



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - May 14, 2025

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Association Members: Nancy Lau (Autism Ontario), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society)

Non-Association Members: Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network)

Board Staff in Attendance: Jodi Albrecht (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being), Jennifer Crawford (Administrative Assistant)

Guest: Esther Wainaina (Human Rights Officer - Lead Accessibility Plan)

Regrets: Lilly Adam (YMCA of Three Rivers), Lisa Bonnell (Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children), Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Samantha Estoesta (Trustee), Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Stephen McCrae (System Administrator), Ami McIntosh (Autism Ontario), Joe Meissner (Trustee), Jeff Senior (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Lisa Weiler Haskins (VP Educational Assistants Association)

Call to Order

Roberta Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement - Jodi Albrecht

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Carmen Sutherland, seconded by Nancy Lau:

That the agenda of the May 14, 2025 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Nancy Lau, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the minutes of the April 9, 2025 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

WRDSB Special Education & Student Well-Being Report - Jodi Albrecht

- Board Updates
 - Preparing for next year. Applications to congregated spaces have occurred and communications have begun going out to families.
 - Sunnyside PS LD class is moving to Hillside PS
 - Courtland PS EBP class is moving to Franklin PS to respond to needs identified in earlier grades.
 - Addition of an ACE class at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, and one also within the Rosemount Family of Schools.
 - Elizabeth Zeigler PS updates for the fall: two ACE classes are remaining at JW Gerth PS, one is going to Janet Metcalf PS, and the enrichment class will continue at Brigadoon PS.
 - ACE class at Westheights PS is moving to Groh PS. Moving to a larger, purpose based space.

- Anti Ableism symposium will be taking place in December 2025, and a possible second one later in the school year. . Gathering feedback from participants from last year’s event to inform this one.
- System Leader’s meeting this June will have Gillian Parekh and Yasmine Simone Gray present. They were the Keynote speakers at the Anti Ableism Symposium last year. Looking forward to share this learning more broadly with staff
- We are in the midst of staffing for the next school year. We are waiting for the budget. Hoping when the budget is finalized that we will be maintaining our current staffing levels.
- National Accessibility Awareness Week, Presented by: Esther Wainaina (Human Rights Officer - Lead Accessibility Plan)
 - Forward Together: Accessibility and Inclusion for All, May 26-30, 2025 (Micro Learning Sessions for staff)
 - Building Inclusive Classrooms and School Communities
 - Advancing Action for Accessibility
 - Rick Hanson Foundation: Accessible Communications
 - “In-conversation” - the WRDSB Accessibility Committee
 - Building Inclusive Classrooms and School Communities
 - Feedback: Training, resources, attitude towards inclusivity are greatly appreciated by the SEAC committee. Importance of gathering participants' thoughts and feelings on inclusivity.
- Discussion/Feedback
 - Draft Policy Review
 - Policies reviewed and feedback gathered and submitted.
 - G400 - Board of Trustees Planning Cycle and Evaluations
 - 2005 - Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Support
 - 2011 - Sun Safety and Shading
 - 5000 - Staffing
 - 5008 - Staff Dress Code
 - 6013 - Drug Education and Addictive Behaviours

Trustee Report - Joe Meissner

- [May Trustee Report](#)

Round Table Association Reports

- Roberta Thompson, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society
 - Up Side Down Charity Golf Tournament, Rebel Creek Golf Club, June 16, 2025
 - Summer Camp Registration Continues
- Jane Martin, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
 - 50/50 Draw: May 31, 2025 - Supporting programming
- Christine MacDonald, Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County
 - Trivia night: May 24, 2025, 7-11pm, 135 Ferguson St. Guelph
 - Session for Transitioning to Post Secondary: June 3, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm, John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute
- Carmen Sutherland, Waterloo Region Family Network
 - [WRFN Roundtable Updates](#)
 - Modified Days and Safety Plans School Navigation Workshop
 - Wednesday May 21, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm, The Family Centre. Register: info@wrfn.info
 - Bridges to Belonging: Accessibility Tradeshow & Conference: May 28, 2025, 10:00-8:00 pm, RIM Park
- Nancy Lau, Autism Ontario
 - [2025 Summer Flyer](#)
 - [Autism Ontario May Updates](#)

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is June 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Christine MacDonald, seconded by Carmen Sutherland:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.