

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Dayalini Mathai (Community Living Burlington); Tara Conley (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Xin Yi Zhang (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Angela Sauve, (Vice Principal, Special Education); Ryan Candlish (IPL); Sommer Sweetman (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

Regrets: Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Naveed Ahmed (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

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

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Baxter read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#250-25

Moved by: K. Schleifer

Seconded by: K. Lambacher

Be it resolved that the September 17, 2025 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8

Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802

www.hdsb.ca

1.4 Minutes of June 4, 2025

#251-25

Moved by: K. Schleifer

Seconded by: M. Dockeray

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the June 4, 2025 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Input/Question Period

3.1 Community Living Burlington Presentation

Dayalini Mathai provided a presentation on Community Living Burlington. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. The presentation can be found [HERE](#). Contacts can be found [HERE](#).

3.2 CPP Co-Op Expansion

Angela Sauve, Vice Principal, and Ryan Candlish, IPL presented on expanding co-op opportunities for students in CPP. There was an opportunity to provide input after the presentation. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. **Start up:** We are excited to be in the third week of the 25/26 school year. By all accounts, it has been a smooth start...students (and staff!) are settling in nicely to their classes and new routines.
2. **School Reorganizations:** In elementary schools, it is now time to review the number of students in classes and, if necessary, reorganize to meet ministry mandated class size requirements. We do not have any self-contained classes requiring a reorganization.
3. **2026/27 Budget:** Superintendent Negoï highlighted the budget challenges in June when she presented to SEAC. We are tasked with eliminating our structural deficit by next school year and we are therefore beginning the budget process early. Superintendent Negoï will be joining the October SEAC meeting to provide an overview of the pressures, share the timelines and get us thinking about the work ahead for SEAC. At subsequent meetings, starting in November, we will engage in discussions of potential efficiencies.

4. **Cross Country Meets:** School Programs Department is hosting inclusive cross country meets in late September / early October to promote opportunities for students of all abilities to participate. Adaptive courses will be offered to meet the diverse needs of students.

4.2 Association Reports

Centre for Diverse Learners Catalogue is now available [HERE](#). Homework Help is also available two nights a week in Oakville and now Burlington.

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zhang reported the Parent Involvement Committee is in November at Elsie McGill in Milton. For 2026-2027 Out of Area Transfers, please see the process for elementary & secondary on the [HDSB.ca](https://www.hdsb.ca) website. Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transitions Livestream on September 24th at 7:00 pm can be found on [HDSB.ca](https://www.hdsb.ca) YouTube channel. Open House on September 27th at Craig Keilburger from 10:00 - 3:00 designed for students in Grade 6 - 10 for opportunities that are available in HDSB secondary schools.

4.4 Committee Reports

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

In October, Superintendent Roxana Negoï will be presenting the 2026–2027 budget. To ensure we have time for meaningful discussion and breakout sessions, we will move our in-person SEAC meeting from October 15th to November 12th.

It is really important that each association has a voice at the November meeting to provide input into the 2026-27 budget process. If you aren't able to attend meetings this year, please try to have your association's designated alternate join in your place

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Baxter adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.