21 Angela Carson, Beyond 21, Alternate Jayne Stoddart, Rural FASD, Alternate Cathie Knapp-Fisher, Family and Children's Services of LLG, 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 & MYSP Connection

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion

To approve the agenda for our May 27th meeting as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan

Carried

4. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026.

The minutes from our April 22nd meeting were electronically approved by committee members on April 29th. These minutes are available to the public on the CDSBEO Board website.

5. Supporting Early Literacy Intervention – Andrea Blaine, CDSBEO Early Literacy Consultant

6. The presentation provided an overview of CDSBEO's early literacy initiatives, highlighting the use of universal screening (Acadience Learning Online) to assess all year two Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students three times per year to inform instruction. The Early Literacy Consultant demonstrated how the use of the ALO program uses the assessment data to automate groupings to support differentiated learning and targeted interventions. Student learning examples demonstrated how explicit, evidence-based instruction and timely intervention can improve student outcomes and close reading gaps. The presentation emphasized a system-wide, collaborative, data-informed approach focused on early identification and ongoing support to ensure all students develop foundational reading skills.

7. Association Updates

No association updates.

8. Special Education Department Update – Angie McNamee, Principal of Special Education

The Special Education Department provided updates on Regional Transition Fairs, which supported students with special education needs and their families in planning for post-secondary pathways through connections with community agencies and informative presentations. Feedback from attendees was highly positive, highlighting the value of these events in strengthening partnerships and supporting informed transition planning.

The department is also preparing for the 2026–2027 school year through staffing, Ministry reporting, and planning for professional learning and system priorities focused on inclusive practices.

9. New Business

a. Member Resignation

Motion

To approve the resignation of Brandy Sheahan and Nicki Hughes, association representatives for Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario.

Moved by: Susie Trotter

Carried

b. Review of Special Education Annual Report

Review of updates made to sections 4, 10 and 15 of the 2025-2026 Special Education Annual Report

10. Correspondence Received

No correspondence were received.

11. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Absent with notification

- Amy Malyon, representative for Beyond 21
- Angela Carson, alternative representative for Beyond 21

Absent without notification

Motion

To approve the absence(s) as notified.

Moved by: Tracy Mertz

Carried

12. Next SEAC Meeting – Thursday, June 11th, 2026

13. Closing Prayer

14. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:19pm.

Moved by: Tracy Mertz

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
- Thursday, June 11th, 2026: CDSBEO Special Education Funding Expenditures 2025-2026