

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15pm

Special In-Person Event:

Grace for All: Celebrating the Sacraments with Those with Special Needs
St. Anthony Daniel Parish
29 Midland Dr, Kitchener, ON N2A 2A9

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.*

Co-chairs: Cindy Benedetti and Laura Shoemaker

MEMBERS

WCDSB Trustee - **Bob Sikora**

WCDSB Trustee - **Conrad Stanley**

Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society - **Kim Murphy**

Waterloo Regional Police - **Amanda Hennig**

Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region - **Cindy Benedetti**

Waterloo Region Family Network - **Karen Applebee**

International Dyslexia Association Ontario - **Laura Shoemaker**

Autism Ontario - **Monica Wenzlaff**

Member at Large - **Jeanne Gravelle**



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

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Kitchener, ON, Canada N2H 3Z1
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SEAC Committee Meeting Agenda

Date& Time:	February 4, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.
Location (Hybrid)	In-Person: Special In-Person Event: St. Anthony Daniel Parish 29 Midland Dr, Kitchener, ON N2A 2A9
Next Meeting:	March 4th, 2026 @ 6:30 pm
Committee Members: Kim Murphy, Amanda Hennig, Cindy Benedetti, Karen Applebee, Laura Shoemaker, Jeanne Gravelle, Monica Wenzlaff, Bob Sikora, Conrad Stanley	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer Welcome	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Seconded:	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approval of the January minutes: Motion by: Seconded:	
5. School System Operational Business	
6. Ministry Updates (10 min)	
7. SEAC Committee Functions: 7.1. Grace for All Event	All
8. Policy Advice to the Board	
9. Updates	
10. Pending Items	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Seconded:	
12. Action Items Place Holder	



SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Date& Time:	January 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Location (Hybrid)	In-Person: St. Francis Room (2 nd Floor), Catholic Education Centre Online: Via Teams : Join the meeting
Next Meeting:	February 4, 2025 @ 5:15 pm
Committee Members: *Kim Murphy, *Amanda Hennig, *Cindy Benedetti, *Karen Applebee, Laura Shoemaker, *Jeanne Gravelle, Monica Wenzlaff, Bob Sikora, *Conrad Stanley *=online Regrets: Monica Wenzlaff	
Administrative Officials: Gerald Foran, Erin Lemak	

1. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement Shared by Erin Lemak	Erin Lemak
2. Approval of Agenda Motion by: Bob Sikora Seconded: Jeanne Gravelle Chair Shoemaker requested a motion to approve the agenda. Karen Applebee noted that the agenda references incorrect information for the next meeting. It was confirmed that the February 4 th , 2026, meeting will take place from 5:15 to 5:45 PM at St. Anthony Daniel Parish Hall. It was moved by Bob Sikora and seconded by Jeanne Gravelle that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Consensus.	
3. Declared Pecuniary Interest None	
4. Approval of the December minutes: Motion by: Bob Sikora Seconded: Karen Applebee Chair Shoemaker requested a motion to approve the December minutes. Jeanne Gravelle noted that the minutes require an amendment as she was not present and should be noted in regrets.	



<p>It was moved by Bob Sikora and seconded by Karen Applebee, that the Minutes of December be approved with amendments. Consensus.</p>	
<p>5. School System Operational Business 5.1. Community Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Filomena Cruz provided SEAC with an overview of her role as a Community Transition Support Worker at WCDSB. She highlighted her responsibilities and shared information on Community Connections, collaborations with local agencies, and emerging trends. Clarifying questions from committee members were received.➤ Erin Sutherland provided SEAC with an overview of her role as a Special Education Transition Navigator at WCDSB. She highlighted her responsibilities and shared information on who she supports, role in schools, community connections, and emerging trends. Clarifying questions from committee members were received.	<p>E. Sutherland and F. Cruz</p>
<p>6. Ministry Updates (10 min) No Ministry Updates</p>	
<p>7. SEAC Committee Functions: 7.1. Letters to the Ministry (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Shared drafts will be sent to the Ministry. <p>7.2. Sacramental Kits Event (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Erin Lemak shared event details, set up as stations, families will rotate through each station. School Messenger went up today and 17 families have already signed up. SEAC will meet prior to the meeting at 5:15 PM and be there to greet families.➤ Families will have opportunities to ask SEAC members questions at the end of the evening one individually.➤ John Murphy will be able to suggest resources to families looking for detailed information.	<p>Chair E. Lemak</p>
<p>8. Policy Advice to the Board None</p>	
<p>9. Updates 9.2. WWDSS Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Speech & Music Social Groups - KW, Guelph and Virtual - Registration Ongoing➤ Feb 22/26 - Members Bowling Party➤ Mar 31/26 - World Down Syndrome Day Celebration➤ Jun 16/26 - WWDSS Golf Tournament➤ Aug 10-14/26 - WWDSS Summer Camp School	



9.3. WRFN Updates ➤ School Navigation Workshop Series	
10. Pending Items N/A	
11. Adjournment Motion by: Cindy Benedetti Seconded: Amanda Hennig	
12. Action Items Place Holder N/A	