



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the Administration Building, 451 Park Street W., Windsor, ON.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tim McCarthy, Autism Ontario
Kim McKinley, Trustee
Mary-Ann Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County
Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association
Amanda Denhartogh, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise
Chelsea Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association
Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County
Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Schools/Special Education Program and Services
Vicki Houston, Director of Education
Laura Bates, Supervising Principal of Special Education
Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services
Michelle Lowes, OPC Elementary Representative
Tammy Wilcox, Education Coordinator
Jennifer Newton, Education Coordinator

ABSENT

Teresa Williams, OPC Secondary Representative

RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

1. Call to Order

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and Water

K. McKinley read the approved GECDSD Land Acknowledgment

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: M. Vukov

That SEAC approve the Agenda for May 15, 2025.

The motion was carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: A. Denhartogh

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the Minutes of April 9, 2025.

The motion was carried.

5. Business Arising as a Result of the Minutes

There was no new business as a result of the minutes.

6. Special Education Presentation

- Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Directive
Presented by T. Wilcox and J. Newton, Education Coordinators. The Ministry has introduced the Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) for the 2024-25 school year, replacing the previous Special Equipment Amount model. This change aims to better address the evolving needs of students with special education requirements by offering increased flexibility and reducing administrative burden.
Key updates to the funding model include a higher base allocation (\$200,000) and per-pupil amount (\$51.10), along with the ability to use funds for a wider range of items and services such as training and equipment repairs. The new model removes the previous \$800 deductible from Claims-Based Components, there is no longer any restrictions with respect to the type of equipment eligible for this funding, as long as it is a single item over \$5,000. Fixed or capital items remain ineligible. Boards are expected to maintain internal policies for long-term planning, asset management, and the portability of equipment when students transfer.

7. Special Education Updates

- Professional Development Updates
L. Bates shared Dr. Burke's unique perspective to be able to support each school need. June 6th professional development will include a presentation to Education Support Staff on Accessibility, Inclusion and Participation. This day will also be an assessment, evaluation and reporting day for Elementary.
- Special Education Plan Review
Standard 7 – Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings
Standard 14 – Equipment
Special Education Advisory Committee Section C
Standards were shared with the committee and requested feedback/revisions by May 14, 2025, to include in the 2025-2026 plan.
- Update on Restructuring Supports for Special Education
C. Mills shared the confidential draft with the committee and requested feedback by May 21, 2025.

8. New Business

- T. McCarthy requested an amendment to agenda to include discussion of upcoming events.
- T. McCarthy inquired about the status of the SEAC Handbook. It was noted that the handbook is currently under review to ensure alignment with the Education Act.

9. Association Reports

- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County - LDA Parent Conference is being held on May 28, 2025, from 6 – 8 p.m., Sky High Enrichment Camp is a 5-week camp where creativity, curiosity, and confidence take flight, subsidies are available. Summer programs include 1:1 tutoring, Reading Readiness for Students in Grades 1-4 struggling with reading, and Barton Reading and Spelling. LDAWE scholarship applications are due May 30, 2025, for St. Clair College or University of Windsor.

- A. Denhartogh, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise - FASD Caregiver Support Group is meeting next week, FASD Awareness Day is September 9, 2025, we are finalizing plans. We received approval to hire an occupational therapist for Development and Autism program, that is starting in the fall.
- J. Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association – Up About Down is looking for a Board Director. We also wrapped up the reading program and are currently collecting feedback from participant's parents. Looking to run it again in the summer and/or fall. Thank you again to those who helped share the advertisement looking for someone to run the program for us.
- M. Vukov, Community Living Essex County – Community Living Month is a province-wide annual awareness campaign to recognize the accomplishments of the Community Living movement. Every May, Community Living Ontario and their 124 local associations across Ontario encourage communities across the province to participate in various initiatives to show why authentic inclusion matters for people who have an intellectual disability and their families.
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – One-To-One summer support worker reimbursement fund, you can apply online up to their 18th birthday. The David Conforti Reach for the Stars Award, student applications can be found on the website. Parents navigating the system can go online and fill out a form, it will be sent the appropriate SEAC representative to help them get involved and help with child's needs. I am also participating in a panel online for parent/guardians/family members. There are a number of resources available on the website.

10. Distribution

There was no distribution.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.



NEXT MEETING, June 11, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes available on [GECDSB website](#).

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)