

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Wednesday, September 8, 2021*

## 6:00 pm Teams Meeting

### WCDSB Mission Statement

*As disciples of Christ,  
we educate and nurture hope  
in all learners  
to realize their full potential  
to transform God's world.*

**CHAIR: Irene Holdbrook**

### MEMBERS

WCDSB Trustee – **Jeanne Gravelle**  
WCDSB Trustee – **Tracey Weiler**  
Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society – **Kim Murphy**  
Waterloo Regional Police - **John Gilbert**  
CNIB – **Irene Holdbrook, Chair**  
Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region  
Waterloo Region Family Network – **Sue Simpson**  
Members at Large – **Sarah Van Dyke**



**Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board**  
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

35 Weber St. W., Unit A  
Kitchener, ON, Canada N2H 3Z1  
519-578-3660  
info@wcdsb.ca



## SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

<b>Date&amp; Time:</b>	September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Teams Meeting
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	October 6, 2021
<b>Committee Members:</b> Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Sue Simpson, Sarah Van Dyke	
<b>Administrative Officials:</b> Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

<b>1. Opening Prayer</b>  Welcome	G. Foran
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>  Motion by: Seconded:	
<b>3. Declared Pecuniary Interest</b>	
<b>4. Approval of the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes</b>  Motion by: Seconded	
<b>5. School System Operational Business</b>  5.1. Special Education Plan	G. Foran & E. Lemak
<b>6. Ministry Updates (10 min)</b>  6.1. Durham District School Board letter to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services 6.2. Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board letter to the Minister of Education	G. Foran
<b>7. SEAC Committee Functions</b>	
<b>8. Policy Advice to the Board</b>	
<b>9. Updates (20 minutes)</b>  9.1. Association Updates	

<b>9.2. Trustee Updates</b>	
<b>10. Pending Items</b>	
<b>11. Adjournment</b>  Motion by: Seconded:	
<b>12. Action Items Place Holder</b>	



## **SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date&amp; Time:</b>	June 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Teams Meeting
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	September 8, 2021
<b>Committee Members:</b> Kim Murphy, John Gilbert, Tracey Weiler, Jeanne Gravelle, Irene Holdbrook, Sue Simpson, Sarah Van Dyke	
<b>Administrative Officials:</b> Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak <b>Regrets:</b> Sue Simpson	

<b>1. Opening Prayer</b>  <b>Welcome</b>	E. Lemak
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>  Motion by: Kim Murphy Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle	
<b>3. Declared Pecuniary Interest</b> N/A	
<b>4. Approval of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Minutes</b>  Motion by: Tracey Weiler Seconded: Karen Kovats	
<b>5. School System Operational Business</b>  <b>5.1. 2021-2022 Student Services PD Information</b>  <b>Professional Development for Support Staff – 2021/2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Services staff will offer a variety of PD Sessions across the school year on each designated PD Day<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Connected to Discipline Logic Models</li><li>○ Topics: Universal Supports, ASD, ADHD, Mental Wellness, Assistive Technology, Literacy etc.</li></ul></li><li>• Child &amp; Youth Care Workers will take part in more intensive targeted training throughout the school year<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ PEERS</li><li>○ Behavioural Skills Training</li><li>○ Mental Health</li></ul></li><li>• PD Plan will be finalized before the end of June 2021</li></ul> Based on Logic models Q&A	E. Lemak & G. Foran

<p><b>5.2. PAAC on SEAC video presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of a Special Education Advisory Committee: <a href="https://youtu.be/gMGY90F8OfU">https://youtu.be/gMGY90F8OfU</a> Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ First nations local organization to be invited to become a part of the SEAC Committee</li> <li>➤ Video to be used on social media to reach out to community organizations Q&amp;A</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities: <a href="https://youtu.be/jj_48gC3MPw">https://youtu.be/jj_48gC3MPw</a> Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Meeting Process: <a href="https://youtu.be/qPkBp0-edKo">https://youtu.be/qPkBp0-edKo</a> Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	G. Foran
<p><b>6. Ministry Updates (10 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Today's announcement that student will not be returning to face-to-face learning in this school year</li> <li>➤ Significant Special Education Funding was received for the summer programs</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. SEAC Committee Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Indigenous local organization to be invited to become a part of the SEAC Committee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Policy Advice to the Board</b> N/A</p>	
<p><b>9. Updates (20 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>9.1. Association Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>WRFN:</b> Transition to High School Info Night and our Evening of Elegance at Home Event were well attended. Lots of great info was shared by the panel at the Info Night. Guests enjoyed a fun culinary experience and enjoyed the food and wine.</li> <li>➤ <b>WWDSS:</b> Augmentative &amp; Alternative Communication Strategies presentation that was scheduled for June 3 was moved to the fall.</li> </ul> <p><b>9.2. Trustee Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WCDSB Board Meeting Bulletin — May 2021 <a href="https://www.wcdsb.ca/wcdsb-board-meeting-bulletin-may-2021/">https://www.wcdsb.ca/wcdsb-board-meeting-bulletin-may-2021/</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Pending Items</b> N/A</p>	
<p><b>11. Adjournment</b> Motion by: Jeanne Gravelle Seconded: Kim Murphy</p>	



**Date:** September 8, 2021  
**To:** SEAC  
**From:** Director of Education, Superintendent of Learning: Special Education  
**Subject:** Special Education Plan

**Type of Report:**

- ☐ Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring
- ☐ Incidental Information concerning day-to-day operations

**Type of Information:**

- ☐ Information for Board of Trustees Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring Information of Board Policy **XX XXX**
- ☒ Information only of day-to-day operational matters delegated to the CEO

**Origin: (cite Education Act and/or Board Policy or other legislation)**  
Regulation 306 Special Education Programs and Services

**Policy Statement and/or Education Act/other Legislation citation:**  
Policy 1001 - Ends

**Alignment to the MYSP:**

- *Nurturing Our Catholic Community:* Intervene in timely and effective ways to assist in accurate identification, programming and support for students with special education needs.
- *Build Capacity to Lead, Learn and Live Authentically:* To continue implementation of emerging technologies that enable forward thinking, and global education.
- *Build Capacity to Lead, Learn and Live Authentically:* To increase system efficiencies and reduce workloads through process improvements.

**Background/Comments:**

**Special Education Plan**

In accordance with Regulation 306, Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) is required, every two years, to prepare and approve a report on the special education programs and special education services provided by WCDSB, and to submit it to the ministry. Each board is required to maintain a special education plan, to review it annually, to amend it from time to time to meet the current needs of students with special needs, and to submit any amendment(s) to the Minister for review.

One of the purposes of a school board's Special Education Plan is to inform the Ministry of Education and the public about special education programs and services that are provided by the board in accordance with legislation and ministry policy on special education.



The Ministry of Education will review each school board's special education plan to inform the Ministry of Education and the public about special education programs and services that are provided by the board in accordance with legislation and ministry policy on special education.

The Ministry of Education reviews each school board's plan to determine whether it complies with the standards mentioned above. Compliance with the standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans (2000) includes Special Education Programs and Services, provincial information and other related information required for community which includes details regarding staff development.

The goal of the Special Education Staff Development Plan is to build capacity, skills and knowledge for Administrators, teachers (Classroom and Special Education teachers), Education Assistants and professionals to ensure that high quality programs and services are provided for our students whether it complies with the standards mentioned above. The aim of the review is to ensure that certain standards are maintained across the province in the development and provision of special education programs and services. Where the ministry determines that a board's plan does not comply with the standards, the ministry will require the board to amend its plan. Amending the plan will include responding to identified omissions. Boards will make the necessary changes and submit the amendments to the ministry the following year.

*WCDSB 2021 Special Education Plan:*

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/05/SPECIAL-EDUCATION-PLAN.pdf>

As per the Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAaC) on Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC), one of the key roles of SEAC is to participate in the board's annual review of its Special Education Plan. The Special Education Plan will be presented to SEAC, highlighting any significant changes from prior years as well allowing time for questions, highlighting key initiatives and soliciting input/feedback from the committee.

### **Recommendation:**

Presented for your information.

**Prepared/Reviewed By:** Loretta Notten  
Director of Education  
Gerald Foran  
Superintendent of Learning: Special Education

\*Bylaw 5.2 "where the Board of Trustees receives from the Director of Education a monitoring report that flows from a responsibility delegated to the Director under Board Policy – **except where approval is required by the Board of Trustees on a matter delegated by policy to the Board** – the minutes of the Meeting at which the Report is received shall expressly provide that the Board has received and approved of the Report as an action consistent with the authority delegated to the Director, subject in all instances to what otherwise actually occurred."



Durham District School Board  
400 Taunton Road East  
Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6  
Ph: 905-666-5500  
1-800-265-3968  
**ddsb.ca**

May 28, 2021

By Email: [MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca](mailto:MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca)

Honourable Todd Smith  
Minister  
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services  
P.O. Box 193  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Smith:

**Re: Needs-based Funding/Services For Children with a Diagnosis Of Autism - New Pilot Program**

We are writing on behalf of the Special Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) to request clarification of and to share our concerns regarding the implementation of the new funding model to support children with a diagnosis of Autism.

It is our understanding the Ministry intends to implement a pilot program, in which 600 families will be assigned using a lottery system. It is also our understanding that, at this time, the pilot has not been implemented, leaving our families caught on an unmoving wait list until the pilot is assigned, implemented, evaluated and then a decision made about how to move forward with the service. Families have been communicating anxiety, worry and stress while waiting in limbo for services.

Concerns regarding the use of Family Support Workers as the individuals responsible for guiding families in the use of their funding, have been at the forefront for families. Specifically, what training will they have received? What experience and/or lived experience will be required for this role? How will the success of that guidance be assessed?

At a school board level, the lack of clarity surrounding the implementation of this pilot project, can have challenging impacts on service planning, class placements and staffing to ensure that the needs of these students are met at the school and class level.

Historically, there has always been a long wait for services dedicated to children with a diagnosis of Autism, despite the knowledge that these services have the greatest efficacy in the early years. While we

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understand that the Ministry will be implementing a pilot, the fact that this has not yet begun, has created additional back log in access to services and caused further stress on families already trying to navigate these unprecedented times.

We ask that the Ministry provide clarification as to when this pilot is expected to begin; the expected duration of this pilot; and when the Ministry expects to have a final decision on how it intends to move forward on service provision to children with a diagnosis of Autism.

Yours truly,

Eva Kyriakides, Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Kyriakides', with a stylized, cursive script.

Special Education Advisory Committee  
Durham District School Board

cc: Josh Manangan, Executive Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services,  
([josh.manangan@ontario.ca](mailto:josh.manangan@ontario.ca))

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education ([minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca))

Eric Gallo-Miscevich, Executive Assistant to the Minister of Education ([Eric.Gallo-Miscevich@ontario.ca](mailto:Eric.Gallo-Miscevich@ontario.ca))

Chairs, Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

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May 26, 2021

The Honorable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

**Re: Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) endorses Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The BHNCDSB in full support of a recommendation brought forward to the Board of Trustees by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on May 25, 2021 to provide correspondence in support of the Bill.

Bill 172 will require all boards of education throughout Ontario to develop policies and guidelines with respect to FASD. Ontario Teacher College's and Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs shall be required to provide training with respect to suspected or diagnosed FASD.

There is a high prevalence of FASD among children in Ontario. This diagnosis impacts their ability to attend school due to a combination of deficits associated with the diagnosis, along with their capacity to understand the expectations and demands in an academic environment. Education staff need to be taught about the early signs and symptoms of FASD and how to provide appropriate accommodations in the classroom. Furthermore, the students will greatly benefit by promoting the awareness and understanding of FASD in teacher, early childhood educator and other educator programs, along with school boards developing policies and guidelines with respect to FASD.

The BHNCDSB asks that you acknowledge our support for Bill 172 as it will help our students experience success not only in their classrooms, but also within their communities.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Freeborn".

Lauren Freeborn, Chair  
Special Education Advisory Committee  
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Rick Petrella".

Rick Petrella  
Chair of the Board  
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB

c: Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk  
Will Bouma, MPP Brantford-Brant  
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees  
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education  
Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association