



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday November 3, 2022

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn, and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

AGENDA

Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
A-1 Opening 6:00-6:05				
(a) Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement Statement			√	W. Rose
(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube			√	W. Rose
(c) Agenda Additions/ Deletions/ Approvals		√	√	W. Rose
LEARN				
B-1 Timed Items 6:05 – 6:20				
(a) Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2022-23	√	√		L. Thompson
(b) A Day in the Life of an Instructional Coach: Specialized Services	√	√		C. Guzar

Learn Lead Inspire



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Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings				
(a) Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2022*			√	W. Rose
(b) Standard 15 – Accessibility of School Buildings*	√	√		J. Hooper
(c)				
LEARN				
D-1 New Business				
(a) Review of letters of intent and resignations for SEAC membership 2022-26	√	√	√	W. Rose/L. DeJong
(b) SEAC membership 2022-26 – recommendation to the Board of Trustees report*	√	√	√	W. Rose
(c)				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	
LEAD				
E-1 Other Business				
(a) Review of the SEAC Orientation Handbook*	√	√	√	W. Rose/L. Thompson



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(b) Update – Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation Inclusion Symposium	√			L. Thompson/L. DeJong
(c)				
(d)				

Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
INSPIRE				
F-1 Standing Items				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy/Procedures Out for Comment Please send all comments and feedback regarding the following policies to policiesandprocedures@granderie.ca There are currently no policies out for review.	√			W. Rose
(a) Trustee Updates	√			R. Collver/T. Waldschmidt
(b) Chair/Vice Chair Items	√			W. Rose
(c)				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				

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G-1 Information Items				
(a) Closed Captioning features in TEAMS*	√			J. Hooper
(b)				
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				
H-1 Community Updates				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				
I-1 Correspondence – 7:30-7:35				
(a) Draft letter re. Project SEARCH*	√			W. Rose
(b)				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
INSPIRE				
J-1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning				
(a) OnSIS/LITE Data	√			L. Thompson
(b)				
(c)				

Learn Lead Inspire



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K-1 Next Meeting				
Thursday December 8, 2022 6:00 p.m. MS Teams	√	√	√	W. Rose
L-1 Adjournment				
Meeting adjourned at p.m.			√	W. Rose

Note: Column Abbreviations

* Attachments to the agenda

Info. Item for information only

Dia. Item for dialogue

Res. Item for resolution or recommendation

SEMT Special Education Management Team

AGENDA ITEM(S)

Standing:

- LDAO SEAC Circular September, November, February, April and June (as available).



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday October 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Chair:	W. Rose, Community Representative
Community Reps:	M. Gatopoulos K. Jones T. Sault T. Wilson
Trustees:	B. Doyle T. Waldschmidt
Grand Erie Staff:	P. Bagchee, Manager, Mental Health and Well-Being J. Hooper, Principal Leader – Mental Health & Well-Being F. Lainson, Program Co-ordinator – Specialized Services J. Roberto, Director of Education L. Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education L. Boswell, Community Navigator, Contact Brant L. DeJong, Social Worker, Lansdowne Children's Centre A. Detmar, Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services
Organizations/ Agencies:	
Absent with Regrets:	Trustee R. Collver
Absent:	J. Valstar, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Education L. Nydam, Community Rep T. Buchanan, Supervisor of Employment Services, Contact Brant
Guests:	
Recording Secretary:	J. White, Principal Leader Specialized Services

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment**

Chair W. Rose welcomed everyone and read the land acknowledgement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube**

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

L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, proposed an amendment that D-1 (b) be moved to the November meeting.

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the SEAC 22-02 Agenda for Thursday October 6, 2022 be approved as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Summer Learning – Specialized Services**

L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, F. Lainson, Program Coordinator Specialized Services, L. Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator, and P. Bagchee, Manager Mental Health & Well-Being, provided an overview of summer programs for students and staff in the areas of virtual and in-person opportunities for grades 2-12, Psych assessments, Secondary tech camps, and summer learning for Grand Erie employees.

Chair Rose inquired if there was a timeline for boards to find out about summer learning funds for next year and whether there may be an opportunity for SEAC to advocate for continued funding for these programs from the Ministry.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday October 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

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

(a) **Approval of Minutes September 8, 2022**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: A. Detmar

THAT the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held September 8, 2022 be approved as printed.

Carried

(b) **SEAC Terms of Reference (ToR) – Final copy for Approval**

L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, reviewed changes to the Terms of Reference, explaining that most updates were related to alignment of language with legislation within the committee composition section.

L. DeJong, Social Worker Lansdowne Children's Centre, requested that reference to members of the board indicate that is Board of Trustees. L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, to add this edit.

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: L. DeJong

THAT the Terms of Reference be approved as edited.

Carried

(c) **SEAC Recruitment Flyer**

Chair Rose shared the flyer for this year's SEAC recruitment. Current members were reminded that to continue as a member of SEAC, members must complete a resubmission by October 31st, 2022.

(d) **Modified Day – Information**

J. White, Principal Leader Specialized Services, shared the areas of the Education Act and Board Policy that reference modified day. Examples of when a student may require a modified day and general guidelines were also shared. It was shared with SEAC members that a more fulsome conversation about modified day would be taking place with Safe and Inclusive Schools.

(e) **Project SEARCH – Update**

J. White, Principal Leader Specialized Services, shared an update on the activities occurring as part of Project SEARCH.

(f) **OnSIS/LITE Data – What will be presented this year at the November meeting?**

L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education, shared that this agenda item is shared at SEAC each year. SEAC members were asked if there was anything they would like this data to focus on this year. L. DeJong, Social Worker Lansdowne Children's Centre, requested trend data over time to be included.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday October 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022-27**

J. Hooper, Principal Leader Mental Health & Well-Being, reviewed this year's accessibility plan with members. This is a new plan that outlines areas of focus for the 2022-27 years. The plan is a working document so will be updated to share any recent activity and timelines for each action item.

(b) **Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2022-23**

Deferred to November 3, 2022 meeting

E - 1 **Other Business**

Nil

F - 1 **Standing Items**

(a) **Policy/Procedures Out for Comment**

Nil

(b) **Trustee Updates**

Trustee Doyle and Trustee Waldschmidt shared their respective updates.

(c) **Chair/Vice Chair Items**

Nil

G - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Resignation of A. Detmar, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services**

Chair Rose thanked A. Detmar, Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services, for her service and wished her well. Chair Rose thanked Alicia Csoff, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, who will be sending new representation.

H - 1 **Community Updates**

Nil

I - 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **LDAO SEAC Circular – September 2022**

Presented as printed

J - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

L. DeJong, Social Worker Lansdowne Children's Centre, requested that the focus of PD days be shared as an update at future meetings.

K - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday November 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., MS Teams Virtual Meeting



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday October 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

L - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: A. Detmar

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Carried

Draft

Standard 15: ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The purpose of the standard is to provide the ministry with further details of the board's multi-year plan, which was previously submitted to the ministry, for improving accessibility for students with physical and sensory disabilities, and to provide the public with this information.

The Grand Erie District School Board has approved a multi-year capital expenditure plan for improving accessibility to its buildings, grounds and administrative offices, including resources dedicated to providing barrier-free access in the coming years. The Board's plan includes increasing accessibility to as many school buildings as possible and providing specific facilities to accommodate students with special needs. Accessibility upgrades are considered any time a renovation or addition is made to a building.

Each elementary Family of Schools (Brantford, Brant and Norfolk, Haldimand) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

Each secondary Family of Schools (Brantford/Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

The criteria provided to rank buildings for each Level of Accessibility is as follows:

Level One

Building cannot be reasonably made accessible.

Level Two

Building is accessible, has some washroom modifications to accommodate wheelchairs and limited interior access.

Level Three

Building has complete access and washroom(s) can accommodate wheelchairs.

Level Four

Meets Level Three plus additional features to accommodate students who are medically fragile.

In addition, to qualify as Level Three the facility should have the following features:

- 'main' entrance convenient for drop off and is wheelchair accessible:
 - includes ramping and rails meeting Ontario Building Code specifications and power door operators on both the exterior and vestibule doors
 - vestibule must also meet minimum distance requirements.
- all rooms (except stage) within the school are wheelchair accessible:
 - Level Three facilities will be reviewed for interior "hold open" devices
 - budget costs will be provided to complete the work
 - cost for each door device is approximately \$1000.
- at least one separate washroom or one male and one female washroom in the school will accommodate wheelchairs:
 - recommendation for future considerations that a separate washroom be designed to accommodate a change table, storage and other specialized equipment.

The Special Education Program Coordinator and Facilities Services Personnel meet as a team to review the suitability of school sites in meeting the needs of students with accessibility needs on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to the Accessibility Plan, school boards are also required to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) including the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. The Grand Erie District School Board approved a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which integrates the requirements of both the Ontarians with Disability Act and the AODA and addresses Employment, Communication and Information, and Transportation. Revisions to the Ontario Building Code related to accessibility for the Built Environment are implemented in all new buildings.

The Grand Erie DSB Accessibility Plan can be found on the Grand Erie DSB's website. [Grand Erie DSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22](#)



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Appointment to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Grand Erie District School Board for the Term 2022-2026**
DATE: November 21, 2022

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the appointments to the Special Education Advisory Committee, as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee, for the term December 2022 to November 2026.

Background

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is a statutory committee of the board. The term of appointment to this committee is four years, reflecting the same length of term as elected trustees to the school board.

Additional Information

Committee Composition

As per Ontario Regulation 464/97 of the Education Act, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) shall be comprised of:

- A member of SEAC, unless a member representing the interest of Indigenous students, must be:
 - Qualified to vote for members of the board, and
 - A resident within the jurisdiction of the board
- One representative from no more than twelve local associations appointed by the board. Local Association is defined as an association or organization of parents that operates locally within the area of jurisdiction of the board which further the interest and well-being of exceptional children, or adults, and one alternate for each representative of local associations/agencies, where possible
- Two trustees appointed by the board, and two alternates
- Community members who are neither a representative of a local association or organization, nor members of the Board of Trustees
- One member representing the interests of Indigenous students and one alternate.
- The total number of SEAC should not exceed 20

In seeking representatives for the Grand Erie District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee, advertisements were posted to the board's website, shared with School Councils within Grand Erie, shared with Grand Erie's Indigenous Education Advisory Council and Native Advisory Council, and placed on Grand Erie's social media platforms to invite applicants or nominations from local associations, agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Three new member applications were shared with SEAC at the November 3, 2022, meeting.

Next Steps

The following roster of SEAC candidates is recommended to the board for approval.

Current Members Wishing to Renew Membership:

	Name	Affiliation	Confirmed
1	Tara Buchanan	Community Living Brant	
2	LeaAnn Boswell	Contact Brant	
3	Lorraine DeJong	Lansdowne Children's Centre	
4	Mike Gatopoulos	Community Representative	
5	Kathy Jones	Community Representative	
6	Wendy Rose	Community Representative	

Current Members Representing the Interests of Indigenous Students:

	Name	Affiliation	Confirmed
1	Lisa Nydam	Six Nations of the Grand River	

Current Trustee Members

(to be revised through the Committee Representation process December 2022):

	Name	Affiliation	Confirmed
1	Rita Collver	Trustee	
2	Tom Waldschmidt	Trustee	
3	Brian Doyle	Trustee	
4	David Dean	Trustee	

New Member Applications:

	Name	Affiliation	Confirmed
1	Christina Gilman	Easter Seals Ontario	
2	Katie Kelly	Community Member	
3	Cathy Stefanelli	Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services	

Communication Plan:

1. Once approved, the candidates will be notified they are now SEAC members for the term 2022-26 and will be provided with the list of upcoming meeting dates and access to past years' minutes for reference
2. The list of SEAC members will be posted on the board website
3. An orientation package will be available online, and the link shared with SEAC members

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports Grand Erie's Mission and the following statement: Together, we will build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging to inspire each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Liana Thompson
Superintendent of Education



Special Education

A Grand Erie Program

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(SEAC)**

MEMBER ORIENTATION HANDBOOK

SUCCESS for Every Student

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For more information about the Grand Erie District School Board SEAC, contact: the Chair of SEAC at SEACchair@granderie.ca, or

Principal Leader of Special Education

519-756-6306, ext. 287214

or

Program Coordinator of Special Education

519-756-6306, ext. 287217

You may also wish to visit <http://www.granderie.ca/board/elementary/special-education/special-education-advisory-committee>.

Introduction

The members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Grand Erie District School Board have prepared this orientation handbook to assist you in understanding and performing your role as a SEAC member. SEAC is a committee of the Board that includes:

- trustees
- special education staff
- representatives of community agencies serving individuals with special needs
- representatives of parent organizations advocating for children with special needs
- representatives of the community at large who have an interest in special-needs education.

Most learners are successful in the regular classroom; however, some students have exceptional needs and may require special programs and services. A learner with exceptional needs is a student whose behavioural, communicative, intellectual or physical exceptionalities are such that special education support is required.

What is SEAC?

Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) were established by Ontario's Education Act, Section 206, Subsection (2), to make recommendations to their Boards about any matter related to the establishment and development of special education programs and services for students with exceptional needs. Each SEAC is responsible for examining, reviewing and making recommendations regarding the provision of special education programs and services in an advisory capacity. Some areas of focus are: philosophy and goals, policies and procedures, organizational structures, program delivery methods, services and facilities, funding, and the annual review of the Board's Special Education Plan.

SEAC members are welcome to bring the more general concerns of parents to the attention of the Board staff and trustees. All these groups work together to find solutions which meet the needs of our exceptional students. SEAC does not deal with specific questions about individual situations, which should be addressed to the child's teacher or the special education resource staff working with the child.

SEAC Meetings

Ontario Regulation 464/97 provides direction on SEAC meetings requiring SEAC to meet at least ten times each year. Grand Erie DSB SEAC meets from September to June of each school year.

Most SEAC meetings take place at the Grand Erie DSB Education Centre located at 349 Erie Avenue in Brantford, usually on the third Thursday of the month, commencing at 6:00 p.m. Meetings may occasionally be scheduled to accommodate other special events, or rescheduled due to inclement weather.

SEAC meetings are open to the public, although members of the public wishing to present to SEAC must approach the committee Chair ahead of time, via the contact information provided on the second page of this handbook.

Community members may also approach any SEAC representative with a question or concern; contact information for SEAC members is provided on the Grand Erie DSB website. <http://www.granderie.ca/board/elementary/special-education/special-education-advisory-committee>

SEAC Roles and Responsibilities

For a description of SEAC's makeup, roles and responsibilities under Ontario legislation, see Regulation 464/97, Education Act 1998. A link to this Regulation is available in the "Additional Resources" section of this document.

A summary of SEAC's roles and responsibilities include:

1. To make recommendations to the Board regarding the establishment, development and delivery of Special Education programs and services.

SEAC activities which support this role include:

- participating in program reviews;
- receiving and responding to reports about Special Education programs and services;
- discussing program recommendations that are presented by staff and/or subcommittees;
- bringing forward issues for discussion and recommendations for action by administration and/or the Board; and
- sharing information about association/agency activities and issues as relating to Grand Erie DSB Special Education programs.

2. To participate in the annual review of the Special Education Plan.

SEAC activities which support this role include:

- reviewing and discussing parts of the Special Education Plan; and
- reviewing changes to the plan and providing feedback to staff and the Board.

3. To participate in the annual budget process for Special Education.

SEAC activities which support this role include:

- receiving presentations from administration about the budget process and key issues;
- taking the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions and provide feedback throughout the budget process; and
- taking the opportunity to make presentations to the trustees about proposed expenditures or funding allocations.

4. To communicate with parents and members of the public about Special Education programs and services, and the activities of SEAC.

SEAC activities which support this role include:

- holding open meetings which members of the public can attend;
- developing and distributing information about Special Education and SEAC;
- distributing information and consulting with members of the associations/agencies represented by SEAC members;
- participating in consultation between individual SEAC members and their respective provincial associations;
- providing input to the Grand Erie DSB website and publications which provide information about Special Education; and
- increasing awareness of Ministry of Education special education resources, including the Ministry of Education and SEAC websites.

5. To interact with other ministries, community partners and agencies.

SEAC activities which support this role include:

- responding to Ministry of Education consultations on Special Education policy and procedures;
- responding to government consultations on programs and policies which may affect students who require Special Education programs and services; and
- consulting and collaborating with other ministries, community partners and agencies regarding the development of changes in services and programs which may affect students who require special education.

SEAC Terms of Reference

Each board creates the Terms of Reference for its SEAC. For the complete list of Grand Erie DSB SEAC's Terms of Reference, see the SEAC section of Grand Erie District School Board Bylaw 8, available at:

http://granderie.ca/application/files/8215/1741/8412/BL8_Committees_of_the_Board_and_Terms_of_Reference.pdf

The Terms of Reference cover factors including:

- purpose and responsibility of SEAC
- composition of the committee
- operating procedures and scope
- role of the Board
- role of SEAC
- making recommendations to the Board

Additional Resources for SEAC Members

- Ontario Education Act Regulation 464/97 regarding SEACs:
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_970464_e.htm
- Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans
On January 27, 2000, the Minister of Education announced the government's plans for improving the quality of special education programs and services in Ontario, and for ensuring greater accountability in the area of special education. The document describes the new province-wide standards that school boards must meet when developing their special education plans. The document can be found at:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/iepstand/iepstand.pdf>
- Ministry of Education Standards for the Planning, Development and Implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) (2000) and the Ministry of Education Transition Plan Resource Guide (2002) are now both included in the Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf
- Grand Erie District School Board Policy P1 on Special Education Guiding Principles:
http://www.granderie.ca/application/files/6315/0102/0454/P1_Special_Education_Guiding_Principles.pdf

- Special Education section of Grand Erie District School Board website: <http://www.granderie.ca/board/elementary/special-education>, including:
 - Special Education Plan
 - List of SEAC Representatives
 - Parent's Guide to Special Education and the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)
 - Glossary of Special Education Terms
- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) www.macse-on.ca
- Ministry of Education Special Education Overview www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html
- Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAAC) on SEAC Handbook www.paac-seac.ca , which includes:
 - SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC Members <http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/>
 - Surveys of SEAC Effectiveness
 - Regular updates on topical issues concerning SEAC roles and contributions

Communication Tips

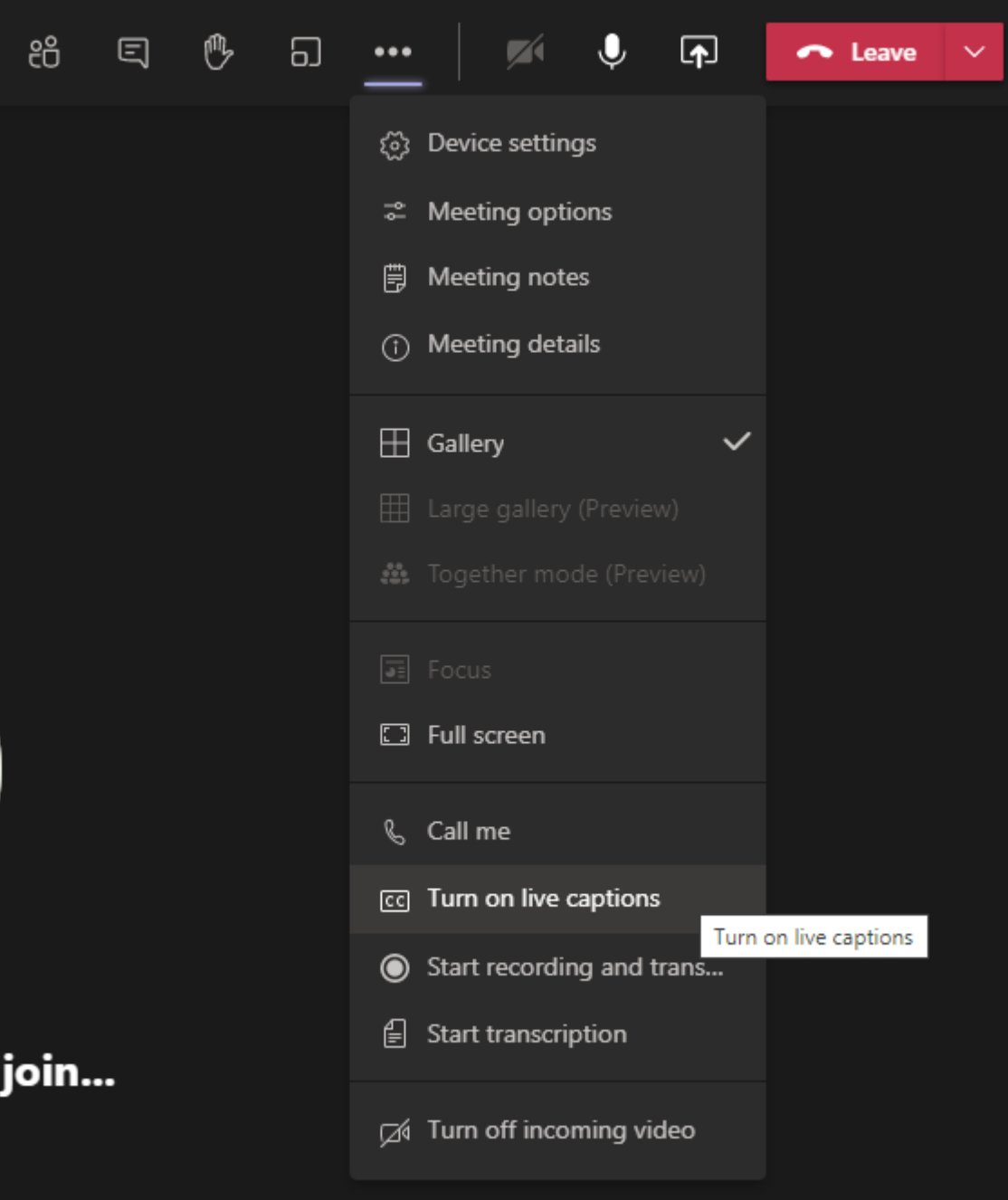
- If you are unclear about what has been said, or unfamiliar with an acronym or a regulation or policy – ask!!
- Issues involving your child carry a lot of emotional weight. Ask yourself if your feelings are getting in the way of communicating positively.
- Use concrete, specific words rather than abstractions, when describing situations or making requests.
- Avoid extreme language, such as “always” and “never” and “totally”, etc.
- Consider the context of anything that is said. Tune in to gestures, expression, tone of voice and body language.
- Work as hard on your listening as you do on expressing yourself.
- Plan what you are going to say, with the goal of being received, understood and remembered.

Guiding Principles to Promote a Positive Discussion Environment

- Show respect for all people
- Treat everyone as well-meaning and holding positive intentions
- Demonstrate honesty and ethical behaviour
- Be aware that everyone has a perspective and unique knowledge to contribute
- Set a good example
- Show a warm and caring attitude
- Collaborate, compromise, discuss
- Enjoy the chance to hear other perspectives
- Recognize that we are all working towards success for special-needs children
- Celebrate successes!

Basic Format for Meetings

- Arrival: arrive, and pick up and display your name card.
- Call to Order: the Chair will call the meeting to order.
- Roll Call: note is made of any members who are absent; if you cannot attend, please notify the SEAC Recording Secretary (Assistant to the Superintendent of Special Education), via email or via phone (519.756.6306, ext 281173)
- Confirmation of Agenda: if the agenda is amended, it must be moved and seconded.
- Approval of Minutes: motion for approval of minutes as provided (or, as provided and then amended) should be made and seconded.
- Timed presentation(s): this is an opportunity to have a guest speaker who educates SEAC in some topic pertaining to SEAC's areas of interest (e.g. special education budget, specific special education programs and classrooms, etc.)
- Other agenda items: as provided and presented by various members of SEAC and/or Board personnel
- Motions: must be made and seconded
- Recommendations to Board: must be made, seconded, and communicated per Board bylaws
- Correspondence: as received by SEAC, for sharing with its members
- Updates: SEAC members can bring forward items of interest from their various communities/special needs subjects
- Next meeting date/time: confirmed at end of meeting
- Future agenda items: noted on agenda
- Adjournment: motion to adjourn must be made and seconded



We invite you to turn on closed captioning for an enhanced experience today. We will be utilizing it in all our sessions moving forward.



The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

November 4, 2022

Dear Minister Lecce:

re: Project SEARCH funding

I am writing to you as Chair of Grand Erie District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Grand Erie District School Board's Specialized Services Management Team reported to our SEAC about the implementation of Project SEARCH in our Board. As a committee, we were so impressed with this program that we felt compelled to write to you to express our strong support for the program along with gratitude for the funding that has made it possible.

Project SEARCH is a fantastic, forward-thinking school-to-work training program for students with disabilities. Students get more than 700-hours of hands-on work experience through their immersion in a host business and they develop competitive, transferrable skills to take with them after graduation. Students plan their employment path with guidance from a teacher and skills trainer. Grand Erie District School Board has partnered with Project SEARCH and St. Joseph's Healthcare to deliver this outstanding program. The resulting benefits to students, to the employer and to the community are obvious. More information about Project SEARCH can be found on their website: <https://projectsearchcanada.org/index.html>.

We fully support this program and strongly urge you to continue providing the funding to allow it to continue.

Yours truly,

Wendy Rose, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Grand Erie District School Board