



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Time 1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

- A - 1 **Opening** (L. DeJong)
(a) Welcome / Land Acknowledgement Statement
(b) Roll Call
(c) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval
- B - 1 **Timed Items**
(a) Learning Progressions in Math (L. Munro)
- C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**
(a) Strategic Planning Session- update (L. DeJong)
(b) SEAC Speaker Event – update (L. Thompson)
(c) Grand Erie's Draft Special Education Plan 2025-26 (L. Thompson)
- D - 1 **Consent Agenda** (L. DeJong)
"That SEAC accept the April 9, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."
(a) Approve the Minutes of:
(i) SEAC Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2026*
(b) Receive the correspondence from:
(i) Toronto District School Board SEAC dated February 25, 2026*
- E - 1 **New Business**
(a) Special Olympics Update* (K. Graham)
- F - 1 **Information Items**
(a) Policies out for Comment (K. Jones) - Nil
(b) System Updates (L. Thompson/K. Graham)
(c) Chair/Vice-Chair Updates (L. DeJong/K. Jones)
(d) [Family Math E-Newsletter](#) (L. DeJong)
(e) [EQAO Math Resources and Sample Questions for Families](#) (L. DeJong)
(f) [Family Literacy E-Newsletter](#) (L. DeJong)
- G - 1 **Community Updates**
(a) Nil
- H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Planning Committee**
(a) Role of the System Staff
(b) Student and Family Support Offices
(c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transitions Navigator
(d) Skill Building and Hub Programs
(e) Behaviour Support Plans and Safety Plans
- I - 1 **Adjournment** (L. DeJong)
- J - 1 **Next Meeting**
Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Learn

Lead

Inspire



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room/MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Chair: L. DeJong, Vice Chair: K. Jones, Trustees: T. Sault, L. Passmore, Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman, T. Morgan, N. Schween, T. West Community Representatives: L. Nydam

Administration: Director of Education J. Roberto, Superintendent of Education: K. Graham, L. Thompson, Superintendent of Business: R. Wyszynski, Principal Leader J. Senior, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with Regrets: Trustee E. Thomas, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill

Absent: Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto

Visiting Trustee: Trustee C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome/Land Acknowledgement Statement**

L. DeJong called the February 5, 2026 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: L. Nydam

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the March 12, 2026 agenda be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Welcome New SEAC Members**

Superintendent Thompson welcome the new SEAC members.

(b) **Financial Update 2025-26**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided updates on the following:

- (i) Special Education Funding, Grants, Expenditures and Reserves
- (ii) Input on 2026-27 Budget Process
- (iii) Finance Committee Meeting Dates

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **SEAC Meeting Dates 2026-27**

Chair DeJong confirmed the SEAC meeting dates and times for the 2026-27 school year.

(b) **SEAC Speaker Event**

Details will be coming at a future meeting for the SEAC Speaker Event taking place Thursday, February 4, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room/MS Teams

MINUTES

D - 1 **Consent Agenda**

That SEAC Accept the March 12, 2026, Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: K. Jones

(a) Approve the Minutes of:

(i) SEAC Meeting Minutes dated February 5, 2026.

(b) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Durham District School Board dated February 19, 2026

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Grand Erie's Strategic Plan**

Superintendent Thompson shared that Grand Erie will be developing its strategic plan for 2026-2030 in consultation with from across the district.

(b) **Grand Erie's Special Education Plan 2025-26 – Standard 14 - Equipment**

L. Sheppard shared updates to Standard 14 with SEAC members.

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) Policies out for Comment

(i) Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy (SO-20)

(b) Grand Erie's School Year Calendar 2026-27

Superintendent Graham shared the school year calendars for the 2026-24 school year. In response to a question about the new Ontario Day on June 1, he confirmed that this is a school day.

(c) Flex Periods

Superintendent Graham explained flex days in secondary schools.

(d) Family Math E-Newsletter

(e) Family Literacy E-Newsletter

(f) System Updates

Superintendent Graham shared details about the Tech Hub schools in Grand Erie.

(g) Director's Report

Superintendent Thompson shared the monthly Director's Report.

(h) Chair/Vice-Chair Updates

Chair DeJong encouraged SEAC members to bring community updates to SEAC.

G - 1 **Community Updates**

Nil

H - 1 **Future Agenda Items**

(a) Role of the System Staff

(b) Student and Family Support Offices

(c) ODEN presentation- Specialized Services Transitions Navigator

(d) Skill Building and Hub Programs

(e) Behaviour Support Plans and Safety Plans



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room/MS Teams

MINUTES

I - 1 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

J - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Education Centre Board Room/MS Teams Virtual Meeting

DRAFT

David Lepofsky, Chair, TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee
mdl.seac@gmail.com

February 25, 2026

To: The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Education minister.edu@ontario.ca
Ministry of Education

14th Floor, 315 Front Street West

Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Canada

Dear Minister,

Re: Recurring Unmet Needs of K-12 Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs

I write on behalf of the Toronto District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC. We seek your help for TDSB's 40,000 students with disabilities/special education needs, because you are now the elected official with ultimate responsibility for TDSB operations while under provincial supervision.

Under longstanding provincial law, each school board must appoint a SEAC to advise it on the development and implementation of special education, including, among other things, on the board's special education budget and Special Education Plan. Our SEAC members bring to bear extensive community connections and lived experience with the challenges in the school system facing students with disabilities/special education needs and their parents/guardians.

Too often, students with disabilities/special education needs face recurring barriers in Ontario's K-12 schools. The Government received [a comprehensive report](#) over four years ago from a Government-appointed panel that extensively documented these barriers and recommended reforms to remove and prevent them. TDSB's student population comes from Canada's largest and most diverse city. The intersectional disadvantages that its students with disabilities/special education needs are thereby intensified.

Since the Government removed the TDSB's school board trustees and appointed the provincial TDSB Supervisor, the situation facing TDSB students with disabilities/special education needs has not demonstrably improved. In several ways, things have gotten worse for them.

Please direct the TDSB Supervisor to attend TDSB SEAC meetings. The representatives of parents of students with disabilities/special education needs wish an opportunity to address him directly, to have him hear of their concerns and to work collaboratively with him on finding solutions.

Previously, we had trustees attending every SEAC meeting, some as members, and often, simply as interested trustees. At some of the school boards that the Ontario Government has taken control over, your appointed Supervisor has attended at least some of their SEAC meetings. In sharp contrast, the TDSB Supervisor has not attended any of the monthly TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings, even though he stepped into the shoes of the school board trustees. Several trustees were members of SEAC. The Supervisor has been invited to attend each of our monthly SEAC meetings since He assumed his role last year.

Since the Supervisor was appointed, we have raised several issues with him in writing that are major concerns for students with disabilities/special education needs. We have asked him to take action to address these concerns. He has not taken any of the actions that SEAC requested. He has given no reasons for this.

Under Ontario Regulation 464/97, the elected trustees must afford SEAC an opportunity to be heard before making a decision on a SEAC recommendation. Trustees make those decisions in public, after a SEAC representative gets a chance to address the trustees, also in public. Trustees' discussions and decisions on any SEAC recommendation were conducted in public meetings, and live streamed to the public.

In contrast, in several cases, the provincial Supervisor has made adverse decisions on SEAC recommendations without affording SEAC a chance to be heard before the decision was made. Each such adverse decision was made behind closed doors. No reasons were given.

Making this worse, the provincial TDSB Supervisor has made decisions that are adverse to the needs of students with disabilities/special education needs, overturning earlier decisions of the trustees. He increased the maximum size of two categories of special education classes. He also overturned the ceiling of 32 students which the trustees had set for the size of any individual Grade 4 to 8 class. As long as TDSB maintains the overall average size of those classes, there is now no limit on the maximum size of any individual Grade 4 to 8 class. This can only hurt individual students with special education needs who are placed in a mainstream Grade 4 to 8 class.

TDSB's SEAC has repeatedly emphasized that there is need for more staff to support the learning needs of students with disabilities/special education needs. TDSB budget

officials have told SEAC every year that provincial funding for special education is less than the amount TDSB actually must spend to serve students with disabilities/special education needs. We have no indication that the provincial Supervisor has attempted to get any increase in provincial funding for TDSB.

It has become much harder for TDSB's SEAC to reach parents of students with disabilities/special education needs. For years, TDSB live streamed SEAC meetings. This helped SEAC and TDSB staff reach more parents of students with disabilities/special education needs and get helpful feedback from them. It helped SEAC members, TDSB staff and members of the public who missed a SEAC meeting but want to see what happened at it. Last October, you banned TDSB from live streaming SEAC meeting. This has made things worse for parents of students with disabilities/special education needs.

Under the provincial Supervisor, TDSB has now cut back on the scope/content of its much-needed multi-year Special Education Review. This hurts students with disabilities/special education needs. SEAC was never consulted on this cutback, nor were parents of students with disabilities/special education needs. If anything, TDSB needs to far more inclusively involve SEAC in the plans for this Special Education Review and to expand that Review, not further limit it.

In SEAC's experience, it is important for there to be broad public accountability for the management of TDSB. The removal of the trustees and the elimination of their public meetings substantially undermine this, to the disadvantage of all students, and especially to the disadvantage of vulnerable students with disabilities/special education needs. It would benefit students with disabilities/special education needs for there to be far stronger and more effective democratic oversight of the school board.

We urge you to broadly consult with parents of students with disabilities/special education needs, including with TDSB SEAC and other SEACs, about any future changes being considered to the governance and oversight of the publicly-funded school system. We are eager to work with you on this.

TDSB's Student and Family Support Office requires important additions to ensure that it effectively serves the learning needs of students with disabilities/special education needs and the accessibility needs of parents with disabilities. A staff complement as low

as two at the TDSB's Student and Family Support Office, reported on City TV, is far too small to serve 250,000 students including 40,000 students with disabilities/special education needs. The Student and Family Support Office staff should have expertise in education of students with disabilities. The Student and Family Support Office should offer to accommodate the needs of parents with disabilities in using its services.

Any delay in rectifying this situation can only compound the disadvantages that these vulnerable students too often face. We seek your intervention now to repair this situation. We welcome any opportunity to assist you in doing so.

Sincerely,

David Lepofsky CM, O. Ont
Chair Toronto District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee

CC: Chairs of Ontario school boards' Special Education Advisory Committees
Denise Cole Deputy Minister of Education denise.cole@ontario.ca
Stacey Zucker, Interim TDSB Director of Education Stacey.zucker@tdsb.on.ca
Rohit Gupta TDSB Supervisor supervisor@tdsb.on.ca



Join the Fun!

All Grand Erie secondary schools are invited to participate in the inaugural Special Olympics School Sports Events

Cayuga Secondary School

October 16, 2025

BOCCE

(Traditional Division)

Each school can bring up to three teams

Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School

April 16, 2026

SOCCER

(Traditional + Unified Divisions)

Each school can bring one team per division



Special Olympics
Olympiques spéciaux
Canada



Sign up by September 26, 2025

For more information about the events and transportation, contact:

Colin Miller at colin.miller@granderie.ca, or

Jason Smith at jason.smith@granderie.ca