

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Sapna Gaba (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Tara Conley (Member At Large); Audrey Wubbenhorst (Trustee); Xin Yi Zhang (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

**Staff:** Colette Ruddock (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Ian Gaudet (Superintendent, Facility Services and Planning); Linda Stewart (Manager of Professional Student Services); Kevin Raposo (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)

**Regrets:** Shania Jagnandan (Community Living Oakville); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); 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

#258-26

Moved by: S. Kernick

Seconded by: A. Winch

Be it resolved that the January 21, 2026 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

1.4 Minutes of December 10, 2025

#259-26

Moved by: A. Winch

Seconded by: S. Gaba

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the December 10, 2025 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2.0 Action**

None

**3.0 SEAC Discussion/Input/Question Period**

3.1 Accessibility

Superintendent Gaudet provided a presentation on Annual Accessibility Status Report. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

3.2 FASD Presentation

Linda Stewart, Manager of Professional Student Services, provided a presentation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

**4.0 Communication to SEAC**

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. **Welcome Sapna!**: We are pleased to welcome Sapna as our newest member to SEAC, representing the Association of Bright Children. Regretfully, Kate Lambacher has had to step down for personal reasons but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate for her time serving HDSB students and families through SEAC.
2. **Change of Terms / Semesters**: Term / Semester 1 coming to a close. Term 1 report cards and alternate will be sent home:
  - a. Elementary Feb 17
  - b. Secondary Feb 9

Term 2 IEPs will also be underway at beginning of the semester and sent home within the first 30 school days of the semester

3. **Aspen Parent Portal:** Online portal for families to retrieve report cards and, effective Term 2, report cards. The portal is both a secure way to send home documents, and it also serves as a place to store these documents year over year.
4. **Sports Festival Days:** We are pleased to be hosting two more Sports Festival Days: Wednesday March 25th and Thursday March 26th 2026.
5. **Mental Health and Wellbeing Information Sessions:** As previously mentioned, Student Well-Being is hosting a series of sessions, with the next session being on January 27th with ADAPT services. More information found [here](#).

#### 4.2 Association Reports

Sierra Kernick, Community Living Burlington, spoke about the Community Resource Fair on Thursday, February 5th from 6:00–8:00 PM at MM Robinson High School. Details can be found [HERE](#).

#### 4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zhang introduced Dr. Alvin Loh, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in Autism Spectrum Disorder and behavioral health as both a researcher and clinician. Trustee Zhang will coordinate with Superintendent Ruddock to explore the possibility of Dr. Loh presenting at a future SEAC meeting.

#### 4.4 Committee Reports

Tara Conley, School Year Calendar Committee, shared the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar.

### 5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

### 6.0 Adjournment

Chair Baxter adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.