

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm
MINUTES

Present: Sapna Gaba (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); Shania Jagnandan (Community Living Oakville); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Omer Mirza (Easter Seals Society); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Tara Conley (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Audrey Wubbenhorst (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

Staff: Curtis Ennis, (Chief Executive Officer); Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Angela Sauve, (Vice Principal, Special Education); Kevin Raposo (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

Regrets: Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Xin Yi Zhang (Trustee)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Gaba called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Gaba read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#266-26

Moved by: S. Kernick

Seconded by: A. Winch

Be it resolved that the May 20, 2026 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

1.5 Minutes of April 15, 2026

#267-26

Moved by: K. Schleifer

Seconded by: S. Kernick

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the April 15, 2026 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

No Action Items

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Input/Question Period

3.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO Ennis joined us to speak about the board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

3.2 CTEP/ECPP Presentation

Linda Dela Paz, System VP of ECPP/CTEP and Student Well-Being and Mental Health, provided a presentation on CTEP & ECPP in Ontario. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation which can be found [HERE](#)

3.3 Draft 2026-2027 Special Education Plan

As a group, we discussed the summary of changes in the 2026 - 2027 HDSB Special Education Plan which will go to vote at our next meeting on June 10th, 2026.

3.4 Proposed 2026-2027 SEAC Dates

The proposed dates for the 2026–2027 school year were presented for committee feedback. We will vote at our next meeting on June 10th, 2026.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. **2026-27 Budget Update:** The timelines on the release of Core Education funding were adjusted and released last week from the Ministry. For this reason, we have delayed the Budget Presentation from Superintendent Negoj to our June SEAC meeting, as she will have budget details by then.
2. **Auditor General's Report on Special Education Needs** - This report was released last week. You may find the report [here](#). Along with the AG's recommendations, you

will find a response from the Ministry of Education. If you wish, this report may serve as a future agenda item for discussion for SEAC.

3. **Putting Student Achievement First Act** - This new legislation has received royal assent on May 7th. We are still waiting for details around how this legislation may impact learning resources and priorities. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
4. **Special Athletics Track Meet** - reminder of the date - June 12 at 10am at Garth Webb Secondary School. All are welcome to drop by!

4.2 Association Reports

The Centre for Diverse Learners shared their summer programs for 2026. See flyer [HERE](#).

4.3 Trustee's Reports

None at this time

4.4 Committee Reports

None at this time.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- Auditor's General Report
- Absenteeism - How do we compare to other boards? How do we deal with it?

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Gaba adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.