

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

- Present:** Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); 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); Kevin Raposo (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)
- Regrets:** Tara Conley (Member At Large); Kate Lambacher (Association for Bright Children); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); 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

#248-25

Moved by: K. Schleifer

Seconded by: S. Kernick

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

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

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of May 21, 2025

#249-25

Moved by: E. Sproule

Seconded by: M. Dockeray

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the May 21, 2025 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

2.1 2025 - 2026 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Roxana Negoï & Controller Jay Chanthavong provided a presentation on the 2025 - 2026 budget. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. The presentation can be found [here](#).

2.2 Vote on Special Education Plan 2025-2026

The plan received unanimous support. Those in favour included Autism Ontario, Community Living Burlington, Easter Seals, Halton Down Syndrome, VOICE, Members at Large; Kajsa Klassen, Katie Schleifer and Trustees Zhang and Baxter. Those not present but also in support are Association for Bright Children, Centre for Diverse Learners and Member at Large; Tara Conley.

2.3 Vote on Proposed 2025 - 2026 SEAC Meeting Dates

The proposed dates received a unanimous vote in favour.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. **Summer Learning Grant:** Ministry has provided \$220 000 to support summer learning and transitions. Permits us to hire educational assistants to support students in summer learning programs offered through School Programs and Gary Allan.
2. **Transitions:** We will use \$140 000 of the Summer Learning REP for student transitions in August. This will provide an opportunity for schools to organize student visits, case conferences and other planning in late August to receive students for the 2025-26 school year.

4.2 Association Reports

Halton Down Syndrome hosting their Annual Walk on Saturday, June 7th, 2025 in Milton.

VOICE is hosting their Annual Camp in September. For more information, please visit [their website](#).

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zhang shared that the Parent Involvement Committee Conference will be on November 25th.

4.4 Committee Reports

AODA had an in person meeting at the new Cedar Ridge Public School. The architect of the school was also present and it was really great to see how the needs of our students were very thoughtfully incorporated into the design. All new schools will be designed with spaces for Community Pathways Programs.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Sierra Kernick, Community Living Burlington, has offered to present in September.

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Baxter adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm