

**HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Special Education Advisory Committee – (Hybrid Meeting)**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Sapna Gaba (Association for Bright Children); Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); Shania Jagnandan (Community Living Oakville); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Tara Conley (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Audrey Wubbenhorst (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)

Staff: 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: Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); 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

#264-26

Moved by: K. Schleifer

Seconded by: E. Sproule

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

Carried Unanimously

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1.5 Minutes of March 25, 2026

#265-26

Moved by: T. Conley

Seconded by: S. Jagnandan

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the March 25, 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 . Halton Student Transportation Services

David Colley, General Manager of HSTS, provided a presentation on the AODA requirements for school transportation. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation which can be found [HERE](#).

3.2 CPE Classroom and CPE Handbook

Nancy Hecimovic, IPL, provided a presentation on the Community Pathway Elementary Classroom and Supporting Resources. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation which can be found [HERE](#).

3.3 Process for New SEAC Term 2026-2030

To align with Board recruitment strategies, we are launching our membership campaign in September. Communications will target new associations and members-at-large, while current associations will receive letters to confirm renominations and designate representatives. Following the Board of Trustees' swearing-in on November 17, a membership report will be submitted on December 1, followed by a SEAC orientation meeting later that month. Consequently, the current committee will retire after the October meeting, there will be no November session, and official business will resume in January.

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

April 2027

1. **Staffing / Budget Update #1:** SES has built the self-contained classes for the 2026-27 school year. As a result of class sizes and increased/decreased demand for self-contained classes, the following changes will be noted in the Special Education Plan:
 - a. ARC - 10 classes (↓ from 16)
 - b. CPE - 41 classes (↑ from 40)

- c. Gifted - 30 classes (↓ from 35) *Gr 4-8 only
 - d. Communication Program - 9 classes (↓ from 12)
 - e. ELPhA - 4 classes (↓ from 5)
 - f. KELLP - 3 classes (no change)
 - g. CPP - 51.6 FTE (↑ from 50.3)
- 2. Staffing / Budget Update #2:**
- a. Reduction of 2 FTE Clerical Positions - one in the IPRC Office and one in our main office
 - b. Reduction of 2 FTE Psychoeducational Consultants
 - c. Reduction of 2 FTE Speech and Language Consultants
 - d. Reduction of 4.5 FTE Social Workers
 - e. Reduction of 5.5 FTE Child and Youth Care Practitioners
- 3. Gifted Screening Tool:** In October 2025, I mentioned that we were exploring a new Gifted Screening Tool. For many years, we have used the CCAT. Our process has been a two-step process, first a certain percentile on CCAT and, if qualifying, a partial WISC conducted by a psychoeducational consultant. Given the high success rate on the CCAT, some years our team has been completing over 200 assessments. With the reduction of psychoeducational staff next year as the main driver for change, we are in the final stages of confirming a new screening tool. This change in tool will be a one-step process (ie., no further assessment required by a psychoeducational consultant) and will adjust our timelines for the assessment (ie., no need to complete it earlier in the school year). More information to share next month through the updates in the Special Education Plan.
- The Special Education Plan, once approved by the Board of Trustees, is submitted to the Ministry of Education for compliance review and posted on our website.
- 4. Special Education Plan:** We are in the final stages of updating the 2026-27 Special Education Plan. There should be no surprises in the updates, as they will all have been discussed at SEAC. You will receive a copy by April 30, 2026 in order to provide you with an opportunity for first review at the May SEAC meeting. I welcome any feedback, comments or questions at the May SEAC meeting. At the same meeting, Superintendent Negoj will be here to share the budget and Director Ennis will also be joining us to share some of the highlights of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (in-person). The Special Education Plan will return to SEAC on June 10, 2026 for a vote of support or non-support, then to the Board of Trustees on June 16, 2026 for their vote of approval. SEAC members, as always, are invited to submit a Minority Report to articulate your association's views on the Special Education Plan. Minority Reports are appended to the Plan that is posted on the HDSB website.
- 5. Special Athletics Track Meet:** Save the date - June 12, 2026 at Garth Webb Secondary School.

4.2 Association Reports

None at this time

4.3 Trustee's Reports

There was a question about whether trustees will continue to serve on school boards and on Monday April 13th, the Minister did table a bill to outline some changes to the role of trustees but did not eliminate them.

4.4 Committee Reports

None at this time.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

- May 20th meeting will be in person
- It was suggested to invite an IPL to present professional development for educators working with diverse learner profiles

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Gaba adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.