



## GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10, 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

Martha Vukov, Community Living Essex County

Sarah Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise

### BOARD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Mills, Superintendent of Schools/Special Education Program and Services

Laura Bates, Supervising Principal of Special Education

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Marc Crundwell, Supervisor of Psychological and Speech Language Services

Teresa William, OPC Secondary Representative

### REGRETS

Chelsey Lackovic, Windsor Council of Home and School Association

Joanna Conrad, Windsor-Essex Down Syndrome Association

### ABSENT

Nancy Armstrong, Trustee

### RECORDER

Melissa Beaton

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

#### 2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and Water

K. McKinley read the approved GECDSD Land Acknowledgement.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: M. Fuduric

Seconded by: S. Yang

That SEAC approve the Agenda for September 10, 2025.

The motion was carried.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: S. Yang

Seconded by: M. Fuduric

That SEAC approve the Minutes of June 11, 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 Education Updates presented by C. Mills and L. Bates.

The team has been actively collaborating with administrators to align goals around Special Education, emphasizing classroom-embedded support through Learning Support Teachers (LSTs), targeted Tier 3 interventions, and consistent IEP monitoring. Key checkpoints for IEPs are planned throughout the year, with baseline data collection informing goals. The Compass program continues to integrate Tier 3 students into the school community, and efforts are underway to create a Compass for Success group to track student progress. A strong focus remains on relational safety and student well-being, with initiatives like the “First 10 Days” model and the rollout of welcoming environments. The new SEA training model, in partnership with Learning Disability Association Windsor Essex, aims to support inclusive instruction through whole-group and individual training.

Updates were provided on psychological and speech-language services, including centralized referrals, prioritization criteria, and external assessment reviews. The HUB pilot model is in five elementary schools to support flexible, skill-based learning for Tier 3 students. Professional development for LSTs is ongoing, with sessions focused on literacy, math, and digital tools like Thumbnail Sketches in Brightspace. GAINS and STEPS platforms are expected to launch soon. Project Search has begun at Massey, with contingency plans in place due to potential disruptions.

#### 7. Special Education Updates

- Special Education Advisory Committee Handbook  
This draft resource was reviewed with the committee, feedback and revisions were collected to apply to the handbook.
- Upcoming Events/Dates
  - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Month - September
    - FASD Day – September 9, 2025
  - International Day of Sign Language – September 30, 2025
  - Suicide Awareness Month – September
  - International Week of the Deaf – September 20<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - National Week for Truth and Reconciliation – September 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### 8. Items for Future Agendas

Any suggestions for future topics please email C. Mills, T. McCarthy or K. McKinley.

## 9. Association Reports

- M. Fuduric, Learning Disabilities Association Windsor-Essex County – next Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we are hosting a lady's golf tournament all proceeds to benefit our Children's Literacy Program. Our Programs and Services Calendar for 2025-2026 has been shared with the committee and with the Education Coordinators to share with families. Cost is not a barrier, please reach out to office for assistance. The Soltz family has generously donated classroom materials, including sensory equipment and furniture. Plans are underway for an Open House and the launch of a new youth initiative focused on executive support and employment. October is LD and ADHD Awareness Month, and details will be shared as they become available. Summer programming received positive feedback, with a focus on social skill development through engaging activities. Additionally, the Parent/Guardian Support Group will meet this coming Monday at 6 p.m.; the group is free and open to all.
- S. Yang, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise – September is FASD Awareness Month. September 8, 2025, was our Caregiver Support Group, the flyer was shared with the committee. Follow us on social media for up-to-date information.
- M. Vukov, Community Living Essex County – The Ruthven Apple Fest from September 26-28, 2025 supports the purchase and maintenance of accessible vehicles. For more information visit: [Ruthven Apple Festival - Community Living Essex County](#). October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, please visit the link for various initiative around the province: <https://www.supportedemployment.ca/initiatives/disability-employment-awareness-month/>. For community resources please visit: [MyCommunityHub - MyCommunityHub](#).
- T. McCarthy, Autism Ontario – There are many resources available at <https://www.autismontario.com/>.

## 10. Distribution

Learning Disabilities Association Windsor Essex Programs and Services Calendar 2025-2026.

## 11. Adjournment

Chairperson McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.



NEXT MEETING, October 8, 2025

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

Vicki Houston, Director of Education

Chris Mills, Administrative Liaison

[Ministry SEAC website](#)